



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**  
**LEGISLATURE**

*Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building*  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950  
cnmileg.net

September 2, 2025

HOUSE  
FILE

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
President  
The Senate  
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Senate President King-Nabors:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for Senate *action* **H. B. No. 24-5, HD1**, entitled: **“To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.”**, which was passed by the House of Representatives on First and Final Reading, by the majority vote of the members present, a quorum being present, during its Second Day, Second Regular Session on August 29, 2025.

Sincerely yours,

Linda B. Muña, MPA  
House Clerk

Attachment

**TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE**

Received by: Chanele Borja

Date: 9/2/25

Time: 3:27pm

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

**First Regular Session, 2025**

**H. B. 24-5, HD1**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> 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.~~

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                   (c) Consistent with this Act, there is hereby established within the  
21 Commonwealth Treasury a Jaywalking special account. Sixty percent

1           (60%) of all fines collected pursuant to this Act shall be deposited into the  
2           Jaywalking special account to be used as follows:

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

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

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

16           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
17 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
18 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
19 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
20 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 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. Tajeron, Jr.  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 2/4/2025

HB 24-5, HD1 as reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

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

Date: 7/25/2025



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

*Adopted - 8/29/2025*  
**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* TIME: *4:52Z*

B. Committee Amendments:

Your Committee made the following amendments to strengthen the intent of this Act.<sup>1</sup>

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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,



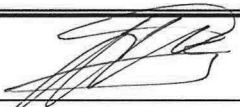
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Rep. Joel C. Camacho,  
Chairman

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

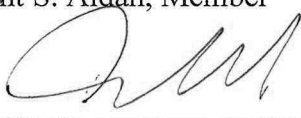
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Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Member

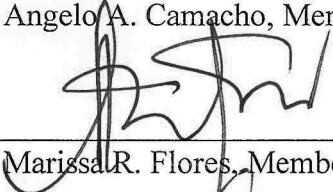
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Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member

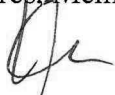
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Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member


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Rep. Julie A. Ogo, Member

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Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

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Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Member

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Rep. Diego F. Camacho, Member

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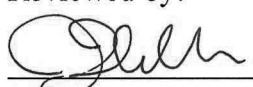
Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member

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Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

Reviewed by:  


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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