

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2025

H. B. 24-75

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize the continued payment of employer premiums for the Group Health & Life Insurance (GHLI) Program by permitting expenditure of \$3,747,585.00 recently identified by the Governor that shall be appropriated by the Legislature for FY 2026.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Governor,
2 in a communication dated November 14, 2025, notified the presiding officers that
3 the Group Health & Life Insurance (GHLI) Program is at immediate risk of
4 termination due to the absence of funding for the GHLI Retiree business unit
5 (11881700) in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. The Governor reported that
6 approximately \$7.2 million is required to maintain uninterrupted retiree employer
7 premium payments and avoid the cancellation of retiree coverage.

8 The Legislature further finds that the Governor identified \$3,747,585.00 in
9 available revenues for Fiscal Year 2026. These revenues can be immediately
10 applied toward urgent government priorities, including constitutional obligations

1 and the protection of critical programs such as GHLI.

2 The Legislature additionally finds that Article XV, Section 1(e) of the
3 Commonwealth Constitution mandates that twenty-five percent (25%) of all
4 general revenues shall be appropriated to the Public School System. Consistent with
5 this constitutional requirement, \$936,896.25, representing twenty-five percent
6 (25%) of the identified revenues, must be allocated to the Public School System for
7 Fiscal Year 2026 operations.

8 The Legislature further finds that after satisfying the constitutional
9 allocation to the Public School System, the remaining seventy-five percent (75%)
10 of the identified revenues—\$2,810,688.75—may be used to sustain the GHLI
11 Program. These funds are immediately needed to support the GHLI Retiree
12 business unit (11881700) and prevent termination of retiree coverage. The
13 Legislature also finds that applying these revenues to GHLI does not increase the
14 Fiscal Year 2026 budget ceiling because the revenues were already included within
15 the Commonwealth’s available Fiscal Year 2026 resources.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Finance to
17 utilize \$3,747,585.00 in Fiscal Year 2026 revenues as follows:

18 (1) \$936,896.25 to the Public School System in compliance with Article
19 XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth Constitution; and

20 (2) \$2,810,688.75 for deposit into and expenditure under GHLI Retiree

1 business unit 11881700 for retiree employer premium payments.

2 **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws, rules, or regulations to
3 the contrary, the Secretary of Finance is hereby authorized to utilize \$3,747,585.00
4 in Fiscal Year 2026 revenues as follows:

5 (a) \$936,896.25 shall be allocated and expended for the Public School
6 System in compliance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth
7 Constitution; and

8 (b) \$2,810,688.75 shall be deposited into and expended under the GHLI
9 Retiree business unit (11881700) exclusively for the payment of retiree employer
10 premiums.

11 This authorization does not constitute a new appropriation and does not
12 increase the Fiscal Year 2026 budget ceiling.

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


18 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
19 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
20 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
21 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding

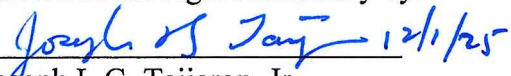
1 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
2 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
3 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled: 12/2/2025

Date: 12/2/2025

Introduced by: 
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:
 12/1/25
Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr.,
House Legal Counsel

