

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 55

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the penalties for illegally parking in spaces designated for persons with disabilities by strengthening and enforcing clear penalties for violation and repeat offenses and by ensuring accessible parking for persons with disabilities; and for other such purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that accessible
2 parking spaces are essential to support the accessibility, mobility, and dignity of
3 individuals with disabilities. Existing parking laws and signages do little to curb
4 the unauthorized use of disability parking spaces, as these designated parking spots
5 have been misused by private delivery vehicles, business service drivers, and
6 individuals ignoring posted restrictions. These parking violations seriously
7 inconvenience and impact individuals with disabilities, many reporting being
8 forced to park far from entrances or cancel necessary trips due to this abuse of
9 designated spaces.

10 The Legislature further finds that ensuring individuals have equal access to
11 public accommodations, including the strict protection of reserved parking, is vital

1 to the CNMI government’s commitment to upholding the rights of persons with
2 disabilities under local and federal law. The current fines and penalties are
3 insufficient to deter violators, particularly corporate or repeat offenders, and does
4 not reflect the real harm caused to disabled residents. Therefore, the purpose of this
5 bill is to strengthen the enforcement of accessible parking laws, increase penalties
6 for violators, introduce escalating penalties for repeat offenses, and ensure that
7 parking access for persons with disabilities is preserved and respected.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** § 5657. Removal of Unauthorized Vehicles From
9 Parking Areas Designated for Persons With Disabilities; Designation of Parking
10 Areas is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **“§ 5657. Removal of Unauthorized Vehicles From Parking**
12 **Areas Designated for Persons With Disabilities; Designation of Parking**
13 **Areas.**

14 (i) The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and other authorized
15 officers shall issue citations, order towing, and use photographic or
16 digital evidence for enforcement.

17 (1) Municipal governments and related agencies and non-
18 profit organizations may designate parking enforcement
19 officers for this purpose.

20 (2) Automated enforcement systems (e.g., cameras, license
21 plate readers) are permissible when legally sanctioned for

1 the purposes of this section.

2 (j) ~~(i)~~ This section shall not restrict the privilege granted to persons
3 with disabilities by 9 CMC § 5652.

4 **Section 3. Amendment.** § 5659. Standards for Parking Reserved for
5 Persons With Disabilities (a) and (b) are hereby amended to read as follows. The
6 Commonwealth Law Revision Commission shall renumber remaining sections
7 accordingly:

8 **“§ 5659. Standards for Parking Reserved for Persons With**
9 **Disabilities.**

10 (a) All designated disability parking spaces shall have updated
11 signage indicating:

12 (1) Reserved use for persons with disabilities;

13 (2) Penalties of up to \$2,500 for violations;

14 (3) Towing authority.

15 (b) The Department of Public Works and the Department of Public
16 Safety shall implement a public education campaign pursuant to 9
17 CMC § 5659 (a).

18 **Section 4. Amendment.** § 5660. Citation; Penalties; Registered Owner and
19 Driver Both Responsible (a), (d), and (g) are hereby amended to read as follows:

20 **“§ 5660. Citation; Penalties; Registered Owner and Driver Both**
21 **Responsible.**

1 (a) It is unlawful for any person to stop, stand, park or cause a
2 vehicle to be parked in a parking space reserved for the use of
3 persons with disabilities as referenced in 9 CMC § 5652. If a parking
4 space requires both a sign and paint, but is not equipped with both
5 sign and paint, then a finding of guilt may still be rendered under
6 this section if the parking space was marked with a sign or paint.

7 (d) Penalties for parking in violation of this article will be as follows:

8 (1) First offense shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 and a
9 maximum of \$1,000.00. The vehicle in violation shall be
10 towed at the owner's expense.

11 (2) Second Offense shall be fined a minimum of \$1,500.00.
12 The violation must be committed within a period of twenty-
13 four (24) months from the first offense. The vehicle in
14 violation shall be mandatorily towed, and the citation logged
15 for record.

16 (3) Third offense or subsequent offense shall be fined a
17 minimum of \$2,500.00. The violation must be committed
18 within a period of thirty-six (36) months from the first
19 offense. The driver must include the completion of forty (40)
20 hours of community service that directly benefits persons
21 with disabilities, as determined by the court. The court shall

1 also, at its discretion, order a driver's license suspension of
2 up to thirty (30) days.

3 (4) The penalty for an operator of a corporate or private
4 business vehicle shall be \$2,000.00 per incident. The
5 registered corporate or private business owner shall be
6 jointly liable and required to submit to the Office of the
7 Attorney General, within thirty (30) days, a formal
8 corrective action plan detailing new internal policies or
9 employee training to prevent future violations. Failure to
10 submit such a plan shall result in an additional fine of
11 \$500.00 per day until submitted.

12 ~~The penalty for parking in violation of this article shall be~~
13 ~~\$150 for the first violation. For the second violation the~~
14 ~~penalty shall be a \$300.00 fine. For all subsequent violations,~~
15 ~~a fine of no less than \$300.00 and no more than \$1,000.00.~~

16 (g) Special Accounts: Funds realized under subsection (d) of this
17 section shall be distributed as follows:

18 (1) The Secretary of Finance shall establish as special
19 account for the Department of Public Safety. Ninety
20 ~~Twenty-five~~ percent of the fines collected pursuant to 9
21 CMC § 5660(d) shall be deposited into this special account.

1 The expenditure authority shall be the Commissioner of
2 Public Safety. Funds deposited into this account shall be
3 used for the Department of Public Safety's accessible
4 parking enforcement operations and public awareness
5 campaigns as mandated by 9 CMC Chapter 6 Article 2.
6 ~~Celebration of the Annual Police Week, honoring fallen~~
7 ~~police officers and firefighters.~~

8 (2) The Secretary of Finance shall establish a special account
9 for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems,
10 Inc., (NMPASI). ~~Ten~~ ~~Twenty-five~~ percent of the fines
11 collected pursuant to 9 CMC § 5660(d) shall be deposited
12 into this special account. The expenditure authority shall be
13 the Executive Director of the NMPASI. Funds deposited into
14 this account shall be used solely for the Disability Services
15 Fund.

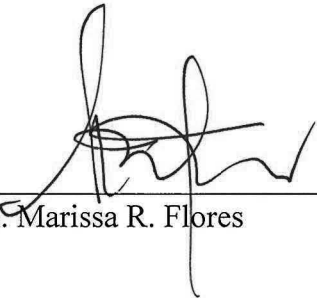
16 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
17 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
18 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
19 provisions to persons or circumstances other than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

1 **Section 6. 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 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
9 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 8/21/2025

Date: _____

Introduced by:  _____
Rep. Marissa R. Flores

Reviewed for Introduction Purposes Only by:

Joseph S. Day 8/21/25
House Legal Counsel