

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____, 2025

Second Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-71

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To allow for the Substance Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program to promulgate fees; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Substance
2 Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program was established by Executive
3 Order No. 2018-07 as a program under the Office of the Governor. Their mission
4 is to change the lives of individuals struggling with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
5 & addiction. Furthermore, their purpose is to provide an opportunity for members
6 of the community to access and avail of drug and alcohol treatment and
7 rehabilitation services. Despite such a noble mission and purpose, the funding of
8 the SAAR Program is heavily reliant on annual budget appropriations every fiscal
9 year. Cognizant of the costs associated with running the program's day-to-day
10 operations and personnel, the Legislature finds that it would be highly appropriate
11 to enable the SAAR Program to promulgate fees that they deem necessary to run
12 their operations. In granting such authority, the SAAR Program will become more

1 financially independent and not have to rely so heavily on the annual budget
2 appropriations. With such fees, the program will be able to utilize the funds to cover
3 for personnel salaries and operations (substance abuse treatment services, group
4 therapy, outreach events, trainings, and so forth).

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to allow for the Substance Abuse,
6 Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program to promulgate fees and for other
7 purposes.

8 **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws or regulations to the
9 contrary and subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision Commission, the
10 following provisions shall hereby be enacted:

11 “§101. Special Assistant of the Substance Abuse, Addiction &
12 Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program Fee Promulgation.

13 (a) The Special Assistant of the Substance Abuse, Addiction &
14 Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program, as established by Executive Order No.
15 2018-07, is hereby authorized to promulgate appropriate fees that are
16 deemed necessary for the program.

17 (b) There is hereby established within the Commonwealth Treasury
18 a Substance Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Revolving Fund
19 Account which shall be accounted for separately from the General Fund.
20 All funds collected pursuant to §101 of this Act shall be deposited into the
21 account shall be non-lapsing and exclusively used to pay the personnel

1 salaries, operations and services provided by the SAAR Program. The
2 expenditure authority of the funds deposited into this revolving fund shall
3 be the Special Assistant of the SAAR Program.”

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

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

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

Profile:
introduced: 11/5/2025

Date: 11/5/25

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Joel C. Camacho

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



House Legal Counsel