



GOV. COMM. 24-104
(HOUSE)

Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 21, 2026

GOV2026-033

The Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider
Chairman
Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950



1/23/26

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors
President
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Local Bill No. 24-03, D1**, entitled "To amend 10 CMC § 2521(g) to provide for the suspension of Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission members' compensation; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This Bill becomes **Tinian Local Law 24-09**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

RECEIVED BY P18
DATE 01-21-2026 TIME 15:40pm

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@ 1:29 pm

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Speaker of the House of Representatives;
Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission;
Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan;
Special Assistant for Administration; Programs and Legislative Review Office



**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2026**

SENATE LOCAL BILL No. 24-03, D1

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC § 2521(g) to provide for the suspension of Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission members' compensation; and for other purposes.

OFFERED BY

Senators Jude U. Hofschneider, Francisco Q. Cruz, and Karl R. King-Nabors

Introduced on November 17, 2025

SENATE ACTION

Transmitted to the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for action on

December 22, 2025

DELEGATION ACTION

Public Hearing:	None
Comments Solicited:	12/23/25: Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan [Del. Matters 24-46] & 20 th Tinian Municipal Council [Del. Matters 24-47]
Comments Received:	1/6/25 Mayors Comm. 24-09
Special Committee Report:	None
Passed First & Final Reading:	January 13, 2026, w/Draft 1


Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk



**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

S. L. B. 24-03 D1

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC § 2521(g) to provide for the suspension of Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission members' compensation; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation finds
2 that the compensation of the commissioners of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission
3 (TCGCC) is primarily funded by the annual license fee paid by a casino operator. Without the
4 casino license fee, there is no funding source for the compensation of the commissioners. In 2024,
5 the sole casino operator surrendered its casino license and commenced selling its casino assets in
6 Tinian. As such, there was no casino license fee paid for FY2025. The Tinian and Aguiguan
7 Legislative Delegation further finds that there is no other funding source available to compensate
8 the commissioners when there is no active casino operator. Accordingly, the purpose of this
9 legislation is to suspend the compensation of the commissioners if there is no annual local budget
10 approved or other appropriation due to lack of funds until such time that funding is available and

SENATE LOCAL BILL NO. 24-03, D1

1 approved through appropriation by the Delegation. In lieu of their annual compensation, the
2 commissioners shall receive compensation of no more than \$60 for a full-day meeting and no more
3 than \$30 for a half-day or less meeting. The commissioners shall be eligible for retroactive annual
4 compensation payments only for services rendered prior to the effective date of this Act.

5 **Section 2. Amendment.** 10 CMC § 2521(g) is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 “(g) Commission members shall elect from among themselves a chairman and a vice-
7 chairman to serve a term of two years. The Chairman and the vice-chairman may be reelected.
8 Members shall, no later than 60 days after the Commission receives its first application and
9 application fee for a casino license, devote full time, without engaging in any other employment,
10 to the affairs of the Commission during their tenure. Each member ~~may shall~~ receive compensation
11 of \$55,000 annually from a budget adopted by the Commission for its operations and approved by
12 the Tinian Legislative Delegation through appropriation; provided that if there is no appropriation
13 due to lack of funds, the annual compensation of the commissioners shall be suspended until
14 funding is available and approved by appropriation, and instead, the commissioners shall receive
15 compensation of no more than \$60 for a full-day meeting and no more than \$30 for a half day or
16 less meeting the \$55,000 compensation shall apply to new commissioners. No commissioner shall
17 be given fringe benefits. All members of the Commission shall have paid or be entitled to
18 reimbursement for their expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their
19 duties, including expenses of travel outside the Municipality of Tinian. The members of the
20 Commission are not employees of the Commission or the Commonwealth government.”

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

5 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
6 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
7 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.

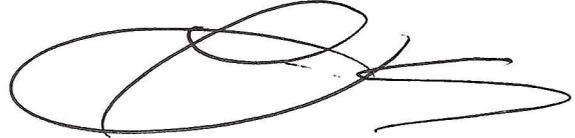
8 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior
9 law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
10 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes
11 effective.

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

CERTIFIED BY:

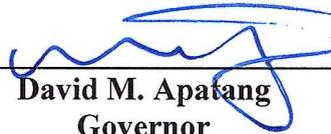


Jude U. Hofschneider
Chairman
Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation



Karl R. King-Nabors
President of the Senate

Approved this 21st day of January, 2026.



David M. Apatang
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands