



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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-88
Date: March 18, 2026
RE: Senate Bill No. 24-33

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

Dear Mister President:

Your Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 24-33, entitled:

"To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 18, Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, of the Commonwealth Code, to rename the Commissioner to Fire Chief, Deputy Commissioner to Deputy Fire Chief, Division Deputy Commissioner to Assistant Fire Chief, and for other purposes."

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion and deliberation, your Committee recommends passage of Senate Bill No. 24-33 in its current form.

II. ANALYSIS:

A) Purpose:

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 24-33 is to standardize position titles within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to align with those used in the 50 states and to convert certain managerial positions into civil service roles.

B) Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that certain position titles within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services are not consistent with those used by fire departments across the 50 states and therefore require amendment to ensure uniformity and alignment. The Legislature also finds it necessary to convert division manager positions into civil service employment to provide appropriate classification and coverage. Accordingly, your Committee finds that the proposed legislation seeks to amend specified position titles within the Department to bring them in line with nationally recognized standards and converts certain positions, including division managers, to civil service status, thereby placing them under civil service coverage.

Your Committee met on May 06, 2025, to discuss the provisions of the proposed legislation. With the consensus of the Committee, Senate Bill No. 24-33 was tabled for further discussion in a future Committee Meeting.

Your Committee met on June 20, 2025, to discuss the provisions of the proposed legislation. During the discussion, it was shared that although the proposed legislation describes a transfer of positions to the civil service system, it does not detail what grades they would be classified as. Furthermore, the proposed legislation describes qualifications; however, the Committee agreed that the qualifications should be detailed within the language of the proposed legislation. Therefore, your Committee agreed to table the proposed legislation for further discussion.

Your Committee met on July 02, 2025, to discuss the provisions of the proposed legislation. With the Committee's consensus, Senate Bill No. 24-33 was tabled for further discussion at a future Committee Meeting.

Your Committee met on March 18, 2026, to discuss the provisions of the proposed legislation. During the discussion, no member objected to the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-33 in its current form.

C) Legislative History:

Senate Bill No. 24-33 was formally introduced by Senator Dennis James C. Mendiola on April 10, 2025. On April 22, 2025, Senate Bill No. 24-33 was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law for disposition.

D) Public Hearing and Comment:

1. Public Hearing. No public hearing was scheduled for Senate Bill No. 24-33. However, a committee meeting, which is open to the public, was held to receive written and oral testimonies on any proposed legislation appearing on the agenda. See below for further details.

2. Committee Meeting. The proposed legislation first appeared during the scheduled committee meeting on May 06, 2025, at which your Committee deliberated on the provisions of the proposed legislation and the comments provided to the Committee for review.

The proposed legislation made its second appearance at the scheduled committee meeting on June 20, 2025, at which your Committee deliberated on the provisions of the proposed legislation and the comments provided to the Committee for review.

The proposed legislation made its third appearance at the scheduled committee meeting on July 02, 2025, at which your Committee deliberated on the provisions of the proposed legislation and the comments provided to the Committee for review.

The proposed legislation made its fourth appearance at the scheduled committee meeting on March 18, 2026, at which your Committee deliberated on the provisions of the proposed legislation and the comments provided to the Committee for review.

The respective Committee Meeting notices and agendas were officially posted on various legislative forums and social media sites in accordance with the Open Government Act to invite members of the general public to provide comments as indicated under Item No. III. Public Comment on the Committee Agenda. During the committee meetings, no public comments were provided on the proposed legislation.

3. Written Comment. To date, the status of comments received from the following government agencies is as follows:
 1. Honorable Aubry M. Hocog, Mayor, Municipality of Rota, *letter dated May 06, 2025*
 2. Frederick Pangelinan, ARFF Chief, Commonwealth Ports Authority, *letter dated May 07, 2025*
 3. Joint letter from Steve K. Mesngon, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and other DFEMS personnel, *letter dated July 08, 2025*
 4. Stanley S. Santos, Assistant Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, *letter dated August 06, 2025*

E) Estimated Fiscal Cost:

The enactment of Senate Bill No. 24-33 may result in additional costs to the CNMI government, as the amendments entail administrative changes, including the standardization of position titles and the conversion of certain positions, such as division managers and deputy commissioner roles, to civil service status, with salary adjustments.



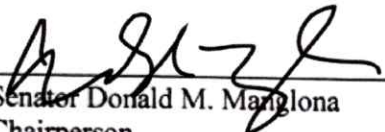
F) Summary of Committee Amendments:

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 Senate Bill No. 24-33 in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,

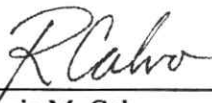


Senator Donald M. Manglona
Chairperson

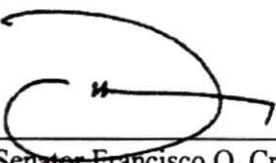


Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro
Vice Chairperson

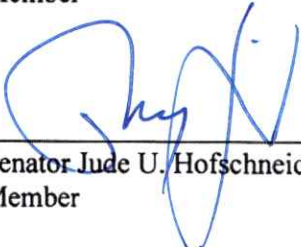
Senator Celina R. Babauta
Member



Senator Ronnie M. Calvo
Member

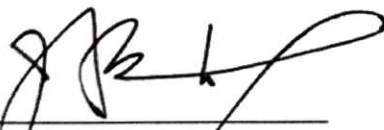


Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
Member



Senator Jude U. Hofschneider
Member

Reviewed by:



Senate Legal Counsel

Attachments:

- Honorable Aubry M. Hocog, Mayor, Municipality of Rota, *letter dated May 06, 2025*
- Frederick Pangelinan, ARFF Chief, Commonwealth Ports Authority, *letter dated May, 07, 2025*

