

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 31, 2025

Fifth Spec.

Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 44

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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 24<sup>TH</sup> 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. Day 7/30/25  
House Legal Counsel





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

**EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ**  
**SPEAKER**

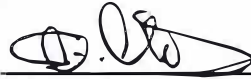
*Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building*  
 Capitol Hill  
 Saipan, MP 96950  
 cnmileg.net

**MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE** : **August 4, 2025**

**TO** : **CHAIRMAN JOEL C. CAMACHO,**  
**JUDICIARY and GOVERNMENTAL AND OPERATIONS**

**FROM** : **SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** 

**SUBJECT** : **Referral of Legislation**

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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. 24-44:** 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.

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*