

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24- 84

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize the expenditure of \$2,105,563.00 identified by the Governor as a surplus from Fiscal Year 2025 revenues that shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the Public School System and to the 25% Retirees' Pension Obligation.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Governor,  
2 in a communication dated December 31, 2025, notified the presiding officers of the  
3 Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. The Governor reported that after accounting for  
4 debt service and earmarked funds, total resources appropriated for FY 2025 under  
5 Public Law 24-01 amounted to \$133,516,276.00. Total General Fund expenditures  
6 for the fiscal year totaled \$131.4 million. Overall spending and obligations  
7 remained outside appropriated limits, resulting in a surplus of \$2,105,563.00.  
8           The Legislature further finds that the Governor identified \$2,105,563.00 in  
9 surplus revenues for Fiscal Year 2025. These revenues can be immediately applied  
10 toward urgent government priorities, including constitutional obligations and to

1 ensure that the 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits for this fiscal year are adequate.

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, \$526,390.75, 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—\$1,579,172.25— shall be allocated into the 25%  
11 Retirees' Pension Benefits ORG # 11884200 exclusively for the payment of  
12 retirees' 25% pension benefits.

13       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Finance  
14 to utilize \$2,105,563.00 in surplus from Fiscal Year 2025 revenues as follows:

15       (a) \$526,390.75 shall be allocated and expended for the Public School  
16 System in compliance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth  
17 Constitution; and

18       (b) \$1,579,172.25 shall be allocated into the 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits  
19 ORG # 11884200 exclusively for the payment of retirees' 25% pension benefits.

20       **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws, rules, or regulations to  
21 the contrary, the Secretary of Finance is hereby authorized to utilize \$2,105,563.00

1 in surplus from Fiscal Year 2025 revenues as follows:

2 (a) \$526,390.75 shall be allocated and expended for the Public School  
3 System in compliance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth  
4 Constitution; and

5 (b) \$1,579,172.25 shall be allocated into the 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits  
6 ORG # 11884200 exclusively for the payment of retirees' 25% pension benefits.


7 This authorization does not increase the Fiscal Year 2026 budget ceiling.


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

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

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

Prefiled: 1/12/2016

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduced by:   
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:  
  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 1.12.26

