



NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 500586
Saipan, MP 96950
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HC Document Control No. 24

12/30/2025

Pursuant to the House Rules of Procedure and the authority under the NMI Constitution, the Speaker of the House of Representatives announces that the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene the following open and public meeting:

Meeting: House of Representatives Emergency Session, 13th Day, Second Regular Session
Date and Time: Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.
Location: House Chamber, Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill

Copies of this notice, the official Session call, and the agenda have been filed in the Office of the House Clerk, released to the media, and posted at the following locations:

Administration Building Entrance Hall
House of Representatives Entrance Hall
Senate Entrance Hall
Commonwealth Legislature website (www.cnmileg.net)

Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

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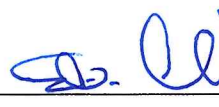
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
P. O. BOX 500586
Saipan, MP 96950

EDMUND SABLAN VILLAGOMEZ
SPEAKER

MEMORANDUM

DATE : 30 December 2025
TO : ALL HOUSE MEMBERS
FROM : Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez 
SUBJECT : Emergency Session, 13th Day, 2nd Regular Session

Pursuant to the Open Government Act and Rule III, Section 7 of the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure, I hereby call for an **Emergency Session** of the **13th Day, 2nd Regular Session for Wednesday, 31 December 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** in the House Chamber.

The reason for finding that an emergency exists is based on the urgent need to take action on **HB 24-82** entitled, "To amend Section 704(k) of Public Law 24-20 to prevent disruption or delay of allotments, payments, or expenditures of the Legislative Branch by adding a transition period of up to 270 days for the implementation of the Legislature's Finance Department; and for other purpose."

cc: Senate President
House Clerk
LB Director
SAPLR
Media

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2025

SESSION DAY	CALENDAR DAY	TIME
EMERGENCY SESSION 13th Day, Second Regular Session	Wednesday, December 31, 2025	9:00 a.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A Moment of Silence

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. ADOPTION OF JOURNALS – (None)

4. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

A. House Bills:

H. B. No. 24-82

To amend Section 704(k) of Public Law 24-20 to prevent disruption or delay of allotments, payments, or expenditures of the Legislative Branch by adding a transition period of up to 270 days for the implementation of the Legislature's Finance Department; and for other purposes.

Prefiled by: REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself, Representatives Roy Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Malcolm J. Omar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai*)

B. House Local Bills:

C. House Legislative Initiatives:

5. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. House Resolutions:

B. House Joint Resolutions:

C. House Commemorative Resolutions:

D. House Concurrent Resolutions:

- 6. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR – (None)**
- 7. SENATE COMMUNICATIONS – (None)**
- 8. HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS – (None)**
- 9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH – (None)**
- 10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES – (None)**
- 11. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS – (None)**
- 12. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES – (None)**
- 13. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES – (None)**
- 14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (None)**
- 15. RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

Resolution	Subject	Action

16. BILL CALENDAR

Bill/Initiative	Subject	Action

17. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(ADJOURNMENT)

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on December 29, 2025:

H. RES. NO. 24-23: To express the profound gratitude and commendation of the House of Representatives to Mrs. Jacqueline Ayuyu Quitugua for her extraordinary career spanning over 44 years, marked by unwavering dedication and transformative contributions to the education, well-being, and development of the youth and school communities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, as she dawns her well-deserved retirement. REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, and John Paul P. Sablan; and the Committee of the Whole House) Action: Introduced on December 29, 2025; placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted without amendments.

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 82

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Section 704(k) of Public Law 24-20 to prevent disruption or delay of allotments, payments, or expenditures of the Legislative Branch by adding a transition period of up to 270 days for the implementation of the Legislature's Finance Department; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Public Law 24-
2 20, Revised Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2026, establishes the
3 Legislature Operations Fund and vests expenditure authority in the Director of the
4 Legislative Bureau, thereby fundamentally restructuring how legislative funds are
5 administered and disbursed. The Legislature further finds that implementation of
6 this structure requires independent banking, accounting, payroll, procurement, and
7 reporting systems that do not presently exist within the Legislative Bureau.

8 The Legislature finds that immediate execution of these requirements,
9 without a transition period or implementation funding, would result in the
10 suspension or delay of legislative payments, including payroll, member allowances,
11 vendor payments, and other lawful obligations of the Legislature. Preventing

1 disruption of these payments is essential to maintaining continuity of legislative
2 operations and avoiding harm to employees, members, vendors, and governmental
3 functions.

4 The Legislature finds that the Department of Finance has acknowledged that
5 a transition of this scale typically requires between ninety and one hundred eighty
6 days and that continued use of existing financial systems during a transition period
7 is necessary to ensure uninterrupted payment processing and audit compliance.

8 The purpose of this Act is to amend Section 704(k) of Public Law 24-20 to
9 prevent disruption or delay of allotments, payments, or expenditures of the
10 Legislative Branch by adding a transition period up to 270 days for the
11 implementation of the Legislature's Finance Department solely to prevent the
12 stoppage or delay of legislative payments, to allow sufficient time for the
13 Legislature to enact corrective legislation, authorize necessary funding, hire
14 personnel, and establish compliant financial systems, while preserving fiscal
15 accountability and continuity of government operations.

16 **Section 2. Amendment.** The following amendment to Section 704(k) of
17 Public Law 24-20 is hereby enacted into law:

18 **Subsection 106. Implementation/Gradual 270-day Transition**

19 **Period.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
20 Department of Finance, working collaboratively with the CNMI
21 Legislative Bureau and members of the Legislature, shall work to

1 implement the provisions of Section 704(k) of Public Law 24-20,
2 Revised Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2026,
3 including but not limited to subsections 101 to 105, and any other
4 provisions directly related to the immediate operational separation
5 or exclusive execution of legislative expenditures under the
6 Legislature Operations Fund over a period not to exceed 270
7 calendar days. During this 270 day period, there shall be no
8 disruptions on the financial obligations and payments of the
9 Legislative Branch. The Department of Finance shall continue to
10 process and make payments with respect to all obligations, debts,
11 allocations, expenditures, and operations of the Legislative
12 Branch.”

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

18 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
19 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
20 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
21 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted

1 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
2 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
3 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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


Prefiled: 12/30/2025

Date: 12/30/25

Introduced by:


Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

 12/30/25
House Legal Counsel

Date: 12/30/2025

