



**The Senate**  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500129  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2469**  
**Date: February 10, 2026**  
**RE: House Bill No. 24-23**

Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President:

Your Committee on Fiscal Affairs, to which House Bill No. 24-23 was referred, entitled:

“To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate,”

begs leave to report as follows:

**I. RECOMMENDATION:**

After considerable discussion and deliberation, your Committee recommends the passage of House Bill No. 24-23 in its current form.

**II. ANALYSIS:**

A. Purpose:

The intent of House Bill No. 24-23 is to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran Identification Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran or disabled veteran license plate, by amending 9 CMC § 2116.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that 9 CMC § 2116 provides the statutory requirements to apply for a veteran or disabled veteran license plate within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to include the definition of “veteran” and “disabled veteran”.

Your Committee further finds that House Bill No. 24-23, in its current form, intends to update the definitions of *veteran* and *disabled veteran* by removing any reference to the listing of each military branch with a broader reference to a person who has served on active duty or in a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces. Additionally, the proposed legislation seeks to update the application requirement of documentation if a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD14) is not available and to include a valid Veteran Identification Card (VIC) as an alternative form of verification for submission when applying for a veteran or disabled veteran license plate.

Your Committee met on February 10, 2026, to discuss the proposed legislation. Recognizing the intent of the proposed legislation and in full support of all veterans, your Committee strongly supports House Bill No. 24-23 in its current form.

C. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 24-23 was introduced by Representative Julie M. A. Ogo on April 24, 2025, to the full body of the House of Representatives and was referred to the House Standing Judiciary and Governmental Operations (JGO) for disposition. On July 25, 2025, the House JGO Committee adopted House Bill No. 24-23 in its current form, which was reported to the full body of the House of Representatives under House Standing Committee Report (SCR) No. 24-29. On September 9, 2025, during the Third Day, Second Regular Session of the House of Representatives, House SCR 24-29 was adopted, and the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 24-23 in its current form. House Bill No. 24-23 was transmitted to the Senate on September 10, 2025, and was subsequently referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs for disposition.

D. Public Hearing and Comment:

1. Public Hearing. No public hearing was scheduled for House Bill No. 24-23. However, committee meetings, which are open to the public, were held on December 17, 2025, and February 10, 2026. See below for further details.
2. Committee Meeting. The proposed legislation made its first appearance during the scheduled committee meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. The committee meeting notices and agenda were officially posted on December 13, 2025, on various legislative forums and social media sites to invite members of the general public to provide comments as indicated under *Item No. IV. Public Comment* on the Committee Agenda. However, no oral testimony in support or in opposition of House Bill No. 24-23 was presented before your Committee.

The proposed legislation made its second appearance during the scheduled committee meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The committee meeting notices and agenda were officially posted on January 30, 2026, on various legislative forums and social media sites to invite members of the general public to provide comments as indicated under *Item No. IV. Public Comment* on the Committee Agenda. However, no oral testimony in support or in opposition of House Bill No. 24-23 was presented before your Committee.

3. Written Comment. Your Committee agreed not to solicit comments on the proposed legislation. Additionally, no written comment in support or in opposition of House Bill No. 24-23 was received by your Committee.

E. Estimated Fiscal Cost:

No fiscal analysis was prepared for the proposed legislation.

The enactment of House Bill No. 24-23 may result in minimal administrative costs to the Commonwealth government for the purpose of updating the regulations and forms as may be deemed necessary to carry out the intent of this Act.

F. Summary of Committee Amendments:

Your Committee agreed that no further amendments were needed.

**III. CONCLUSION:**

Your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of the proposed legislation and recommends the passage of House Bill No. 24-23 in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,


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Senator Jude U. Hofschneider  
Chairperson




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Senator Donald M. Manglona  
Vice Chairperson



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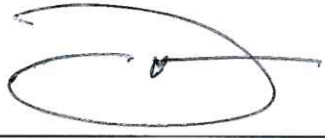
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo  
Member



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Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro  
Member

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Senator Francisco Q. Cruz  
Member



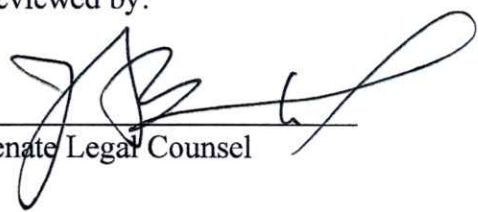
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Senator Corina I. Magofna  
Member

