

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 3

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To eliminate the 10% distribution to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, and redistribute those funds equally between the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Public Works to enhance their operational capacities; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes that the
2 current allocation of 10% of license fees to the Commonwealth Utilities
3 Corporation (CUC) for streetlight maintenance is redundant, as CUC already
4 receives funding through ratepayer charges for these services. This dual funding
5 mechanism has the potential to create inefficiencies in resource allocation.

6 Furthermore, the Legislature acknowledges that § 2118 provides clarity on
7 the distribution of fees and responsibilities related to street lighting. Specifically, §
8 2118(a) designates 10% of the license fees collected under 9 CMC § 2202(b) to
9 CUC for the maintenance of streetlights, which forms part of the statutory

1 distribution irrespective of other financial obligations.

2 Additionally, the Legislature notes that the Department of Public Works
3 (DPW) is allocated 45% of the collected fees for road maintenance and the upkeep
4 of road shoulders. It is important to highlight that the allocations to CUC and DPW
5 do not conflict, as each agency has specific and distinct purposes for its allocated
6 funds. CUC also imposes charges on ratepayers for street lighting, addressing both
7 operational and infrastructure maintenance costs. While there exists an overlap in
8 funding sources for streetlight maintenance, this dual funding structure appears to
9 reflect a legislative intent to ensure sufficient resources for CUC, while also
10 supporting DPW's broader infrastructure responsibilities. However, should any
11 conflicts or redundancies in these funding mechanisms arise, legislative
12 clarification may be necessary to optimize responsibilities and improve efficiency.

13 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 2, Article 1, § 2118(a)
14 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **“§ 2218. Disposition of 9 CMC § 2202 Fees and Penalties.**

16 (a) Distribution of 9 CMC § 2202(b) license fees. Notwithstanding any
17 CNMI law or regulation to the contrary, all fees collected for obtaining a license
18 pursuant to 9 CMC § 2202(b), including the learner's permit fee and the temporary
19 driver's license fee, shall be distributed as follows: ~~45%~~ 50% for the operations and
20 programs of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and ~~45%~~ 50% for road maintenance
21 and for the upkeep and maintenance of road shoulders by the Department of Public

1 ~~Works, and 10% to the upkeep the maintenance of street light by the~~
2 ~~Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.”~~


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

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

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

Prefiled: 2/7/2025

Date: 07 FEB '25

Introduced by: 
Rep. Vincent S. Aldan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Joseph S. Day
House Legal Counsel

Date: 2-7-25