



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOEL C. CAMACHO
CHAIRPERSON

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-32
DATE: August 21, 2025
RE: HOUSE BILL No. 24-44

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. 24-44: “To amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204 with the citation effective immediately; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-44, be passed by the House in its current form.

RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE 7/5/2025
TIME 11:02 AM

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to amend 9 CMC §8209 to remove the seven-day grace period for uninsured motorists violating minimum liability insurance requirements, ensuring immediate enforcement to promote road safety and financial accountability.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that motorists have a duty to be responsible for the safety and security of our roads. A valid license, registration, and insurance are essential documents that ensure compliance and promote road safety. Currently, immediate fines are enforced when motorists are found without valid license or registration, but this is not the case for vehicle liability insurance. Inconsistent enforcement of insurance requirements undermines safety measures, as road incidents and damages are unpredictable and can have severe financial consequences for all parties involved. Therefore, having valid insurance should be emphasized equally with other required documents for vehicle operation.

Your Committee finds that, pursuant to 9 CMC §§ 8203 and 8204, motorists are prohibited from operating a vehicle unless they carry minimum liability insurance. Furthermore, under 9 CMC § 8209, a seven-day grace period is currently granted for violators to submit proof of insurance to the Department of Public Safety, avoiding immediate citations. However, this practice allows uninsured motorists to operate their vehicles for an additional week, increasing the risk of severe outcomes in the event of an accident. To prevent tragic consequences and promote better safety and financial management, your Committee finds it necessary to remove this grace period and make civil citations effective immediately for violations of these provisions.

E. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

No public comments were solicited, and none were submitted.

E. Legislative History:

On July 31, 2025, Representative Joseph A. Flores introduced House Bill No. 24-44, which was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition on August 21, 2025.

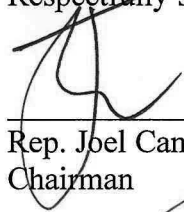
F. Cost Benefit Analysis:

The enactment of House Bill No. 24-44 will likely incur additional costs for the CNMI Government due to the need for immediate enforcement and citation issuance for violations of vehicle insurance requirements, eliminating the current seven-day grace period. This change may increase administrative workload and resource allocation for the Department of Public Safety to process citations and ensure compliance. However, these costs could be offset by long-term benefits such as improved road safety, reduced financial risk for parties involved in accidents, and enhanced compliance with insurance mandates, ultimately promoting better financial and road safety management across the jurisdiction.

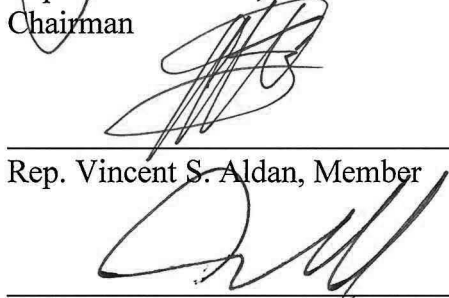
III. CONCLUSION:

Your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 24-44, and recommends its passage.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Joel Camacho, Chairman
Chairman



Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Member

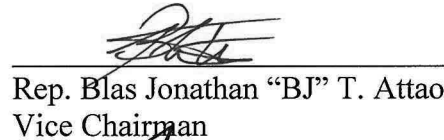
Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member

Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member

Rep. Julie A. Ogo, Member



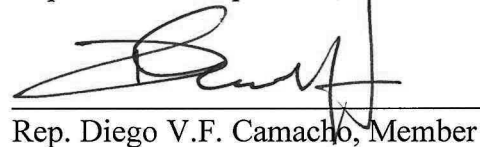
Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member



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

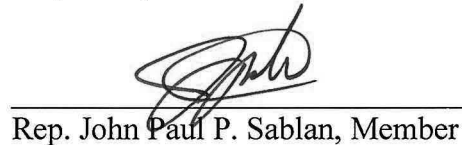


Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Member



Rep. Diego V.F. Camacho, Member

Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member



Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 8-26-25

REFERRED TO: JE20-814/2025
(HOUSE)

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 31, 2025

Fifth Spc.

Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 44

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204 with the citation effective immediately; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that motorists
2 must be dutiful and responsible for the safety and security of our local roads. A
3 valid license, registration, and insurance are required documentation that ensure
4 compliance and assure road safety. Immediate fines are enforced once motorists are
5 found without valid license or registration on their person when operating a vehicle.
6 This is not the case for valid vehicle liability insurance. Not having consistent
7 enforcement with all the required documentation dampens compliance and safety
8 measures, especially since road incidents and their damages are unpredictable in
9 both occurrence and the extent of the damages. Having no insurance as a motorist
10 may also bear heavy financial risk and loss for parties involved should an accident
11 or injury occur. Therefore, having valid insurance should bear the same emphasis
12 as other required documents for vehicle operation.