- Joint letter from Steve K. Mesngon, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and other DFEMS personnel, *letter dated July 08, 2025*
- Stanley S. Santos, Assistant Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, *letter dated August 06, 2025*

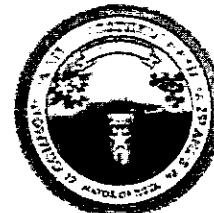


COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

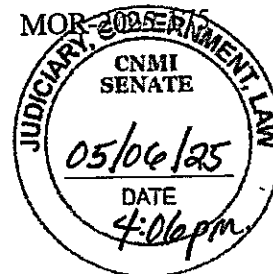
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THE HONORABLE AUBRY MANGLONA HOCOG

Mayor of the Municipality of Rota
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 537 Rota, MP 96951



May 6, 2025



The Honorable Chair and Members of the
Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government,
and Law 24th CNMI Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

***Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 24-33 – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Amendments***

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Municipality of Rota, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 24-33, which proposes important amendments to Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 18 of the Commonwealth Code concerning the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFEMS).

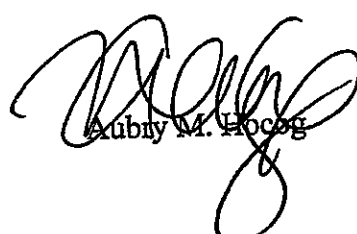
We believe the proposed changes, including the renaming of key leadership positions to align with national standards (Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief) and the conversion of division managers to the civil service system, will significantly enhance the professionalism, stability, and operational clarity of the Department. Standardized titles improve inter-agency coordination, while civil service status for leadership roles promotes continuity and expertise.

Furthermore, the bill clearly delineates the responsibilities of the various divisions within DFEMS and establishes a well-defined process for the designation and enforcement of fire lanes, including a dedicated funding mechanism. These provisions are crucial for improving public safety infrastructure and enforcement capabilities across the Commonwealth, including Rota.

A well-structured and professionally managed DFEMS is a vital partner for our local government in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. We commend the efforts to modernize the department's structure and operations. Therefore, the Office of the Mayor of Rota fully supports the passage of Senate Bill 24-33 and urges the Committee to act favorably on this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,


Aubry M. Hocog

Frederick Pangelinan
ARFF Chief
Commonwealth Ports Authority



Dear Senator Nabors,

After reading the S.B. No. 24-33, I have only one input or comment to add. Please see response below for page 5, line 28.

Current standards from NFPA ~~1001~~ 1010/~~1002~~ 1010/~~472~~ 470/~~1021~~ 1020/~~1031~~ 1030/~~1041~~ 1020

I have drawn a line through them to indicate that these standard number are no longer in use. The new NFPA Standard number are indicated in red.

The National Fire Protection Agency has grouped these standards together. Example: For NFPA 1001 and NFPA 1002 are now incorporated into NFPA Standard 1010.

Which is now NFPA 1010: Standard for Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, Airport Firefighter and Marine Firefighting for Land Base Firefighters Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1010 replaces the following:

NFPA 1001: *Standard for Fire fighters Professional Qualifications*

NFPA 1002: *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/ Operator Professional Qualifications*

NFPA 1003: *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*

NFPA 1005: *Standards for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land Base Fire Fighters.*



AGENCY COMPLIANCE DATES

to

NFPA STANDARDS

January 7, 2025

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has published the standards within the Emergency Response and Responder Safety Consolidation Project (ERRS). To simplify for Pro Board accreditation purposes, this document only lists the standards agencies may utilize. The ERRS contains related standards you may review at www.nfpa.org/errs

To facilitate these changes, the Pro Board's "Agency Compliance Dates" table has been reorganized and referenced to provide a crosswalk from legacy documents to the new.

Page 1- Complete listing sorted by *NFPA STANDARD NUMBER*.

Page 2- Complete listing sorted by *AGENCY COMPLIANCE DATE*.

Page 3- Released standards to include a crosswalk from legacy to new number/name, if consolidated.

Page 5- Grouping Certification Levels for Submission of an Extension of Accreditation-effective July 1, 2025.

Complete listing sorted by NFPA STANDARD NUMBER as of January 7, 2025

Standard	Edition	Release Date	Agency Compliance Date
470	2022	September 15, 2021	December 31, 2023
1006	2021	August 31, 2020	December 31, 2024*
1010 <i>OLD</i> <i>1001, 1002,</i> <i>1003, 1005</i>	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
1020 <i>OLD</i> <i>1021, 1041</i>	2025	December 6, 2024	December 31, 2026
1026	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1030	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1033	2022	June 13, 2021	June 30, 2023
1081	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
1091	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1140	2022	June 13, 2021	June 30, 2023
1225	2022	September 15, 2021	December 31, 2023
1550 <i>Old 1521</i>	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
1910	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
2400	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026

*These standards were extended to three (3) years by the Board of Directors and Confined Space Rescue was extended to September 30, 2025.

Complete listing sorted by AGENCY COMPLIANCE DATE as of January 7, 2025

Standard	Edition	Release Date	Agency Compliance Date
1033	2022	June 13, 2021	June 30, 2023
1140	2022	June 13, 2021	June 30, 2023
470	2022	September 15, 2021	December 31, 2023
1225	2022	September 15, 2021	December 31, 2023
1006	2021	August 31, 2020	December 31, 2024*
1026	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1030	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1091	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1910	2024	October 27, 2022	December 31, 2024
1010 OLD 1001, 1002, 1003, 1005	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
1081	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
1550 Old 1521	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
2400	2024	January 10, 2024	June 30, 2026
1020	2025	December 6, 2024	December 31, 2026

*These standards were extended to three (3) years by the Board of Directors and Confined Space Rescue was extended to September 30, 2025.

NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders

Replaces the following standards...

NFPA 472: Standard for Competencies of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents

NFPA 473: Standard for Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents

NFPA 1072: Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications

Not consolidated.

NFPA 1010: Standard for Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, Airport Firefighter, and Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters Professional Qualifications

Replaces the following standards.

NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1002: Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1003: Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1005: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters

NFPA 1026: Standard for Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications

Not consolidated.

NFPA 1030: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions

Replaces the following standards...

NFPA 1031: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner

NFPA 1035: Standard for Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1037: Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator

Not consolidated.

NFPA 1081: Standard for Facility Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications

Not consolidated.

NFPA 1091: Standard for Traffic Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications

Not consolidated.

NFPA 1140: Standard for Wildland Fire Protection

Chapters 4-9 and the relevant material in chapters 1-3 replaces the following...

NFPA 1051: Standard for Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1020: Standard for Fire Officer and Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications

Replaces the following standards.

NFPA 1021: Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1041: Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1225: Standard for Emergency Services Communications

Chapters 4-10 and the relevant material in chapters 1-3 replaces the following...

NFPA 1061: Standard for Public Safety Telecommunications Personnel Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1550: Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety

Chapters 4-5 and the relevant material in chapters 1-3 replaces the following...

NFPA 1521: Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications

NFPA 1910: Standard for Marine Firefighting Vessels and the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, Refurbishing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles

Chapters 49-51 and the relevant material in chapters 1-4 replaces the following...

NFPA 1071: Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technician Professional Qualifications

NFPA 2400: Standard for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Used for Public Safety Operations

Not consolidated.



Grouping Certification Levels for Submission of an Extension of Accreditation

When an agency desires to add or update a level of certification, an Extension of Accreditation application must be submitted. To expedite Committee on Accreditation approval, your submissions must be gathered in groups of similar disciplines versus an "all in one" approach.

Utilization of the following table is required as of July 1, 2025.

Standard	Chapter Groupings per Application
470	Chapters 5, 7, 9.2, and 9.6
	Others from Chapter 9
	Chapters 11 through 19
	Chapters 20 through 46
1006	Maximum 6 chapters. (for example- 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3)
1010	Chapters 5, 6 and 7
	Chapters 8, 9, and 10
	Chapters 11 through 17
1020	Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7
	Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12
1026	Chapters 4 and 5
1030	Chapters 4 and 5
	Chapters 6, 7, and 8
	Chapters 9, 10, and 11
	Chapters 12, 13, and 14
1033	Any
1081	Any
1091	Any
1140	Any
1225	Any
1550	Any
1910	Any
2400	Any

Dept. Msg. No. 24-10



Arnold J. Palacios
Governor

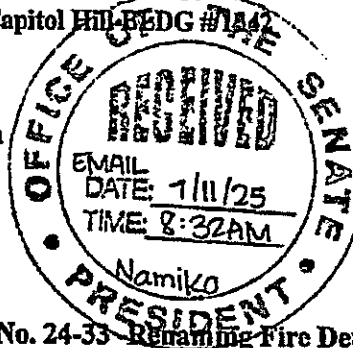
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ascension Ct
Capitol Hill-BEDG #1442



David M. Apatang
Lt. Governor

The Honorable Dennis C. Mendiola
Senate President
24th CNMI Senate
Jesus P. Mafnas Building
Saipan, MP 96950



Date: July 08, 2025

RE: Support for Senate Bill S.B. No. 24-33 - Renaming Fire Department Leadership Titles

Dear Senate President Mendiola,

We are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill S.B. No. 24-33, which proposes renaming the title of "Commissioner" to "Fire Chief," "Deputy Commissioner" to "Deputy Fire Chief," and "Division Deputy Commissioner" to "Assistant Fire Chief," among other provisions.

This bill reflects a much-needed modernization and clarification of leadership titles within the fire service, aligning them with widely recognized and standardized terminology used by fire departments nationwide. The term "Fire Chief" is universally understood by the public, emergency response partners, and government entities alike, fostering more transparent communication, better organizational transparency, and enhanced public trust.

By adopting titles that directly reflect operational roles and responsibilities, this legislation also supports professional development and career progression within the department, offering clarity for both internal personnel and the communities they serve. Moreover, these changes can help reduce confusion in inter-agency coordination during critical emergency operations.

We commend your efforts to bring clarity, modernization, and uniformity to our fire service structure. We respectfully urge your colleagues in the Senate to support this vital legislation.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rank, Name & Signature Steve K. Messenger
Dep. Com.

Date: 7.9.2025

Rank, Name & Signature AFC John Blas

Date: 07.09.2025

Rank, Name & Signature Dep. Commissioner Lynette

Date: 07-09-2025

Page: 1 of 2

OFFICE OF THE
SENATE CLERK

Signed By: [Signature]
Date: 7/11 Time: 11:am

P. O. Box 7068 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-0009 • Facsimile: (670) 664-9015
www.dfemscnmi.com



Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Ascension Ct
Capitol Hill BLDG # 1342



David M. Apatang
Lt. Governor

Rank, Name & Signature AFC STANLEY S. SANTOS Date: 7/9/2025

Rank, Name & Signature FCS John P. San Nicolas Date: 07-09-25

Rank, Name & Signature FCS Soane Halatua Pua Sannua Date: 07-10-25

Rank, Name & Signature Manny C. Cabana AFC Date: 07-10-25

Rank, Name & Signature FCS Derrick Canacho Date: 7/10/25

Rank, Name & Signature Capt. J. Mettas Date: 7/10/25

Rank, Name & Signature FCS L. DEAN GUERRERO Date: 7-10-25



David M. Apatang
Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**
Ascension Ct
Capitol Hill BLDG # 1342



Dennis C. Mendiola
Lt. Governor



Date: August 06, 2025

The Honorable Karl K. Nabors
Senate President
24th CNMI Senate
Jesus P. Mafnas Building
Saipan, MP 96950

RE: Support for Senate Bill S.B. No. 24-33 -Renaming Fire Department Leadership Titles

Dear Senate President Nabors,

I am writing to express my full support for Senate Bill 24-33, which seeks to rename and realign the leadership titles within the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) to more accurately reflect the professional standards and structure of modern fire service organizations.

This measure demonstrates a necessary and timely step toward improving the organizational integrity and public perception of DFEMS. The renaming of titles such as "Fire Chief," "Deputy Fire Chief," and "Assistant Fire Chief" aligns the CNMI's fire service leadership with widely accepted national norms, including those used by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and other U.S. jurisdictions. In addition, this change also helps clarify the Command Structure, which standardizes the title system to ensure that both the public and interagency partners understand the chain of command during emergencies and administrative coordination. Furthermore, it enhances professionalism, recruitment, promotes morale, and leadership identity.

This bill is a low-cost, high-impact legislative action that acknowledges the evolving scope of DFEMS responsibilities and its critical role in safeguarding the people of the Commonwealth. I commend the Senate's efforts to bring clarity and modernization to the department's structure.

We respectfully urge your colleagues in the Senate to support this vital legislation.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to supporting the CNMI's emergency services community.

Sincerely,

Stanley S. Santos
Assistant Fire Chief
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPEIAL SESSION, 2025

S. B. No. 24-33

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 18, Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, of the Commonwealth Code, to rename the Commissioner to Fire Chief, Deputy Commissioner to Deputy Fire Chief, Division Deputy Commissioner to Assistant Fire Chief; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose**

2 The Legislature finds it necessary to amend certain position titles of the
3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services to be consistent with titles of the Fire
4 Departments in the 50 states. The Legislature also finds it necessary to convert the
5 division managers to civil service employees.

6 The purpose of this Act is to amend position titles and convert certain positions to
7 civil service coverage.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 18 of the
9 Commonwealth Code is amended to read:

10 **“Article 1. General Provisions.**

11 § 28001. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

12 There is established a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services within the
13 Executive Branch of the Commonwealth Government to be headed by the ~~Commissioner~~
14 Fire Chief of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

15 § 28002. Definitions.

16 As used in this Chapter, the term:

17 (a) “Department” shall mean the “Department of Fire and Emergency Medical
18 Services;”

19 (b) “~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief” shall mean the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of the
20 Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services;

- 1 (c) "Emergency Medical Services" shall mean EMS;
- 2 (d) "Emergency medical technician" shall mean EMT;
- 3 (e) "Cardiopulmonary resuscitation" shall mean CPR;
- 4 (f) "Emergency medical responder" shall mean EMR;
- 5 (g) "Basic life support prehospital provider" shall mean an EMR and EMT
- 6 performing duties in an out-of-hospital environment;
- 7 (h) "Advanced life support prehospital provider" shall mean an Advanced EMT
- 8 and paramedic performing duties in an out-of-hospital environment;
- 9 (i) "EMS for Children" shall mean EMSC;
- 10 (j) "Traumatic brain injury" shall mean TBI;
- 11 (k) "National Fire Protection Association" shall mean NFPA;
- 12 (l) "U.S. Department of Transportation" shall mean U.S. DOT;
- 13 (m) "Emergency Vehicle Operators Course" shall mean EVOC;
- 14 (n) "American Heart Association" shall mean AHA; and (
- 15 o) "Fair Labor Standards Act" shall mean FLSA.

16 § 28003. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services: ~~Commissioner~~
17 ~~Fire Chief~~, Resident Deputy ~~Commissioners~~ Fire Chief, Appointment; Funding and
18 Compensation.

19 The Department of Fire and EMS shall be administered by a qualified
20 ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of Department of Fire and EMS who shall be appointed by and
21 serve at the pleasure of the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The
22 Department of Fire and EMS in the islands of Rota and Tinian shall be administered by a
23 qualified Resident Deputy ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief who shall be appointed by the
24 Mayor with the advice and consent of the Municipal Council members from those
25 respective islands. The compensation for the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of Fire and EMS
26 shall receive no less than and not exceed a base salary of \$54,000 per annum. The
27 compensation for the Resident Deputy ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief for the islands of Rota
28 and Tinian shall not exceed a base salary of ~~\$42,000~~ \$45,000 per annum. The
29 ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief is the chief executive officer of the Department of Fire and

1 EMS with respect to the administration, operation, and enforcement of the all provisions
2 of this Chapter.

3 § 28004. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services: Duties; Divisions.

4 (a) The Department of Fire and EMS shall be responsible for the following:

5 (1) To provide effective fire prevention, fire protection, fire suppression,
6 and special operations such as hazardous materials, search and rescue, and
7 wildland firefighting, to persons and property in the Commonwealth;

8 (2) To provide emergency and non-emergency basic and advanced life
9 support EMS to persons in the Commonwealth;

10 (3) To prevent and reduce the risk of fire through effective public
11 education and injury prevention, conduct fire safety code inspections and
12 enforcement programs;

13 (4) To conduct arson investigations and make arrests pertaining to such
14 matters;

15 (5) To enforce "CNMI Fire Safety Code Act of 1998" [2 CMC §§ 7301-
16 7340], adopt the International Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association
17 standards;

18 (6) Upon availability of fund, ~~To~~ ensure representation, active
19 membership, and participation in the International Association of Fire Chiefs,
20 Western Fire Chiefs Association, Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire
21 Chiefs, International Association of Firefighters, National Association of State
22 EMS Officials, National Association of EMTs, National Organization of State
23 Offices of Rural Health, National Association of EMS Educators, National
24 Association of EMS Physicians, International Association of Arson Investigators,
25 National Association for Search and Rescue, International Academies of
26 Emergency Dispatch, CNMI Fire and EMS Association;

27 (7) To regulate and issue burning permits;

28 (8) To establish and participate in training and certification, professional
29 development, and educational programs relating to fire science, EMS, and other

1 related matters;

2 (9) To regulate educational or training institutions, non-profit
3 organizations, businesses, and other government agencies conducting and
4 performing life safety programs and functions;

5 (10) To provide and receive mutual aid to and from the Commonwealth
6 Ports Authority and Aircraft Rescue Firefighting inclusive of the seaport, and
7 receive appropriate local and federal funding to provide for such aid; and

8 (11) To provide these protections at acceptable and effective costs within
9 available resources.

10 (b) Establish and manage the Fire Safety Code Revolving Fund for each
11 Senatorial District which shall be expended continuously without further appropriations
12 for the specific purpose of regulating and enforcing the provisions of the Department of
13 Fire and EMS to ensure uninterrupted emergency services to the community;

14 (c) Enforce and manage the "CNMI Ambulance Fee Act of 2000" [1 CMC §
15 2546], for each Senatorial District which shall be expended continuously without further
16 appropriations for the specific purpose of regulating and enforcing the provisions of the
17 Department of Fire and EMS to ensure uninterrupted emergency services to the
18 community;

19 (d) The Department of Fire and EMS is considered essential services and in order
20 to perform its mandate and uninterrupted emergency services to the community;

21 (e) The Department of Fire and EMS shall consist of five divisions as follows: the
22 Division of Emergency Services, Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation,
23 Division of Emergency Medical Services, Division of Logistics and Support, and the
24 Division of Administration.

25 § 28005. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services: Staff.

26 As set forth herein and subject to budgetary appropriation, the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire
27 Chief of Fire and EMS shall employ qualified staff as required to assist in performing the
28 department's duties and responsibilities. Except as provided herein, all such staff shall be
29 civil service employees.

1 § 28006. Rulemaking Authority.

2 The ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall prescribe and promulgate reasonably
3 necessary rules and regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of this Chapter
4 for the entire Department including all of its divisions.

5 **Article 2. Division of Emergency Services**

6 § 28011. Division of Emergency Services: ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire
7 Chief; Appointment, Funding and Compensation.

8 The Division of Emergency Services shall be headed by a qualified ~~Deputy~~
9 ~~Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of Emergency Services. The
10 compensation for the ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief shall ~~receive no less~~
11 ~~than and not exceed a base salary of \$42,000 per annum~~ be in accordance with the Civil
12 Service System pay scale. This position shall be converted to a Civil Service System
13 position.

14 § 28012. Division of Emergency Services: Duties and Responsibilities.

15 The Division of Emergency Services shall have the following duties and
16 responsibilities:

17 (a) To engage in the prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires and respond
18 to ~~emergency situations~~ emergencies where life, property, or the environment is at risk
19 that meets or exceeds NFPA 1710: Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire
20 Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the
21 Public by Career Fire Departments;

22 (b) To provide basic and advanced life support emergency medical services;

23 (c) To provide special operation services including search and rescue (land, air,
24 sea), hazardous materials to include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear,
25 explosives, and wildland and marine firefighting;

26 (d) To conduct the Fire Academy;

27 (e) To conduct training and professional development that meets or exceeds
28 current standards from NFPA 1001/1002/472/1021/1031/1041, National EMS Education
29 Standards (2009) for the EMT, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic; AHA Emergency

1 Cardiovascular Care Guidelines Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (2010), and
2 U.S. DOT EVOC-Ambulance (1995);

3 (f) To establish tour of duty schedules based on rotating 24-hour shifts; and

4 (g) To receive and manage all applicable federal grants.

5 § 28013. Division of Emergency Services: Staff.

6 Subject to budgetary appropriation, the ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire
7 Chief of the Division of Emergency Services, with the approval of the ~~Commissioner~~
8 Chief of Fire and EMS, shall employ qualified staff as necessary to perform the duties
9 and responsibilities of the division. All such staff shall be sworn civil service employees.

10 **Article 3. Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation.** /

11 § 28021. Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation: ~~Deputy~~
12 ~~Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief; ~~Appointment~~, Funding and Compensation.

13 The Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation shall be headed by a
14 qualified ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of Fire Prevention
15 and Arson. The ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of Fire
16 Prevention and Arson Investigation is hereby designated as the "CNMI Fire Marshal."
17 The compensation for the ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief shall ~~receive no~~
18 ~~less than and not exceed a base salary of \$42,000 per annum~~ be in accordance with the
19 civil service pay scale. This position shall be converted to a Civil Service System
20 position.

21 § 28022. Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation: Duties and
22 Responsibilities.

23 The Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation shall have the following
24 duties and responsibilities:

25 (a) To enforce the CNMI Fire Safety Code Act [2 CMC §§ 7301-7340],
26 International Fire Code, and National Fire Protection Association standards;

27 (b) To provide and approve fire plan review in conjunction with building safety
28 codes and fire hydrant water distribution systems for fire protection, and approve
29 occupancy loads for commercial structures;

(c) To regulate the installation of smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, fire sprinkler systems, and fire hydrants for commercial and industrial use;

(d) To conduct arson investigations and make arrests pertaining to such matters;

(e) To regulate, and prohibit as deemed necessary, the sale and purchase of firefighting vehicles, firefighting equipment, and tools by government agencies, commercial businesses, or individuals;

(f) To regulate, and prohibit as deemed necessary, government agencies, commercial businesses, or individuals from obtaining water from fire hydrants;

(g) To regulate and issue permits for open burning, sale and purchase of fireworks, fire code building safety inspections, storage and handling of hazardous materials (any type of chemicals, explosives, fuel and fuel products), and establish fees and fines for such;

(h) To enforce and collect applicable fees and fines for fire prevention, protection, and suppression;

(i) To manage, in consultation with the Fire Chief, the Fire Safety Code Revolving Fund, where all fees collected shall be deposited ~~into~~ for the ~~specific~~ purpose of regulating and enforcing the provisions of the Department of Fire and EMS ~~and shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose or to any other agency~~;

(j) All fines collected by the department shall be deposited into the CNMI Government General Fund;

(k) To provide operational support to emergency services by engaging in the prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires and responding to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk;

(l) To establish tour of duty schedules based on rotating 24-hour shifts; and

(m) To receive and manage all applicable federal grants.

§ 28023. Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation: Staff.

Subject to budgetary appropriation, the ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation, with the approval of the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of Fire and EMS, shall employ qualified staff as necessary to

1 perform the duties and responsibilities of the division. All such staff shall be sworn civil
2 service employees.

3 **Article 4. Division of Emergency Medical Services.**

4 § 28031. Division of Emergency Medical Services: ~~Deputy Commissioner;~~
5 Assistant Fire Chief Appointment, Funding, and Compensation.

6 The Division of EMS shall be headed by a qualified ~~Deputy Commissioner~~
7 Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of EMS. The compensation for the ~~Deputy~~
8 ~~Commissioner Assistant Fire Chief~~ shall ~~receive no less than and not exceed a base salary~~
9 ~~of \$42,000 per annum~~ be in accordance with the civil service pay scale. This position
10 shall be converted to a Civil Service System position.

11 § 28032. Division of Emergency Medical Services: Duties and Responsibilities.

12 The Division of Emergency Medical Services is hereby designated as the “CNMI
13 Office of EMS,” “CNMI Office of Rural Health,” “Lead Agency for TBI,” and shall have
14 the following duties and responsibilities:

15 (a) To regulate the provision of EMS in the Commonwealth including but not
16 limited to the following components: EMSC, EMS highway traffic safety, TBI,
17 bioterrorism EMS, rural health EMS, and other related EMS programs;

18 (b) To provide emergency medical services training from EMR, EMT, Advanced
19 EMT, and paramedic; certification through the National Registry of EMTs; and license
20 all CPR/First Aid, first responders, basic and advanced life support prehospital providers;

21 (c) To provide public education and injury prevention programs;

22 (d) To provide emergency medical services during special events;

23 (e) To provide EMS medical direction, field treatment and transport protocols,
24 and quality improvement programs specific to adult and pediatric patients;

25 (f) To regulate, bill, and collect ambulance fees and fines under this division;

26 (g) To regulate layperson CPR, first aid, emergency fire and medical dispatcher,
27 basic and advanced life support training and certification including distance learning
28 standards for first responders, prehospital healthcare professionals, emergency
29 dispatchers, life guards, safety officers, industrial workers, boat operators, underwater

divers, and others being administered by government educational or training institutions, and other government agencies conducting and performing life safety programs and functions and establish fees for such; provided that private operators or providers conducting and performing life safety programs and functions shall be under the Health Care Professions Licensing Board;

(h) To manage, in consultation with the Fire Chief, the Ambulance Fee Revolving Fund, Public Law 12-6 [1 CMC § 2546], where all fees collected shall be deposited into for the ~~specific~~ purpose of regulating and enforcing the provisions of the Department of Fire and EMS ~~and shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose or to any other agency~~;

(i) All fines collected shall be deposited into the CNMI Government General Fund;

(j) To provide operational support to emergency services by engaging in the prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires and responding to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk;

(k) To establish tour of duty schedules based on rotating 24-hour shifts; and

(l) To receive and manage all applicable federal grants.

Article 5. Division of Logistics and Support.

§ 28041. Division of Logistics and Support: ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief; ~~Appointment.~~

The Division of Logistics and Support shall be headed by a qualified ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of Logistics and Support. The ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ compensation of the Assistant Fire Chief shall ~~receive no less than and not exceed a base salary of \$42,000 per annum~~ be in accordance with the civil service pay scale. This position shall be converted to a Civil Service System position.

§ 28042. Division of Logistics and Support: Duties and Responsibilities.

The Division of Logistics and Support shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) To purchase, service, repair, and maintain the fleet of fire apparatus,

- 1 ambulances, rescue units, and service vehicles for continuous emergency operations;
- 2 (b) To maintain department buildings and grounds;
- 3 (c) To procure and maintain equipment and supplies for firefighting, emergency
- 4 medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials, wildland firefighting, and other
- 5 related equipment and supplies;
- 6 (d) To provide operational support to emergency services by engaging in the
- 7 prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires and responding to emergency situations
- 8 where life, property, or the environment is at risk;
- 9 (e) To establish tour of duty schedules based on rotating 24-hour shifts; and
- 10 (f) To receive and manage all applicable federal grants.

11 § 28043. Division of Logistics and Support: Staff.

