



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOEL CAMACHO
CHAIRMAN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-23
DATE: July 25, 2025
RE: House Bill 24-5

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 Judiciary and Governmental Operations to which was referred:

House Bill No. 24-5: "To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes."

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-5 be passed by the House in the form of House Bill No. 24-5, House Draft 1 (HD1).

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 24-5 is to implement enforcement measures for jaywalking and to create a special fund to support the use of the fines collected.

TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE 8/25/2025
TIMES: 4:52Z

B. Committee Amendments:

Your Committee made the following amendments to strengthen the intent of this Act.¹

1. Page 2, Line 11: After the word “visible,” delete the following:

~~“visible from a distance of 200 feet in all directions.”~~

2. Page 2, Lines 17-21 and Page 3, Line 1: The following paragraph is amended to read as follows:

“A pedestrian who crosses a street outside a marked crosswalk is in violation of § 5404 and shall be guilty of a traffic infraction pursuant to 9 CMC §7112 and fined a payable offense of \$100.”

~~(1) \$75 for first offense;~~

~~(2) \$100 for second offense;~~

~~(3) \$150 for third or subsequent offense.”~~

C. Committee Findings:

Your Committee underscores the importance of protecting both residents and visitors by ensuring safe roadways. House Bill No. 24-5 addresses this concern by prohibiting jaywalking outside of marked or designated crosswalks, imposing payable fines for violations, and directing a portion of the fines to a special account. By penalizing pedestrians who disregard crosswalks and traffic signs, the measure aims to deter dangerous behavior that endangers both motorists and pedestrians.

In reviewing the bill, your Committee adopted House Draft 1 to refine and simplify language regarding fines, signage, and markings. Specifically, HD1 removes the scaling fine schedule for repeat offenses, providing instead for a uniform fine of \$100 per violation. Additionally, HD1 deletes the qualifier “from a distance of 200 feet in all directions” to ensure clarity in the requirement that crosswalk signage and markings be identifiable and visible.

Your Committee is confident that the passage of this bill, as amended in House Draft 1, will enhance safety, compliance, and accountability on our roads. Accordingly, your Committee supports the intent and purpose of House Bill 24-5 and recommends its passage in the form of House Bill No. 24-5, HD1.

¹ The following page and line references are based on the committee floor amendment to the House Clerk’s revised version of the bill, which included non-substantive edits for readability. The changes reflected in this section correspond to Page 2, Line 8 and Page 2, Lines 14–19 of the pre-filed bill.

D. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

The following entities were invited to provide written and/or oral testimony during the committee meeting:

- NMI Judiciary
- CNMI Department of Public Safety
- Office of the Attorney General

At the July 25, 2025, committee meeting, public comments were solicited, but no submissions were made in regard to this bill.

E. Legislative History:

On February 14, 2025, Representative Joseph Flores introduced House Bill No. 24-5. On that same date, House Bill No. 24-5 was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition.


F. Cost Benefit:

Although the enactment of House Bill 24-5, HD1, may result in some additional administrative and accounting expenses to establish the special account and manage the allocation of collected fines, your Committee finds that such costs will be minimal. Because the implementation and collection of fines fall within the ordinary functions of law enforcement and the Judiciary, no significant new expenditures are anticipated. Your Committee further emphasizes that the paramount goal of enhancing road safety for the community substantially outweighs any incidental administrative costs.

III. CONCLUSION:

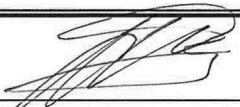
Your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 24-5 and recommends its passage in the form of House Bill No. 24-5, House Draft 1.

Respectfully submitted,

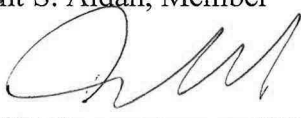


Rep. Joel C. Camacho,
Chairman

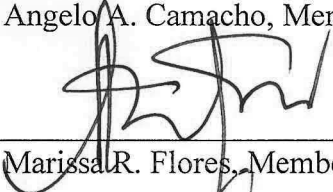
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao,
Vice Chairman



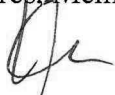
Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Member




Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member



Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member




Rep. Julie A. Ogo, Member




Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Member

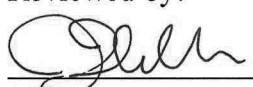


Rep. Diego F. Camacho, Member

Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member



Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 8/20/2025

COMMITTEE FLOOR AMENDMENT TO: HB No. 24-5

OFFERED BY: Representative Joseph A. Flores 

DATE: July 25, 2025

To amend current text to reflect an amendment as follows:

1) Page 2, line 11: After the word “visible”, delete the following:

~~“visible from a distance of 200 feet in all directions.”~~

2) Page 2, lines 17-21 and Page 3, Line 1: The following paragraph is amended to read as follows:

“A pedestrian who crosses a street outside a marked crosswalk is in violation of § 5404 and shall be guilty of a traffic infraction pursuant to 9 CMC §7112 and fined a payable offense of \$100.”

~~(1) \$75 for first offense;~~

~~(2) \$100 for second offense;~~

~~(3) \$150 for third or subsequent offense.”~~

Consistent with the intent of the foregoing amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

The legal sufficiency signature of House Legislative Counsel contained in the final, engrossed version of a bill shall reflect the signature of the counsel endorsing the last amendment, if any, addressed by the House.

Date: 7/25/25

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legislative Counsel

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2025

First Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-5, HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes the
2 importance of traffic regulations in protecting both motorists and pedestrians.
3 However, residents and tourists frequently disregard these rules, especially in high-
4 traffic areas, creating safety hazards. Currently, the Commonwealth lacks penalties
5 for jaywalking, reducing compliance and increasing risk. While the Legislature
6 remains committed to supporting tourism, it also prioritizes public safety and the
7 need for stronger traffic enforcement.

8 To address this issue, this Act establishes clear penalties for jaywalking,
9 ensuring accountability and promoting compliance with traffic laws to enhance
10 community safety.

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 9, Division 5, Chapter 4, §5404 of the
2 Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 “~~§ 5404. Crossing at Other Than Crosswalks~~ **Jaywalking.**

4 (a) ~~Every pedestrian crossing a highway at any point other than~~
5 ~~within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an~~
6 ~~intersection shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the highway. It~~
7 ~~shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to cross any road at any point between~~
8 ~~adjacent intersections that are controlled by any traffic control signal device~~
9 ~~or police officer except in an officially designated crosswalk. Provided that~~
10 ~~all officially designated crosswalks shall have identifiable signs that are~~
11 ~~properly erected and visible from a distance of 200 feet in all directions.~~

12 (i) ~~Exception: In the absence of an officially designated or~~
13 ~~visible crosswalk, pedestrians may cross the street in a safe and~~
14 ~~reasonable manner.~~

15 (b) ~~The provisions of this section do not relieve the operator of a~~
16 ~~vehicle from the duty to exercise due care for the safety of any pedestrian~~
17 ~~upon a highway. A pedestrian who crosses a street outside a marked~~
18 ~~crosswalk is in violation of § 5404 and shall be guilty of a traffic infraction~~
19 ~~pursuant to 9 CMC §7112 and fined a payable offense of \$100:~~

20 ~~(1) \$75 for first offense;~~

21 ~~(2) \$100 for second offense;~~

1 ~~(3) \$150 for third or subsequent offense.~~

2 (c) Consistent with this Act, there is hereby established within the
3 Commonwealth Treasury a Jaywalking special account. Sixty percent
4 (60%) of all fines collected pursuant to this Act shall be deposited into the
5 Jaywalking special account to be used as follows:

6 (1) Fifty percent (50%) of the fines in the special account
7 shall be available for use, without further appropriation, by the
8 Department of Public Works to be used for the sole purpose of the
9 repair and maintenance of crosswalks to include signage and
10 markings. The expenditure authority shall be the Secretary of Public
11 Works; and

12 (2) Fifty percent (50%) of the fines in the special account
13 shall be available for use, without further appropriation, by the
14 Department of Public Safety for the sole purpose of enforcing the
15 provisions of this Act. The expenditure authority shall be the
16 Commissioner of Public Safety.

17 The remaining forty percent (40%) of all fines collected pursuant to
18 this Act shall be deposited into the General Fund.”

19 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
20 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
21 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
4 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
5 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
6 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
7 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
8 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
9 which shall 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
11 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 2/7/2025


Date: _____ Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Joseph A. Flores

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr.
House Legal Counsel

Date: 2/4/2025

HB24-5, HD1 as reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 7/25/25