

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24- 86

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the Operator's License Fees as codified under 9 CMC § 2202 to establish a 50% discount on all operator's license fees for CNMI government retirees, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and military veterans with disabilities; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings:** The Legislature finds that operator's license fees
2 impose a financial burden on certain vulnerable and deserving populations within
3 the Commonwealth, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, military
4 veterans with service-connected disabilities, and CNMI government retirees living
5 on fixed incomes. These individuals have contributed significantly to the
6 Commonwealth through public service, military service, or perseverance in the face
7 of significant health and mobility challenges.

8 The Legislature further finds that many jurisdictions offer reduced or no-
9 fee operator licensing options for these groups, thereby promoting mobility,
10 independence, and access to essential services. Reducing operator's license fees for

1 these individuals is consistent with the Commonwealth's values of fairness, respect,
2 and support for those who have served their communities and the country.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend existing law to provide CNMI
4 government retirees, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and military
5 veterans with disabilities a 50% discount on operator's license fees, which include
6 the initial issuance, renewal, and replacement.

7 **Section 2. Amendment:** Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 2, Article 1, § 2202
8 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **“§ 2202. Operator's License: Fees.**

10 (a) No person, other than those expressly exempted in this division, shall
11 operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in the Commonwealth unless that person
12 has been licensed as an operator under this division. A violation of this section shall
13 be punishable by not more than six months imprisonment, or a fine of not more
14 than \$500, or both.

15 (b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in the
16 Commonwealth without having on his person or in his immediate possession a valid
17 license issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or a valid operator's license from
18 outside the Commonwealth, provided there is compliance with 9 CMC § 2203 A
19 violation of this section shall be a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not more
20 than \$50 for the first offense and not more than \$100 for any second or subsequent
21 offense. Any person assessed a civil fine under this subsection may, in lieu of

1 appearing in court, pay the fine to the CMNI Judiciary cashier prior to the court
2 appearance date.

3 (c) A fee of \$50 shall be paid for each operator's license issued, with the
4 exception of an operator's license issued to a Veteran as provided in subsection (d)
5 and Eligible Individuals as provided in subsection (e). A fee of \$10 shall be paid
6 for each duplicate or substitute license. All fees collected, including the learner's
7 permit fee, shall be placed in an account separate from the general fund and
8 distributed as follows: 40% for the operations and programs of the Bureau of Motor
9 Vehicles, 40% for the upkeep and maintenance of road shoulders by the Department
10 of Public Works and 10% to the upkeep and maintenance of street lights by the
11 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.* The Commissioner of the Department of
12 Public Safety in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
13 shall be the expenditure authority of the 50% for the operations and programs of
14 the Bureau of Motor Vehicles provided that each respective senatorial district's
15 expenditure authorities shall be as follows: in the First and Second Senatorial
16 District, the Department of Public Safety Resident Director Heads, and in the Third
17 Senatorial District, the Department of Public Safety Commissioner.

18 (d) The operator's license fee for a Veteran Shall be 25% less than the fee
19 charged for a similar operator's license. A copy of the Certificate of Release or
20 Discharge from Active Duty from the Department of Defense (DD 214) or
21 certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, which signifies proof

1 that he/she served in the U.S. military services, must be furnished to the Department
2 of Public Safety and the Department of Finance in order to waive the operator's
3 license fees.

4 (e) Eligible Individuals.

5 (1) The following individuals are entitled to a 50% discount on all
6 operator's license fees, including issuance, renewal, and replacement fees:

7 i. CNMI Government Retirees: Any individual who is officially
8 retired under the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund or its successor
9 entity.

10 ii. Senior Citizens: Any individual 55 years of age or older and
11 holding a valid CNMI identification.

12 iii. Persons with Disabilities: Any individual certified by the
13 Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Office of Vocational
14 Rehabilitation, a licensed physician, or a recognized disability agency as
15 having a physical or developmental disability.

16 iv. Any U.S. military veteran with a service-connected disability
17 rating issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

18 (2) Documentation Required: Eligible individuals shall provide
19 reasonable documentation to verify eligibility, including but not limited to:

20 i. A government-issued identification card;

21 ii. Retirement verification documents;

1 iii. A disability certification or VA disability rating letter; or
2 iv. Any other documentation determined acceptable by the
3 Department of Public Safety.

4 (3) No Additional Administrative Fees.
5 No additional processing, certification, or service fees shall be
6 imposed as a condition for receiving the discount.

7 (4) Rulemaking Authority.
8 The Department of Public Safety may promulgate regulations to
9 implement this section, including procedures for documentation,
10 verifications, and processing of discounted operator's licenses.

11 (5) Construction.
12 Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to reduce, alter, or modify
13 any other fee waivers or benefits provided by law to veterans, retirees,
14 seniors, or persons with disabilities.

15 (f) The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is authorized to promulgate rules and
16 regulations as necessary to implement and comply with the Commonwealth Real
17 ID Act, the Real ID Act of 2005, and the requirements of this Article.”

18 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
19 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
20 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its


1 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
2 shall not be affected thereby.

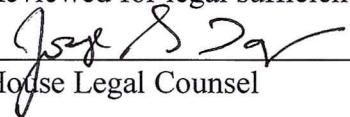
3 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
4 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
5 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
6 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall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

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

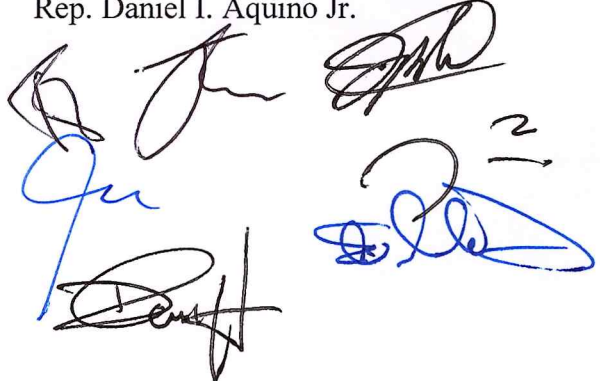
Prefiled: 11/17/2026

Date: _____

Introduced by:  ¹
Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr.

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel

Date: 1-6-26

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