12 Subject to budgetary appropriation, the ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire
 13 Chief of the Division of Logistics and Support, with the approval of the ~~Commissioner~~
 14 Fire Chief of Fire and EMS, shall employ qualified staff as necessary to perform the
 15 duties and responsibilities of the division. All such staff shall be sworn civil service
 16 employees.

17 **Article 6. Division of Administration.**

18 § 28051. Division of Administration: ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief;
 19 Appointment.

20 The Division of Administration shall be headed by a qualified ~~Deputy~~
 21 ~~Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire Chief of the Division of Administration. The ~~Deputy~~
 22 ~~Commissioner~~ compensation of the Assistant Fire Chief shall receive no less than and not
 23 exceed a base salary of \$42,000 per annum be in accordance with the civil service system
 24 pay scale. This position shall be converted to a Civil Service System position.

25 § 28052. Division of Administration: Duties and Responsibilities.

26 The Division of Administration shall have the following duties and
 27 responsibilities:

- 28 (a) To process and manage human resources for all appointed, exempted service
- 29 contract, limited-term, provisional, probationary, and permanent civil service employees

1 and only for those that meets all current professional qualifications for firefighters and
2 emergency medical technicians based on national standards;

3 (b) To process and manage human resources for all administrative civil service
4 employees;

5 (c) Except for the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief, Resident Deputy ~~Commissioners~~,
6 Fire Chief, and Deputy ~~Commissioners~~ Fire Chief; process payroll for all sworn civil
7 service firefighters, including the Assistant Fire Chief for each division, within the
8 Department of Fire and EMS, regardless of rank or assignment, based on FLSA work
9 periods and tours of duty at the regular hourly rate of one hundred and six hours per pay
10 period and shall be compensated at one and one-half times the regular rate for hours
11 worked in excess of 106 hours per pay period. The Civil Service Commission and the
12 Office of Personnel Management (OPM) shall adjust the pay schedule for firefighters to a
13 salary schedule based on a standard pay period of 106 hours;

14 (d) To ensure FLSA compliance, 29 U.S.C. § 207(k) and 29 CFR Part 553:
15 Application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to Employees of State and Local
16 Government; for government employees in fire protection and EMS using a minimum of
17 a 53-hour work week and a work period of not less than 7 consecutive but not more than
18 28 days for all sworn firefighters;

19 (e) To ensure application of annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay, or absent
20 without leave and any other leaves as deemed applicable by local or federal laws are
21 consistent with the 53-hour work week and 106 hours per pay period are applied against
22 their actual duty or work schedule;

23 (f) To process payroll based on FLSA rules for all appointed, exempted service
24 contract, administrative employees; and

25 (g) To provide administrative support to the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief and all of
26 the divisions herein.

27 § 28053. Division of Administration: Staff.

28 Subject to budgetary appropriation, the ~~Deputy Commissioner~~ Assistant Fire
29 Chief of the Division of Administration, with the approval of the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire

1 Chief of Fire and EMS, shall employ qualified staff as necessary to perform the duties
2 and responsibilities of the division. All such staff shall be sworn and administrative civil
3 service employees.

4 **Article 7. Designated Fire Lanes.**

5 § 28061. Definitions.

6 (a) "~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief" means the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of the
7 Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

8 (b) "Department" means the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical
9 Services.

10 (c) "Fire lane" means the unobstructed area or passageway within any public
11 right-of-way, easement, or private property designated for fire trucks and other
12 firefighting or emergency equipment to use, travel upon, and/or park.

13 § 28062. Establishment.

14 (a) Fire lanes in conformance with this article shall be established by the
15 ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of the Department of Fire and EMS or designee, and in
16 conjunction with the building safety official in accordance with this article. These lanes
17 shall be referred to as "designated fire lanes" in this article.

18 (b) Whenever the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall require the establishment of a
19 designated fire lane on public right-of-way or public land for the orderly access of fire
20 and other emergency equipment to the premises, the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall
21 establish such fire lane by written order designating and describing such lane.

22 (c) For the designation of a fire lane on private property, the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire
23 Chief shall initially issue a written notice of proposed order designating and describing
24 the fire lane. The ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall cause a copy of such written notice of
25 proposed order to be delivered by certified mail to the owner, or owners, or
26 tenants/lessees thereof, of any private land on which such fire lane is established, and
27 shall cause a public announcement to be made of the establishment of such lane. The
28 proposed order shall take effect unless the property owner(s) or tenants/lessees of the
29 affected private property file a written notice of objection to the proposed designation of

1 a fire lane within the private property within thirty days after receiving the written notice
2 of the proposed order. The filing of a written notice of objection shall be pursuant to the
3 procedures in 1 CMC § 28063.

4 § 28063. Contesting Fire Land Designation in Private Property.

5 (a) A private property owner or tenant/lessee affected by a proposed fire lane
6 designation by the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief may contest the designation by filing a
7 written notice of objection with the Department within the period set forth in 1 CMC §
8 28062, and serving copies of written notice of objection on the members of the appeals
9 board established pursuant to subsection (b).

10 (b) An appeals board is established comprised of the Zoning Administrator, the
11 Secretary of Public Works, and the Commissioner of Public Safety for each respective
12 senatorial district. The board shall issue, with at least two members concurring, a
13 determination and order on the ~~Commissioner's~~ Fire Chief's proposed fire lane
14 designation and shall take effect after hearings are conducted pursuant to 1 CMC §§ 9109
15 and 9110. The board may affirm, modify, or reject the proposed fire lane designation and
16 must set forth in a written order the reason(s) for its decision.

17 (c) Publication of Fire Lane Designations Orders. The ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief
18 shall cause all final orders and determinations on the designation of fire lanes on public
19 and private lands to be published in the Commonwealth Register in the month following
20 its issuance.

