



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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-47
DATE: January 15, 2026
RE: Senate Bill No. 24-19

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:

Senate Bill No. 24-19: "To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that Senate Bill No. 24-19 be passed by the House in its current form.

TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE 3/13/2026 TIME 10:30AM

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 24-19 is to amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that individuals lacking legal status in the CNMI are ineligible to acquire a driver's license to operate a motor vehicle. Your Committee further finds that individuals who are not licensed to operate motor vehicles have inadequate transportation options to travel to and from their job sites, dental and medical appointments, school, and other essential destinations. Consequently, these individuals disregard the driver's license requirement, operate a motor vehicle without insurance, and fail to pay the driver's license charge.

Your Committee recognizes that obtaining a driver's license under 9 CMC § 2208(d)(5) requires the applicant to provide evidence of U.S. citizenship or U.S. national status, lawful alien residency—either permanent or temporary—conditional permanent resident status, an approved asylum application, or entry into the United States under refugee status. Additionally, it includes having a valid, unexpired nonimmigrant visa or nonimmigrant visa status, a pending asylum application in the United States, a pending or approved application for temporary protected status, approved deferred action status, or a pending application for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or conditional permanent resident status in the United States.

Your Committee finds that this Act will amend the exception process for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles so that they may issue the following: (A) A learner's permit under 9 CMC § 2206 to a person who is not able to provide any of the required documentation under subparagraph (5) of this subsection. Provided that the applicant shall provide any other form of identification. (B) A driver's license, not a Real ID driver's license, to a person who is not able to provide the documentation required under subparagraph (5) of this subsection. Provided that the applicant shall provide any other form of identification. The driver's license under this provision shall be for one year and a fee of \$50.00, renewable each year upon the payment of the annual fee of \$50.00. Provided further that the individual must successfully pass the required written and driving test and that the driver's license provided shall not be used for travel or access to any federal building. Your Committee further finds that several states have enacted legislation to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain driver's license, provided that the applicant can provide some form of documentation, such as a foreign passport, a foreign birth certificate, or a consular card, as well as proof of current residency in the state.

Your Committee supports the progressive intent of the proposed legislation to enhance road safety by ensuring that motorists in the Commonwealth are adequately licensed and insured, thereby diminishing the prevalence of uninsured drivers, potentially augmenting revenue from licensing fees, and enhancing public safety within the community.

Your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of this Act and recommends its passage in its original form.

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

The Committee did not solicit comments for Senate Bill No. 24-19; however, the Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law did solicit comments from the following entities:

1. Office of the Attorney General
2. Mayor of the Municipality of Rota
3. Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
4. Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan
5. Mayor of the Northern Islands
6. Rota Municipal Council
7. Tinian Municipal Council
8. Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council
9. Director, CNMI Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Department of Public Safety

To date, comments were received from the following:

Mr. Eric F. David, Director, CNMI-Bureau of Motor Vehicle, DPS dated March 17, 2025

“I write in response to your request for insight and comments on Senate Bill No. 24-19. Base on my review of this bill, I submit the following comments for review and consideration by the requestee and to its committee.

The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Motor Vehicle supports Senate Bill No. 24-19. The Bureau would like to recommend increasing the scheduling fee, additional \$25.00 to the current fee of \$50.00 in total of \$75.00 for all licensure under this provision.”

Comment has been attached as part of this committee report.

D. Legislative History:

Senate Bill No. 24-19, introduced by Senator Donald M. Manglona on February 11, 2025, and was subsequently referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law for disposition. The Senate passed on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 24-19 by the unanimous vote, a quorum being present, in its 1st Day, Fourth Special Session on July 14, 2025.

Senate Bill No. 24-19 was transmitted to the House for action on July 15, 2025 as referenced in Sen. Comm. (House) 24-39. On July 31, 2025, Senate Bill No. 24-19 was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for disposition.

During the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, a similar piece of legislation, Senate Bill No. 23-55, was also introduced by Senator Donald M. Manglona on January 26, 2024. This bill was likewise referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law for disposition. On January 3, 2025, during the Senate's 8th Day of the Fourth Regular Session, a motion was made and seconded to file all remaining bills, resolutions, reports, and other assignments that required Senate action. Consequently, Senate Bill No. 23-55 was filed, and the Senate of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature adjourned sine die.

Your Committee met recently on January 13, 2026, and concurred with the findings and purpose presented by the Senate. The Committee endorses the intent of the proposed legislation and recommends the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-19 in its current form.


E. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of Senate Bill 24-19 will not result in additional costs to the CNMI Government. The proposed legislation seeks to generate potential revenue by ensuring that all residents of the Commonwealth are legally licensed. This enables individuals to acquire necessary auto insurance, irrespective of their immigration status, thereby improving the safety and welfare of all drivers and pedestrians in the CNMI.

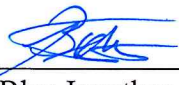
III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of Senate Bill No. 24-19, and recommends its passage in its original form on First and Final Reading.

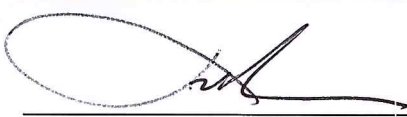
Respectfully submitted,



Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
Chairman



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



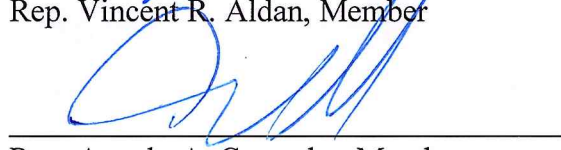
Rep. Roy A. Ada, Member



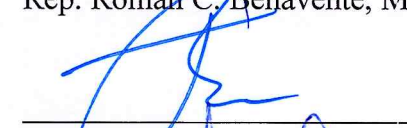
Rep. Vincent R. Aldan, Member



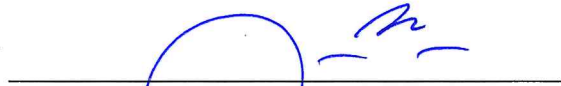
Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Member



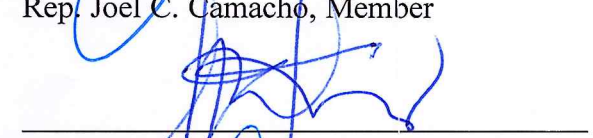
Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member



Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Member



Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member



Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member



Rep. Thomas John DLC. Manglona, Member



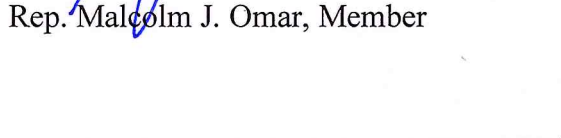
Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo, Member



Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Member



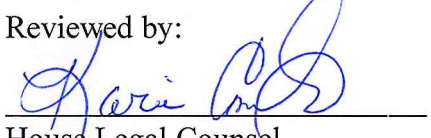
Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Member



Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, Member



Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

Reviewed by:

House Legal Counsel

Date: 3-10-26

ATTACHMENT: Eric F. David, Director, CNMI-BMV letter dated March 17, 2025



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Telephone: (670) 664-9000 / 9001, Front Desk



Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lieutenant Governor

Anthony I. Macaranas
Commissioner

March 17, 2025

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors
Vice President of the Senate
24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Building, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 500129 Saipan, MP 96950



Ref: **S.B. No. 24-19**. To amend 9CMC Sub-Section 2208 (d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I write in response to your request for insight and comments on Senate Bill No. 24-19. Base on my review of this bill, I submit the following comments for review and consideration by the requestee and to its committee.

The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Motor Vehicle supports Senate Bill No. 24-19. The Bureau would like to recommend increasing the scheduling fee, additional \$25.00 to the current fee of \$50.00 in total of \$75.00 for all licensure under this provision.

Submitted for your review, please don't hesitate to contact me at 670-285-1371 or email at eric.david@dps.gov.mp.

