

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 93

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 4CMC § 5611 to Allow for the issuance of two-year business licenses and to require the Department of Commerce and the Department of Finance to jointly promulgate implementing rules and regulations.

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

1           **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** To amend Title 4, Division 5  
2 section 5611 of the Commonwealth Code to provide an optional two-year business  
3 license term; to ensure proportional application of all regulatory fees; and to require  
4 the Department of Commerce and the Department of Finance to jointly promulgate  
5 implementing rules and regulations.

6

7           **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC §5611, sections (a) through (e) only, are  
8 hereby amended as follows:

9           **“§ 5611. Business License Fees.**

1           (a) *Business License Required.* Before engaging in or continuing in a  
 2 business, a person shall first obtain from the Secretary of the Department of Finance  
 3 a license to engage in or conduct that business.

4           (b) A business shall be required to purchase one general business license for  
 5 each line of business for each location in the Commonwealth.

6           (c) ~~Terms. Licenses issued under this section are valid for one year and are~~  
 7 ~~not transferable.~~ A business license issued under this division shall be valid for a  
 8 term of **one (1) year**, unless the applicant elects to obtain a **two (2) year business**  
 9 **license** under subsection (1).

10           (1) Applicants may elect to apply for a **two (2) year business license**, which  
 11 shall be valid for **twenty-four (24) months** from the date of issuance.

12           (2) The base fee for a two-year business license shall be calculated at **twice**  
 13 **the annual license fee**, unless otherwise specified by regulation.

14           ~~(3)~~ (3) Temporary licenses may be issued for public and community events  
 15 for not more than thirty consecutive days. Temporary licenses shall not be  
 16 transferred nor renewed.

17           (d) Fees. ~~Annual and Temporary license fees and late fees shall be~~  
 18 ~~established by regulation promulgated by the Secretary of Finance.~~ All other fees  
 19 imposed by the Zoning Office, the Department of Commerce, the Department of  
 20 Finance, or any other regulatory or permitting agency that apply to a one-year  
 21 business license shall equally apply to a two-year business license, except such fees

1 shall be calculated at twice the annual license fee, and shall be assessed in  
2 accordance with each agency's applicable regulations.

3 (e) Renewal. A licensee may renew a license upon its expiration by the  
4 payment of the ~~annual~~ established license fee.

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

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

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

Prefiled: 2/4/2024 *[Signature]*

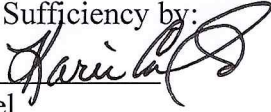
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Danny Aquino

*[Multiple handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink, including names like 'John', 'Rym', 'PB', and 'D']*

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Karie Comstock  
House Legal Counsel



1/28/26  
Date