21 § 28064. Penalty for Violations.

22 Any person who fails to mark or maintain the marking of a designated fire lane as
23 prescribed in this article, or who parks a vehicle in, allows the parking of a vehicle in,
24 obstructs, or allows the obstruction of a designated fire lane is guilty of an infraction. The
25 maximum penalty for failing to mark or maintain the marking of a designated fire lane
26 shall be not more than a fine of \$150 per offense. The maximum penalty for parking a
27 vehicle in, allowing the parking of a vehicle in, obstructing, or allowing the obstruction
28 of a designated fire lane, shall be not more than a fine of \$150 per offense. Each day or
29 part of a day during which the unlawful act or violation occurs shall constitute a separate

1 offense.

2 § 28065. Impoundment.

3 Any vehicle or object obstructing a designated fire lane is hereby declared a
4 traffic and fire hazard and may be immediately towed and impounded, without prior
5 notification to its owner. The owner shall be held responsible for all towing and impound
6 fees.

7 § 28066. Marking.

8 All designated fire lanes shall be clearly marked in one of the following manners:

9 (a) Vertical curbs shall be painted red on the top and side, extending the length of
10 the designated fire lane. The pavement adjacent to the painted curbs shall be marked with
11 block lettering a minimum of 5 inches in height and with a three-inch brush stroke
12 reading: "No Parking – Fire Lane." Lettering shall be white and spaced at no more than
13 20-foot intervals.

14 (b) Rolled curbs or surfaces without curbs shall have a red six-inch-wide stripe
15 painted extending the length of the designated fire lane. The surface adjacent to the strip
16 shall be marked with block lettering a minimum of 6 inches in height and with a
17 minimum three-inch brush stroke reading: "No Parking - Fire Lane." Lettering shall be in
18 yellow and spaced at no more than 20-foot intervals.

19 (c) Fire lane signs shall be as follows:

20 (1) Reflective in nature.

21 (2) Use red letters on white background.

22 (3) Use three-inch lettering, to read "No Parking – Fire Lane."

23 (4) A minimum of 12 inches wide by 18 inches tall.

24 (5) Spaced no more than 50 feet apart and posted on or immediately next
25 to the curb or side of the road.

26 (6) Top of the sign to be not less than four feet nor more than six feet from
27 the ground.

28 (7) Signs may be placed on a building when approved by the
29 Commissioner Fire Chief.

1 (8) When posts are required for signs, they shall be a minimum of two
2 inch galvanized steel or four-inch by four-inch pressure-treated wood.

3 (9) Signs are to be placed so they face the direction of vehicular travel.

4 § 28067. Obstruction Prohibited.

5 The obstruction of a designated fire lane by a parked vehicle or any other object is
6 prohibited and shall constitute a traffic and fire hazard and is considered an immediate
7 hazard to life and property.

8 § 28068. Exemption to Sign, Marking Requirements.

9 (a) Signs posted prior to the enactment of this article will be allowed to remain
10 until there is a need for replacement. When replaced, the new sign must then meet the
11 requirements set forth in this article.

12 (b) Markings will be allowed to remain until there is a need for repainting. When
13 repainted, the new markings must then meet the requirements as set forth in this article.

14 § 28069. Maintenance.

15 The fire lane markings shall be maintained at the expense of the public or private
16 property owner, and as often as is deemed necessary to clearly identify the designated
17 area as a fire lane. If there is no public property owner of a designated fire lane, the
18 ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall maintain the designated fire lane using the funds from the
19 Fire Lane Revolving Fund. The ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall notify in writing the
20 property owner if the fire lane markings on private property need to be maintained.

21 § 28070. Towing Notification. At each entrance to the property where fire lanes have
22 been designated, signs shall be posted as set forth in this article, in a clear, conspicuous
23 location and shall clearly state "Vehicles parked in Fire Lanes shall be towed and
24 impounded." They shall also state the name, telephone number, and address of the towing
25 company where the vehicle may be redeemed.

26 § 28070. Towing Notification.

27 At each entrance to the property where fire lanes have been designated, signs
28 shall be posted as set forth in this article, in a clear, conspicuous location, and shall
29 clearly state "Vehicles parked in Fire Lanes shall be towed and impounded." They shall

also state the name, telephone number, and address of the towing company where the vehicle may be redeemed.

§ 28071. Enforcement.

(a) A police officer from the Department of Public Safety or a firefighter from the Department of Fire and EMS shall immediately remove, or cause the removal of, a vehicle in violation of any provision in this article.

(b) A police officer or firefighter shall issue a citation to the registered owner of the vehicle for a violation of this article.

§ 28072. Regulations.

The enforcement of this article shall not commence until the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief of Fire and EMS has promulgated reasonably necessary regulations for the removing, towing, impoundment, storage, and release of vehicles in violation of this article. The regulations may include reasonable administrative fees to implement the regulations.

§ 28073. Fire Lane Revolving Fund.

There is hereby established a Fire Lane Revolving Fund separate and apart of ~~from~~ the General Fund. The fines and fees collected pursuant to this article and any regulations promulgated by the ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall be deposited in the Fire Lane Revolving Fund; the funds shall be used for the purpose of establishing and maintaining fire lanes, the enforcement of this article and all operations, and training of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The funds shall not lapse and shall be available without fiscal year limitation. The ~~Commissioner~~ Fire Chief shall be the expenditure authority of the Fire Lane Revolving Fund.”

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not

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

7 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
8 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Date: 04/10/25

Introduced By: /s/
Senator Dennis Mendiola

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Jose A. Bermudes
Senate Legal Counsel