

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 15, 2025

Second Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-51

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish revolving accounts for the Department of Lands & Natural Resources; 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 the Division  
2 of Land Registration & Survey (DLRS), under the Department of Lands & Natural  
3 Resources (DLNR), is mandated by Public Law 3-79 to survey pre-war properties,  
4 record documentation and maps, review and clear all submitted check prints, and  
5 provide research services to the general public on a daily basis. Furthermore, they  
6 conduct land surveys and plats, hold hearings on disputed land claims, issue  
7 certificates of title, record such certificates and other documents with the  
8 Commonwealth recorder, and so forth. Despite providing these services, the DLRS  
9 does not charge fees after producing requested documentation. Cognizant of their  
10 ability to implement fees within their respective regulations, the Legislature finds  
11 that it would be appropriate to establish a revolving account where all funds  
12 collected pursuant to such enacted regulations can be deposited. Upon

1 promulgation, the proposed revolving account will be able to collect and deposit  
2 fees that can be utilized to fund personnel, operations, and other related costs.

3       The Legislature also finds that, pursuant to 3 CMC §2624(b), DLNR shall  
4 have general supervision over all public cemeteries, including ground maintenance,  
5 coordination of burial activities, and further improvements to all public cemeteries  
6 as required by law. Furthermore, pursuant to 3 CMC §2622, Lot 053 A 52  
7 containing approximately 25,350 square meters; Lot 053 A 26 containing  
8 approximately 20,843 square meters; and Lot 053 A 29 containing approximately  
9 23,226 square meters were transferred to DLNR for the purpose of establishing a  
10 new public cemetery in Marpi. As the department with general supervision  
11 authority over public cemeteries, the Legislature finds that it would be appropriate  
12 to allow the Secretary of DLNR to serve as the expenditure authority for all funds  
13 collected from public cemetery-related matters.

14       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish a revolving account for the  
15 Division of Land Registration & Survey (DLRS), and for other purposes.

16       **Section 2. Amendment.** Subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision  
17 Commission, Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 13, Article 4 of the  
18 Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by adding a new section to read as  
19 follows:

20               “§ 2682. Division of Land Registration & Survey (DLRS)

21               Revolving Account.

1           (a) There is hereby created the Division of Land Registration &  
2           Survey (DLRS) Revolving Account where all funds collected pursuant to  
3           the fees and/or penalties promulgated by regulation under the Division of  
4           Land Registration & Survey (DLRS) shall be deposited. Monies deposited  
5           into this revolving fund shall be used to fund utilities, equipment, operations  
6           and/or personnel in DLRS.

7           (b) The expenditure authority of this revolving fund shall be the  
8           Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in consultation  
9           with the Director of the Division of Land Registration & Survey.

10           (c) All funds collected and deposited into this Account shall be  
11           without fiscal year limitations.”

12           **Section 3. Amendment.** Title 3, Section 2626 is hereby amended to read as  
13 follows:

14                   **“§ 2626. Funding.**

15           (a) The Secretary of Finance shall establish a special account called  
16           the “Public Cemetery Fund Account” for the fees collected pursuant to this  
17           chapter. The funds in this account shall be reserved and appropriated solely  
18           for the administration, maintenance, supervision and security of public  
19           cemeteries.

1           (b) The expenditure authority of this special account shall be the  
2           Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in consultation  
3           with the Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation.


4           (c) All funds collected and deposited into this Account shall be  
5           without fiscal year limitations.”

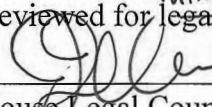
6           **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
7 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
8 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
9 provisions to persons or circumstances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

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

18           **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
19 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 8/15/2025

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduced by:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for <sup>introduction purposes only</sup> legal sufficiency by:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
House Legal Counsel