1 The Legislature finds that pursuant to 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204,
2 respectively, motorists are not allowed to operate a vehicle unless the vehicle is
3 covered by and possesses minimum liability motor vehicle insurance. The
4 Legislature further finds that pursuant to 9 CMC §8209, all motorists who violate
5 9 CMC §8203 and 8204 are granted a seven-day grace period to submit satisfactory
6 evidence of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance to the Department of Public
7 Safety, providing coverage to avoid imposing such citation for violating 9 CMC
8 §8203. The Legislature finds that this type of practice is extremely detrimental to
9 the CNMI as uninsured motorists will be allowed to operate their vehicle for an
10 extra period of time. Within such time frame, these uninsured motorists may be
11 involved in a motor vehicle accident which may result in highly severe and
12 unfortunate consequences regardless of who bears the fault. To avoid such tragic
13 outcomes, it is imperative to remove the seven-day grace period provided under 9
14 CMC §8209 to deter uninsured motorists from operating their vehicles without the
15 required motor vehicle liability insurance. This removal will promote and enhance
16 better safety and financial management for all owners and operators of a motor
17 vehicle.

18 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing
19 the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204 and
20 for other purposes and require that the civil citations be effective immediately.

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC §8209 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **“§8209. Civil Traffic Citations for Violations of 9 CMC §§ 8203**
4 **and 8204.**

5 Any person who operates a motor vehicle in violation of 9 CMC §
6 8204 shall be issued a civil traffic citation by the Department of Public
7 Safety for a violation of both 9 CMC §§ 8203 and 8204. The civil citation
8 and resulting fees will be effective immediately. If within seven days of
9 receiving such citation, such person submits satisfactory evidence of
10 minimum motor vehicle liability insurance to the Department of Public
11 Safety which provided coverage at the time of such citation, the original
12 citation issued shall be immediately changed by the Department of Public
13 Safety to a violation of 9 CMC § 8204 only. Failure to provide such
14 satisfactory evidence of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance within
15 this seven day period to show compliance with 9 CMC § 8203 at the time
16 of the citation, shall in itself be deemed to be a violation of 9 CMC § 8203.”

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

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

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

Prefiled: 7/31/2025

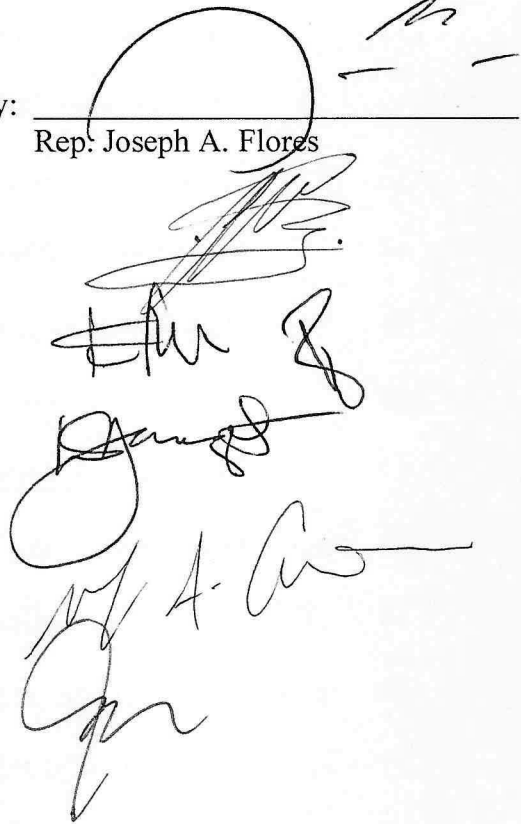
Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep: Joseph A. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Joseph A. Flores 7/30/25
House Legal Counsel

A collection of handwritten signatures and initials. At the top right, there is a large circular scribble with a horizontal line through it and some illegible marks. Below this, there are several distinct signatures in cursive, including one that appears to be 'Joseph A. Flores' and another that looks like 'John D. ...'. There are also some initials and smaller signatures scattered below.

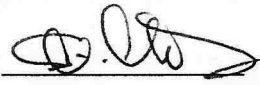


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
SPEAKER

Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950
cnmileg.net

MEMORANDUM

DATE : August 4, 2025
TO : CHAIRMAN JOEL C. CAMACHO,
JUDICIARY and GOVERNMENTAL AND OPERATIONS
FROM : SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ 
SUBJECT : Referral of Legislation

In accordance with Rule IX, Section 8, I hereby refer the following measure for the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's review:

H. B. No. 24-33: To amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204 with the citation effective immediately; and for other purposes.

Introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Flores of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 31, 2025.

The Committee has 60 days to submit a written report on the legislation; therefore, I urge the Committee to review promptly the aforementioned legislation.

cc: Senate President
House Members
LB Director
House Clerk

S.P. Aug. 4, 2025
4:32 pm