Best regards,

Eric F. David
Director, CNMI-Bureau of Motor Vehicle

Cc: DPS, Commissioner Office
BMI-File

Maid
3/18/25
3:30pm/946

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

First Regular

SESSION, 2025

S.B. No. 24- 19

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature acknowledges that the issuance
2 of a driver's license under 9 CMC § 2208(d)(5) requires the applicant to submit proof of
3 U.S. citizenship or U.S. national, alien lawfully admitted for permanent or temporary
4 residence in the United States; conditional permanent resident status; an approved asylum
5 application or has entered into the United States in refugee status; has a valid, unexpired
6 nonimmigrant visa or nonimmigrant visa status; has a pending application for asylum in
7 the United States; has a pending or approved application for temporary protected status in
8 the United States; has approved deferred action status; or has a pending application for
9 adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the
10 United States or conditional permanent resident status in the United States.

11 The Legislature finds that a person without legal status in the CNMI cannot obtain
12 a driver's license to operate a motor vehicle. The Legislature also finds that individuals not
13 licensed to operate motor vehicles have limited transportation means to get to and from
14 their jobs, dental and medical appointments, school, and other necessary destinations.
15 Therefore, these individuals take chances and operate a motor vehicle without a driver's
16 license, have no vehicle insurance, and don't pay the driver's license fee.

17 The purpose of this Act is to allow all CNMI residents to obtain proper motor
18 vehicle licensure.

19 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 2208 is hereby amended to read:

20 “§2208. Issuance of Licenses and Identification Cards.

1 (a)-(c) [Unchanged.]

2 (d) Minimum issuance standards. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall require, at a
3 minimum, presentation and verification of the following information before issuing a card
4 to a person:

5 (1) A photo identity document, except that a non-photo identity document
6 is acceptable if it includes both the person's full legal name and date of birth.

7 (2) Documentation showing the person's date of birth.

8 (3) Proof of the person's social security account number or verification that
9 the person is not eligible for a social security account number.

10 (4) Documentation showing the person's name and address of ~~principle~~
11 principal residence.

12 (5) Except as provided in paragraph (8) of this subsection, Documentation
13 documentation showing that the person:

14 (i) is a citizen or national of the United States;

15 (ii) is an alien lawfully admitted for permanent or temporary
16 residence in the United States;

17 (iii) has conditional permanent resident status in the United States;

18 (iv) has an approved application for asylum in the United States or
19 has entered into the United States in refugee status;

20 (v) has a valid, unexpired nonimmigrant visa or nonimmigrant visa
21 status for entry into the United States;

22 (vi) has a pending application for asylum in the United States;

23 (vii) has a pending or approved application for temporary protected
24 status in the United States;

25 (viii) has approved deferred action status; or

26 (ix) has a pending application for adjustment of status to that of an
27 alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States or
28 conditional permanent resident status in the United States.

1 (6) Declaration required. Each applicant must sign a declaration under
2 penalty of perjury that the information presented on the application is true and
3 correct, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles must retain the declaration. An applicant
4 must sign a new declaration when presenting new source documents to the Bureau
5 of Motor Vehicles on subsequent visits.

6 (7) Regulations. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall promulgate
7 regulations describing the documents that it will accept for verification of the data
8 required by this subsection.

9 (8) Exception process. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles may issue ~~regulations~~
10 ~~that provide an exception process for persons who, for reasons beyond their own~~
11 ~~control, are unable to present the necessary documents and must rely on alternate~~
12 ~~documents to establish identity or date of birth.~~ the following:

13 (A) A learner's permit under 9 CMC § 2206 to a person who is not
14 able to provide any of the required documentation under subparagraph (5)
15 of this subsection. Provided that the applicant shall provide any other form
16 of identification.

17 (B) A driver's license, not a Real ID driver's license, to a person
18 who is not able to provide the documentation required under subparagraph
19 (5) of this subsection. Provided that the applicant shall provide any other
20 form of identification. And provided further that the driver's license under
21 this provision shall be for one year and a fee of \$50.00, renewable each year
22 upon the payment of the annual fee of \$50.00.

23 (9) Successfully pass the required written and driving tests.

24 (10) The driver's license provided under this subsection shall not be used
25 for travel or access to any federal building.

26 (e)-(h) [Unchanged.]”

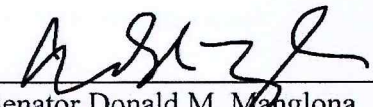
27 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
28 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent

1 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
2 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

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

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

Date: 02/11/25

Introduced By: 
Senator Donald M. Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


Senate Legal Counsel