

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2025

H. L. B. 24- 27

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To appropriate Three Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000.00) for the continued operation and regulatory oversight of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF
THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

1 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this bill is to appropriate local funds for Three Hundred and
3 Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000.00) for the continued operation and regulatory
4 oversight of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission and other needs of the
5 municipality. These funds were received by the Municipality of Rota pursuant to
6 10 CMC § 12141. This local appropriation is made under the NMI CONST. art. VI
7 § 8, cl. 2; 1 CMC §§ 1402–03, and 1408; and 10 CMC § 12103. This appropriation
8 is based on the budget request adopted and approved by the 20th Rota Municipal
9 Council during its 6th Regular Session, held on August 28, 2025.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**

2 Notwithstanding any provisions, statutes, laws or regulations to the
3 contrary, the Rota Legislative Delegation hereby appropriates, from the funds
4 received by the Municipality of Rota pursuant to 10 CMC § 12141, Three Hundred
5 and Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000.00) to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission
6 (RCGC) for its operations and other needs of the municipality to be used as follows:

7 (a) \$292,000 for the RCGC Operations; and

8 (b) \$13,000 for the payment of salaries of the previous RCGC members.

9 **SECTION 3. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.**

10 The RCGC Chairperson shall be the expenditure authority of the funds
11 under Section 2. Any compensation owed to a former Commission Member shall
12 be paid in accordance with 4 CMC § 9711.

13 **SECTION 4. REPROGRAMMING.**

14 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions, or regulations to the contrary, funds
15 appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose unless
16 a written justification is submitted to the RLD Chairperson for approval. Three
17 RLD members shall sign the approval of the requested reprogramming.

18 **SECTION 5. REPORTING.**

19 The expenditure authority shall submit detailed monthly reports showing
20 the expenditure of funds appropriated under this Act. These reports shall be
21 furnished to the Chairpersons of the Rota Municipal Council and the First

1 Senatorial Delegation until all appropriated funds have been fully expended. If the
2 expenditure authority fails to meet this reporting requirement, no further
3 expenditures shall be authorized under this Act until the required reports are
4 submitted.

5 **SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.**

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

11 **SECTION 7. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

19 **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming law
21 without such approval.

Prefiled: 04.07.2025

Date: 09/03/25

Introduced by: 
Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


Legal Counsel



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE 20th ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1374, Rota MP 96951

Phone: (670) 532-4046 /email: rotamunicipalcouncil@gmail.com



Jonovan H. Lizama
Chairman

Sandra M. Masga
Vice-Chairwoman

Tillie C. Taimanao
Secretary

RMC: 2025-054

Date: August 29, 2025
To: Senator Donald Manglona-Chairman RLD
From: Jonovan H. Lizama
Chairman, 20th RMC
Subject: Transmittal Letter

Hafa Adai,

I am writing to inform you that the Office of the 20th Rota Municipal Council held its 6th Regular Session on Monday, August 28, 2025, at 4:45 PM at the Mayor's Office Conference Hall.

During the session, the Council adopted and approved the budget request for the RCGC Casino License Fee in the amount of **Three Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000.00)**. The request is now forwarded to the Rota Legislative Delegation for consideration and approval in accordance with *Title 10: Local Laws, Division 1: First Senatorial District – Rota (§12103. Local Appropriations)*.

For your reference, the official minutes and amended Adoption of Agenda from the 6th Regular Session are attached. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact our office at (670) 532-4046.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,


Jonovan H. Lizama

xc: Members of the Rota Legislative Delegation
Members of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission



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MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2025

**4.45PM APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE ROTA CASINO GAMING
COMMISSION IN**

THE AMOUNT OF \$305,000

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lizama calls the roll at 4:45pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honorable Jonovan H. Lizama - Chairman

Honorable Sandra M. Masga - Vice-Chairwoman

Honorable Tillie C. Taimanao – Secretary

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to amend:

Remove *Discussion* from item III. Move item V (*Public Comments*) to item III

by: Hon. Jonovan H. Lizama

Motion offered by: Hon. Sandra M. Masga

Motion seconded: Hon. Tillie C. Taimanao

(4:47pm)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Letter of Support – 1 (received on 08/28/25 11:31 AM)

COMMUNICATIONS

Honorable. Mayor Aubry M. Hocog (4:50pm - 4:52pm)

Viola Hocog-Atalig - Chairwoman (4:52pm - 4:57pm)

Secretary Taimanao - Made a congratulatory comment to the commissioners.

(4:58pm - 5:00pm)

Vice-Chairwoman Masga (5:01pm - 5:05pm)

Why did the former commissioners not get paid?

What happened to the money? Where was it going?

Is there a salary?

How many past commissioners? 9

Current commissioners? 5

Chairman Lizama makes a comment (5:06pm - 5:08pm)

Chairman Lizama – voted to approve and appropriate budget request for RCGC

Vice-Chairwoman Masga - voted to approve and appropriate budget request for RCGC

Secretary Taimanao - voted to approve and appropriate budget request for RCGC

(5:09pm)

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman, Secretary

(5:10pm)

ADJOURNMENT

(5:11pm)


Jonovan H. Dizama
Chairman


Sandra M. Masga
Vice-Chairwoman


Tillie C. Taimanao
Secretary



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq.), the Honorable Jonovan H. Lizama, Chairman of the 20th Rota Municipal Council, would like to inform the General Public that they will be having their 6th regular session, Reprogramming of funds to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission (RCGC).

Thursday, August 28, 2025

****4:45P.M. Appropriation of funds for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission
in the amount of \$305,000***

Mayor's Office Social Hall, Tatachog

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Adoption of Agenda**
- III. Discussion**
- IV. Communications**
- V. Public Comments**
- VI. Appropriation of Funds to the Legislature for approval**
- VII. Miscellaneous**
- VIII. Adjournment**

All public comments must be submitted on or before Thursday, August 28, 2025, no later than 4:00P.M.

/S/ Jonovan H. Lizama
Chairman, 20th RMC



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/S/ Jonovan H. Lizama
Chairman, 20th RMC