



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN
CHAIRMAN

Adopted - 7/21/2025

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-14

DATE: July 21, 2025

RE: House Bill No. 24-18

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred:

House Bill No. 24-18: “To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-18 be passed by the House in its current form.

RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE 7/25/2025 TIME 4:20

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of this Act is to earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance to enhance enforcement efforts.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that under 4 CMC § 1503(a)(6), the license fee for poker amusement machines, electronic gaming machines, and electronic table games is set at two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per machine or fifteen percent (15%) of net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater. Your Committee further finds that the Department of Finance has the vital responsibility of enforcing laws related to electronic gaming operations within the Commonwealth. Recognizing the importance of effective enforcement to ensure compliance and maintain the integrity of the e-gaming industry, your Committee deems it necessary to allocate dedicated funds for this purpose.

Accordingly, your Committee finds it in the best interest of the Commonwealth to earmark two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) from the electronic gaming license fees specifically for the Department of Finance to enhance enforcement efforts. This earmarked funding will enable the Department to enforce applicable laws more effectively, thereby strengthening regulatory oversight, promoting industry integrity, and protecting the Commonwealth's fiscal and public interests.

The purpose of this Act is therefore to designate two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) of the license fees collected from the electronic gaming industry annually for enforcement activities within the Department of Finance. This earmark will ensure consistent and dedicated funding for enforcement, supporting the Department's capacity to uphold lawful gaming operations and safeguard the Commonwealth's regulatory framework.

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

No comments were solicited or received by the Committee to date.

D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 24-18, introduced by Representative John Paul P. Sablan on March 21, 2025, was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for disposition.

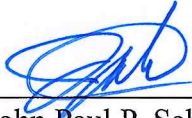
E. Cost Benefit:

Please see the attached cost benefit analysis prepared by the House Fiscal Analyst.

III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 24-18, and recommends its passage in its original form on First and Final Reading.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
Chairman



Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Vice Chairman

Rep. Roy A. Ada, Member

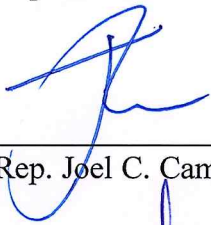
Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Member



Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Member



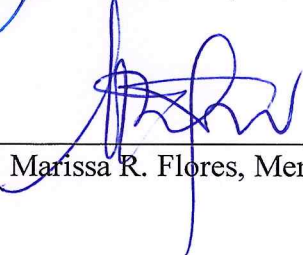
Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member



Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Member



Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member



Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member


Rep. Thomas John "TJ" DLC. Manglona

Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo, Member

Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Member


Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Member

Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, Member



Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

Reviewed by:



House Legal Counsel

Date: 7/24/25



Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Date: July 25, 2025

House Standing Committee: Ways and Means

Legislation: HB 24-18

Short Title: To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) License Fees towards the Department of Finance for Enforcement purposes.

Analysis: The Commonwealth will benefit from the earmarking of the \$200,000 from the increased enforcement efforts.

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TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 21, 2025

FIRST Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-18

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that pursuant to 4
2 CMC §1503(a)(6), the license fee for poker amusement machines, electronic
3 gaming machines, or electronic table games lawfully defined and situated shall be
4 two-thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per machine or fifteen percent
5 (15%) of net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater. Furthermore, the Legislature
6 also finds that it is the duty and responsibility of the Department of Finance to
7 enforce the provisions related to electronic gaming. Cognizant of such duty and
8 responsibility, the Legislature finds that it would be in the best interest of the
9 electronic gaming (e-gaming) industry to earmark two hundred thousand dollars
10 (\$200,000.00) to the Department of Finance to enhance their enforcement efforts.
11 With the additional funds, the Department of Finance can effectively and efficiently

1 enforce appropriate laws for the betterment of the e-gaming industry and the entire
2 Commonwealth as a whole.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to earmark Two Hundred Thousand
4 Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the
5 Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.

6 **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC §1503(a)(6) of the Commonwealth Code
7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 “(6) Notwithstanding 4 CMC § 1503(a)(2) and (5) or any other law
9 impos- ing a license fee, the license fee for poker amusement machines,
10 electronic gaming machines, or electronic table games as defined in 6 CMC
11 § 3154(a)(3) and (4) and situated at a hotel pursuant to 6 CMC § 3156(b),
12 shall be two thousand five hundred dollars per machine or 15% of net
13 gaming proceeds, whichever is greater. The license fee shall be issued on a
14 calendar year basis, payable in advance in one installment. If the 15% net
15 gaming proceeds im- posed under this section is greater than the license fee
16 per machine and per server, the fee shall be paid on the 15th day following
17 the close of each month. The term “net gaming proceeds” as used in this
18 section, means the total amount of all credits or cash played, less the total
19 amount of credits or cash won by the patron. Notwithstanding any law to
20 the contrary, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) of the fees
21 collected pursuant to this section is hereby earmarked and continuously

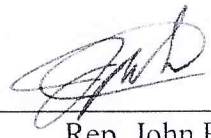
1 appropriated each fiscal year without further legislative appropriation to the
2 Department of Finance for enforcement purposes and shall not be
3 reprogrammed for any other purpose. The expenditure authority shall be the
4 Secretary of the Department of Finance.”

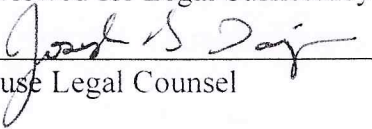
5 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
7 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
8 provisions to persons or circumstances other than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

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

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

Prefiled: 3/21/2025
+ Intro

Date: _____ Introduced by: 
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:
 3/24/25
House Legal Counsel