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Senator Paul A. Manglona  
Member

Reviewed by:



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Senate Legal Counsel

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**APRIL 24, 2025**

**First Special Session, 2025**

**H. B. 24-23**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1       **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the current  
2 requirements for obtaining a Veterans License Plate should be amended to provide  
3 veterans with additional options for proving their eligibility. While the DD214  
4 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) has been the primary  
5 document for verification, many veterans now possess a Veteran ID Card (VIC)  
6 issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Since obtaining a VIC requires  
7 a DD214, the VIC serves as official proof of veteran status and should be accepted  
8 as an alternative form of veteran status verification in certain contexts. In particular,  
9 the Legislature finds that the VIC should be accepted as an alternative form of  
10 verification in the context of applying for a Veterans License Plate in the CNMI.

1           This bill also updates the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” to  
2 explicitly include individuals who served in a reserve component of any branch of  
3 the United States Armed Forces. Additionally, it removes the specific listing of  
4 each military branch in favor of a broader reference to the Armed Forces. This  
5 change ensures the law remains adaptable by allowing for the seamless inclusion  
6 of newly established branches, such as the United States Space Force, without  
7 requiring future legislative amendments.

8           Thus, based on the foregoing, the purpose of this Act is to amend 9 CMC  
9 § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow  
10 valid VICs be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license  
11 plate. This amendment ensures that eligible veterans can more easily access the  
12 benefits and recognition they deserve.

13           **Section 2. Amendment.** Sections 2116 (a) and 2116 (b) (1) of Chapter 1,  
14 Division 2, Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code are hereby amended, with all other  
15 provisions remaining unchanged and in full force and effect, as follows:

16                   **“§ 2116. Veteran or Disabled Veteran License Plates.**

17                   (b) Definition.

18                   (1) For purposes of this Act, the term “veteran” means a person  
19 who served in active duty in the ~~United States military service in the~~  
20 ~~Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, Air National Guard, or active~~  
21 ~~reserve component of the Army, Air Force, or Navy, on active duty or~~

1           in a reserve component of any branch of the United States Armed  
2           Forces and who was discharged or released under conditions other than  
3           dishonorable.

4           (2) "Disabled Veteran" means a person who served ~~in active duty~~  
5           ~~in the United States military service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp,~~  
6           ~~Coast Guard, Air National Guard, or active reserve component of the~~  
7           ~~Army, Air Force, or Navy, on active duty or in a reserve component of~~  
8           any branch of the United States Armed Forces and who was discharged  
9           or released under conditions other than dishonorable and certified as  
10          having at least 10% disability due to service-related injury.

11          (b) Application.

12          (1) In lieu of the license plates contracted on behalf of the Bureau  
13          of Motor Vehicles, in order to qualify for a veteran's license or disabled  
14          veteran's license plate the applicant must submit the following along  
15          with the application for vehicle registration:

16                  (i) ~~Copy~~ A copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge  
17                  from Active Duty from the Department of Defense (DD214); or,  
18                  if a DD214 is not available, one of the following:

19                          (ii) (A) For individuals ~~Individuals~~ otherwise  
20                          qualified under subsection (a)(1); ~~of this section shall obtain~~

21                                  (1) A certification from the Military and

1 Veterans Affairs Office, ~~provided that he/she~~  
2 ~~produces documents, if DD214 is not available,~~  
3 ~~which based on documentation submitted by the~~  
4 ~~applicant to the Military and Veterans Affairs Office~~  
5 ~~that proves signifies proof that he/she served in the~~  
6 U.S. military services; or

7 (2) A valid Veteran Identification Card issued  
8 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

9 ~~(iii) (B) For individuals Individuals otherwise~~  
10 ~~qualified under subsection (a)(2); shall obtain~~

11 (1) A certification from the Military and  
12 Veterans Affairs Office, ~~provided that he/she~~  
13 ~~produces documents, if DD214 is not available,~~  
14 ~~which based on documentation submitted by the~~  
15 ~~applicant to the Military and Veterans Affairs Office~~  
16 ~~that proves signifies proof that he/she has at least 10%~~  
17 ~~disability due to service-related injury.”~~

18 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
19 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
20 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its

1 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
2 shall not be affected thereby.

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

10       **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
11 Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 4/16/2025

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Julie M.A. Ogo

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph M. Hallahan  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 4/15/2025