

*Calendar -
11/6/2025*

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
November 6, 2025

Sec. Reg. _____ Session, 2025

H. B. 24-74

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes the acute
2 reliance of many residents of the Commonwealth on benefits from the federal
3 Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to meet their household dietary needs.

4 The Legislature finds that, due to the ongoing shutdown of the federal
5 government, the federal government will not be paying the full household
6 allotments of NAP benefits for November 2025. Pursuant to two federal court
7 orders requiring the federal government to issue benefits, the United States
8 Department of Agriculture has advised that for November 2025 the federal
9 government will pay half the full amount of household allotments.

10 As only half the full benefits will be paid by the federal government for the
11 month of November 2025, legislative action is urgently needed to compensate for
12 this shortfall. Pursuant to 1 CMC § 7604(b), the Secretary of Finance has informed
13 the Legislature that additional funds will be available for appropriation in the

1 preliminary amount of \$1 million in net distributable income from the Marianas
2 Public Land Trust.

3 This bill authorizes an emergency budget provision of \$1 million to
4 facilitate immediate food benefits for the month of November 2025. In close
5 collaboration with the Executive Branch, the Legislature is acting swiftly to get
6 these much-needed funds to families to put food on the table.

7 **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding CNMI laws, rules and regulations
8 to the contrary, the following provision is hereby enacted into law:

9 **“§ 101. Appropriation.**

10 \$1,000,000.00 of funds derived from the preliminary distribution of trust
11 income proceeds from the Marianas Public Land Trust is hereby appropriated to
12 fund a portion of household allotments for Nutrition Assistance Program benefits
13 for November 2025.

14 These moneys shall be disbursed for pro rata distribution to eligible
15 households in conjunction with the funding of 50% of full benefits by the United
16 States Department of Agriculture.

17 The Secretary of Finance shall be the expenditure authority for these funds,
18 which shall be disbursed in close collaboration with the Administrator of the CNMI
19 Nutrition Assistance Program. No portion of these moneys may be used for any
20 other purpose than proportional distribution of benefits to eligible households
21 participating in the Nutrition Assistance Program. This appropriation shall lapse

