

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2024

S. L. B. NO. 23-05

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(ii) and 2531 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative
2 Delegation, being the duly elected body authorized through N.M.I. Const. Art. 2, § 6 and
3 the Local Law Act of 1983, specifically I CMC § 1401 et seq., to enact laws that relate
4 exclusively to local matters such as, gambling prohibition and regulation, within the
5 Second Senatorial District find that in the interest of promoting the Tinian gaming
6 industry, it is lawful and necessary to amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(ii) and 2531 in order to be
7 globally competitive and compliant with United States federal laws and regulations.

8 **Section 2. Repealer and Re-enactment.** 10 CMC § 2513 (ii) is hereby repealed
9 and re-enacted to read as follows:

10 “(ii) “Internet gaming license” means a license issued under the chapter and the
11 regulations permitting operation of an internet gaming system.”

12 **Section 3. Amendment.** 10 CMC § 2531 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 “§ 2531. **Grant of Casino and Internet Gaming Licenses.** Notwithstanding any
14 other law to the contrary:

15 (a) the Commission may grant not more than five casino licenses for a period not
16 to exceed forty (40) years which shall not be transferable, except as proscribed in this
17 chapter, provided that no casino licenses shall be authorized within the vicinity of any

1 church or school. The commission may grant a casino license while hotel-casino complex
2 is being built in phases, in accordance with 10 CMC § 2513(ee).

3 (b) the conduct and playing of games in the casino pursuant to a casino license, in
4 accordance with this chapter and any other applicable chapter and the agreement relating
5 to the particular license, is lawful;

6 (c) the use of any gaming equipment or chips in the conduct and playing of games
7 where such games are conducted and played in a casino pursuant to a casino license is
8 lawful;

9 (d) the Commission may also grant internet gaming licenses for a period not to
10 exceed twenty (20) years which shall not be transferable, except as proscribed in this
11 chapter. The~~the~~ conduct of internet gaming pursuant to~~a casino~~ an internet gaming
12 license, in accordance with this chapter and any other applicable Act, and the regulations
13 established by the Commission to regulate internet gaming~~and internet gaming operators,~~
14 ~~and the operating agreement relating to the particular license permitting the conduct of~~
15 ~~internet gaming,~~ is lawful. Operating internet gaming is conditioned on~~having a hotel~~
16 ~~with two hundred (200) units which may be built in phases of 100 units per phase as~~
17 ~~authorized by TCGCC and an operational Hotel-casino complex casino and the~~
18 implementation of age verification software reasonably designed to block access to
19 minors, and the implementation of a geolocation software limiting internet gaming
20 activities to within intra-island borders of the Second Senatorial District and between
21 jurisdictions where the conduct of internet gaming is~~legal~~ not prohibited by law. The

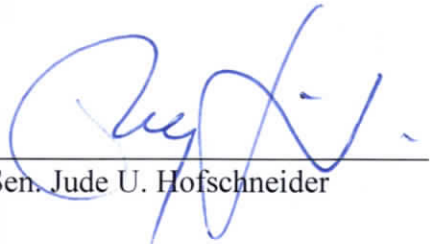
1 Commission is not limited in the number of internet gaming licenses that it may grant.

2 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not
3 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under
4 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.
5 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or
6 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating,
7 or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in
8 existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

9 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
10 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
11 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
12 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

13 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
14 Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: 05/10/24

Introduced By: 
Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Francisco Q. Cruz
Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz

/s/ Antonette R. Villagomez
Senate Legal Counsel

/s/ Karl R. King-Nabors
Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors