



David M. Apatang
Governor

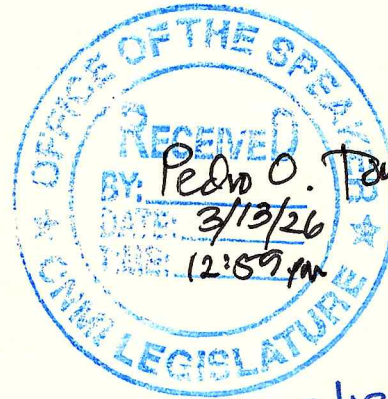
Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 12, 2026

GOV2026-162

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950



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

3/13/26

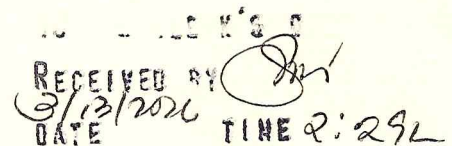
Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 24-35**, entitled, "To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act [7 CMC § 2801 et seq.]; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-25**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. APATANG
Governor



cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;
Public Auditor; Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services;
Special Assistant for Administration; Programs and Legislative Review



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 14, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE MALCOLM J. OMAR OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 4 (*for himself*, Representative Julie M. A. Ogo)
in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 24-35

AN ACT

TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI GOOD SAMARITAN ACT [7 CMC § 2801 ET SEQ.]; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-20; adopted 8/29/2025.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 29, 2025;**
without amendments and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-56; adopted 2/4/2026.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 13, 2026;
without amendments and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

H. B. No. 24- 35 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

AUGUST 29, 2025

H. B. No. 24-35

AN ACT

TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI GOOD SAMARITAN ACT [7 CMC § 2801 ET SEQ.]; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Legislature finds that the opioid overdose epidemic continues to grow
3 in the United States. According the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
4 more than 750,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose. Two out of
5 three drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved an opioid. Opioids are substances
6 that work in the nervous system of the body or in specific receptors in the brain
7 to reduce the intensity of pain. Overdose deaths involving opioids, including
8 prescription opioids, heroin, and synthetic opioids (like fentanyl), have increased

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1 almost six times since 1999. Overdoses involving opioids killed nearly 47,000
2 people in 2018, and 32% of those deaths involved prescription opioids.

3 Many of these negative outcomes are preventable. Opioid overdose is
4 reversible through the timely administration of an opioid overdose reversal
5 medication including naloxone and, where needed, the provision of other
6 emergency care. However, community access to opioid overdose reversal
7 medication including naloxone is limited by laws and regulations that pre-date
8 the overdose epidemic. At the urging of organizations including the U.S.
9 Conference of Mayors, the American Medical Association, the American Public
10 Health Association, and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, all
11 states have removed some legal barriers to the seeking of emergency medical care
12 and the timely administration of naloxone. These changes come in two general
13 varieties. The first improves the availability of naloxone, typically by permitting
14 it to be prescribed to people other than the person at risk of overdose or otherwise
15 removing the need for a person to see a prescriber before obtaining the
16 medication. The second encourages bystanders to become “Good Samaritans” by
17 summoning emergency responders without fear of arrest or other negative legal
18 consequences.

19 In an attempt to reverse the unprecedented increase in preventable overdose
20 deaths, most states have also modified criminal law to provide limited immunity
21 to individuals who seek help in an overdose emergency. The Legislature intends
22 to encourage family members, friends, bystanders and first responders including

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1 emergency service employees, firefighters, police officers or other law
2 enforcement officers, EMT, Advanced EMT, and paramedics to administer opioid
3 overdose reversal medication to drug overdose victims through the establishment
4 of limited immunity from civil liability for those that administer such medication
5 during an emergency situation.

6 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

7 7 CMC § 2801 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as
8 follows:

9 **“§ 2801. Definitions.**

10 (a) When used in this chapter, the terms EMT, Advanced EMT, and
11 paramedic are to be interpreted as those terms are defined by the Federal
12 Department of Transportation in regard to national standard criteria for
13 such positions.

14 (b) When used in this chapter, the term “nurse” means a registered
15 nurse (RN), as the term registered nurse is defined in the CNMI Nurse
16 Practice Act [3 CMC §§ 2301 et seq.], as that act may be amended after the
17 effective date of this chapter in relation to the definition of a registered
18 nurse.

19 (c) When used in this chapter, the term “physician” or the term
20 “surgeon” means a medical doctor (MD) or a doctor of osteopathy (DO) that
21 is U.S. licensed in such capacity.

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1 (d) When used in this chapter, the term “gross negligence” shall mean
2 the performing or failing to perform a manifest duty in reckless disregard of
3 the consequences as affecting the life or property of another.

4 (e) A person is considered to act in “good faith”, when that term is used
5 in this chapter, unless they act or fail to act with regard to a manifest duty,
6 with malice, or, with wanton or willful disregard of the consequences as
7 affecting the life or property of another.

8 (f) When used in this chapter, the term “opioid overdose reversal
9 medication” shall mean any drug used to reverse an opioid overdose that
10 binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effects of opioids acting
11 on those receptors. It does not include intentional administration via the
12 intravenous route.

13 (g) When used in this chapter, the term “opioid-related overdose”
14 means a condition including, but not limited to, decreased level of
15 consciousness, non-responsiveness, respiratory depression, coma, or death
16 that: (i) Results from the consumption or use of an opioid or another
17 substance with which an opioid was combined; or (ii) a lay person would
18 reasonably believe to be an opioid-related overdose requiring medical
19 assistance.”

20 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.**

21 7 CMC § 2803 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as
22 follows:

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1 **“§ 2803. Statutory Liability Limitations: Persons Rendering**
2 **Emergency Care at Emergency Scene for No Compensation.**

3 Any person who renders emergency care including the administration
4 of an opioid overdose reversal medication, not for compensation, at the scene
5 of an emergency shall only be liable in civil damages resulting from acts or
6 omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or omissions not
7 performed in good faith. The scene of an emergency shall not include
8 emergency departments and other places where medical care is usually
9 offered. For the purposes of this section, “not for compensation” includes, but
10 is not limited to, any physician, nurse, EMT of any level, firefighter, or any
11 law enforcement officer, or any person who is employed or is a volunteer in
12 law enforcement, firefighting, or the health care profession, who at the time
13 of rendering emergency care under this section is off-duty from such
14 employment or volunteer work.”

15 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.**

16 7 CMC § 2805 Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **“§ 2805. Statutory Liability Limitations: Firefighters, Law**
18 **Enforcement Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians; Employing**
19 **Agencies.**

20 In order to encourage the provision of emergency medical services by
21 firefighters, police officers or other law enforcement officers, EMT, Advanced
22 EMT, and paramedics, a firefighter, police officer or other law enforcement

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1 officer, EMT, Advanced EMT, or paramedic who renders emergency medical
2 services including the administration of an opioid overdose reversal
3 medication at the scene of an emergency shall only be liable in civil damages
4 for acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or
5 omissions not performed in good faith. A public agency employing such a
6 firefighter, police officer or other law enforcement officer, EMT, Advanced
7 EMT, or paramedic shall not be liable for civil damages if the fire firefighter,
8 police officer or other law enforcement officer, EMT, Advanced EMT, or
9 paramedic is not liable.”

10 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.**

11 7 CMC § 2806 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as
12 follows:

13 **“§ 2806. Statutory Liability Limitations: Emergency Services;**
14 **Public Entities and Emergency Rescue Personnel.**

15 Neither a public entity nor emergency rescue personnel shall be liable
16 for any injury caused by an action taken by the emergency rescue personnel
17 acting within the scope of their employment to provide emergency services
18 including the administration of an opioid overdose reversal medication,
19 unless the action taken was performed in a bad faith or in a grossly negligent
20 manner.

21 (a) For purposes of this section, it shall be presumed that the action
22 taken when providing emergency services was performed in good faith and

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1 without gross negligence. This presumption shall be one affecting the
2 burden of proof.

3 (b) For purposes of this section, “emergency rescue personnel” means
4 any person who is a firefighter, police officer or other law enforcement
5 officer, EMT, Advanced EMT, or paramedic, of the federal government, the
6 CNMI government, or local government, or other public or municipal
7 corporation or political subdivision of this the CNMI, whether such person
8 is a volunteer or partly paid or fully paid, while he is or she is actually
9 engaged in providing emergency services as defined in this section.

10 (c) For purposes of this section, “emergency services” includes, but is
11 not limited to, first aid and medical services, the administration of an opioid
12 overdose reversal medication, rescue procedures and transportation, or
13 other related activities necessary to insure the health or safety of a person
14 in imminent peril.”

15 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.**

16 Title 7, Division 2, Chapter 8 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended
17 by adding a new section 2809 to read as follows:

18 **“§ 2809. Statutory Liability Limitations: Emergency Services;**
19 **PSS Employee Rendering Emergency Care at an Emergency Scene.**

20 Any Public School System employee not licensed under the CNMI
21 Nurse Practice Act [3 CMC §§ 2301 *et seq.*] who renders emergency care
22 including administration of an opioid overdose reversal medication at the

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1 scene of an emergency during an officially designated school activity or who
2 participates in transporting therefrom an injured person or persons for
3 emergency medical treatment shall only be liable for civil damages resulting
4 from acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or
5 omissions not performed in good faith.”

6 **SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.**

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


12 **SECTION 8. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

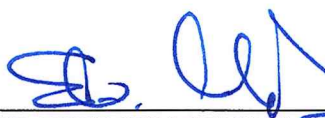
13 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
14 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
15 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.
16 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding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

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1 **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming
3 law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 12th day of March, 2026


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands