

REFERRED TO: NJM 12/9/2025
(HOUSE) (MEMO)

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 5, 2025

Second Reg Session, 2025

H. B. 24-77

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the operating budget and scope of operations of the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse (CNMI OGM-SC); and for other purposes.

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

- 1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes that in 2009,
2 P.L. 16-48 established the Office of Grants Management, which was subsequently
3 amended in 2016 by P.L. 19-49 to enhance oversight and responsibilities regarding
4 federal grant assistance within the CNMI Government. The office that was
5 repurposed has been given the new name CNMI Office of Grants Management &
6 State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC).
- 7 The Legislature finds that the CNMI OGM-SC shall be permitted the carry-
8 over of funds from year to year with the approval of the Office of the Governor.
9 The Legislature further finds that by amending the current law (1 CMC § 2893(b))
10 to allow the CNMI OGM-SC to carry over funds without the approval of the Office
11 of the Governor could offer several potential benefits, primarily centered on
12 increasing the office's operational efficiency, timeliness, and autonomy in

1 managing federal funds. In addition, it will improve its ability to manage long-term
2 grants and projects, address budget flexibility, and respond to unexpected demands
3 like disasters or pandemics. This would allow the CNMI OGM-SC to secure larger
4 grants, have funds available for community projects beyond annual budget cycles,
5 and manage fluctuations in revenue from federal grants. Giving the Administrator
6 direct expenditure authority over carry-over funds would provide greater
7 autonomy, which will foster a stronger sense of direct responsibility and
8 accountability within the CNMI OGM-SC for those specific funds. Automating or
9 removing the executive approval step for carry-overs standardizes the process,
10 potentially reducing the administrative burden on both the OGM-SC and the
11 Governor's office. This allows both entities to focus resources on other critical
12 governmental functions.

13 **Section 2. Amendments.** Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 17, § 2893 of
14 the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **“ § 2893. Operating Budget and Scope of Operations**

16 (a) The CNMI OGM-SC shall be funded by an apportionment of all
17 indirect cost(s) collected at a rate of 40% of total indirect cost revenue or
18 reimbursement by fiscal year with a 1% annual percentage decrease for the next
19 five years until it gets to 35% and shall be credited to the Office of Grants
20 Management's Business Unit Account No. 1043 and all other activities, of/or
21 related to federal and local assistance. Provided further that concurrently 20% of

1 the office’s budget shall be deposited into a special account for sub grants. The
2 CNMI OGM- SC shall promulgate rules and regulations for awarding sub grants
3 and shall be the expenditure authority of the funds within the special account for
4 sub grants.

5 (b) The CNMI OGM-SC shall be permitted the carry-over of funds from
6 year to year ~~with the approval of the Office of the Governor;~~

7 (c) the Administrator of the CNMI OGM-SC shall have the authority to
8 release, expend, disburse, and award sub grants and other funds as deemed
9 necessary;

10 (d) the Administrator of the CNMI OGM-SC shall have expenditure
11 authority for all funds relating to CNMI OGM-SC; and

12 (e) the office shall be comprised of, but not limited to, the following:

- 13 (1) Office of Grants Management Director / Administrator;
- 14 (2) State Clearinghouse Director / Assistant Administrator;
- 15 (3) Grants Manager(s);
- 16 (4) Grants Specialist(s);
- 17 (5) Grant Writer(s);
- 18 (6) Compliance Officer(s);
- 19 (7) Administrative Assistant(s) / Officer(s) / Specialist(s).”

20 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
21 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court

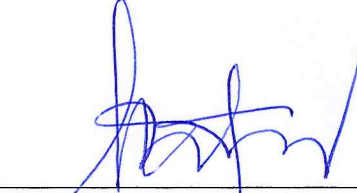
1 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
2 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
3 shall not be affected thereby.

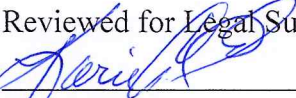
4 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
5 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
6 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
7 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall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

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

Prefiled: 12/5/2025

Date: 12/5/2025

Introduced by: 
Rep. Marissa R. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel

Date: 12-5-2025





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

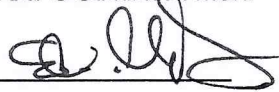
EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
SPEAKER

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Saipan, MP 96950
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Rep. JP Sablan
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HOUSE
FILE

MEMORANDUM

DATE : December 9, 2025
TO : CHAIRMAN JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN, WM COMMITTEE
FROM : SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ 
SUBJECT : Referral of Legislation

In accordance with Rule IX, Section 8, I hereby refer the following measure for the Ways and Means Committee's review:

H. B. No. 24-77: To amend the operating budget and scope of operations of the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse (CNMI OGM-SC); and for other purposes.

Rep. Marissa R. Flores of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Diego V. F. Camacho, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez). Introduced on December 5, 2025.

The Committee has 60 days to submit a written report on the legislation; therefore, I urge the Committee to review promptly the aforementioned legislation.

cc: Senate President
House Members
LB Director
House Clerk