



GOV. COMM. 24-167
(HOUSE)

David M. Apatang
Governor

Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 24, 2026

GOV2026-467

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



Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 24-84**, entitled, "To authorize the expenditure of \$2,105,563.00 identified by the Governor as a surplus from Fiscal Year 2025 revenues that shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the Public School System and to the 25% Retirees' Pension Obligation.", 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. 24-34**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission;
Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Public School System;
Special Assistant for Administration; Programs and Legislative Review



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

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 16, 2026

REPRESENTATIVE BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 24-84 AN ACT

TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$2,105,563.00 IDENTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SURPLUS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVENUES THAT SHALL BE APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO THE 25% RETIREES' PENSION OBLIGATION.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JANUARY 16, 2026;
without amendments and transmitted to THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 20, 2026;
without amendments and returned to THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**H. B. NO. 24-84 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

FIRST DAY, THIRD REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 16, 2026

H. B. No. 24-84

AN ACT

TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$2,105,563.00
IDENTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SURPLUS FROM
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVENUES THAT SHALL BE
APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE TO THE PUBLIC
SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO THE 25% RETIREES' PENSION
OBLIGATION.

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

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

2 The Legislature finds that the Governor, in a communication dated
3 December 31, 2025, notified the presiding officers of the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual
4 Report. The Governor reported that after accounting for debt service and
5 earmarked funds, total resources appropriated for FY 2025 under Public Law 24-
6 01 amounted to \$133,516,276.00. Total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal
7 year totaled \$131.4 million. Overall spending and obligations remained outside
8 appropriated limits, resulting in a surplus of \$2,105,563.00.

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1 The Legislature further finds that the Governor identified \$2,105,563.00 in
2 surplus revenues for Fiscal Year 2025. These revenues can be immediately applied
3 toward urgent government priorities, including constitutional obligations and to
4 ensure that the 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits for this fiscal year are adequate.

5 The Legislature additionally finds that Article XV, Section 1(e) of the
6 Commonwealth Constitution mandates that twenty-five percent (25%) of all
7 general revenues shall be appropriated to the Public School System. Consistent
8 with this constitutional requirement, \$526,390.75, representing twenty-five
9 percent (25%) of the identified revenues, must be allocated to the Public School
10 System for Fiscal Year 2026 operations.

11 The Legislature further finds that after satisfying the constitutional
12 allocation to the Public School System, the remaining seventy-five percent (75%)
13 of the identified revenues—\$1,579,172.25—shall be allocated into the
14 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits ORG # 11884200 exclusively for the payment of
15 retirees' 25% pension benefits.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Finance
17 to utilize \$2,105,563.00 in surplus from Fiscal Year 2025 revenues as follows:

18 (a) \$526,390.75 shall be allocated and expended for the Public School System
19 in compliance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth Constitution;
20 and

21 (b) \$1,579,172.25 shall be allocated into the 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits
22 ORG # 11884200 exclusively for the payment of retirees' 25% pension benefits.

23 **SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.**

24 Notwithstanding any laws, rules, or regulations to the contrary, the
25 Secretary of Finance is hereby authorized to utilize \$2,105,563.00 in surplus from

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1 Fiscal Year 2025 revenues as follows:

2 (a) \$526,390.75 shall be allocated and expended for the Public School System
3 in compliance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth Constitution;
4 and

5 (b) \$1,579,172.25 shall be allocated into the 25% Retirees' Pension Benefits
6 ORG # 11884200 exclusively for the payment of retirees' 25% pension benefits.

7 This authorization does not increase the Fiscal Year 2026 budget ceiling.

8 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

14 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

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SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

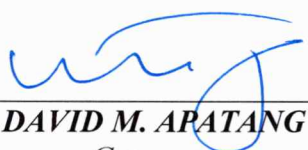
Attested to by:


Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:


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

Approved this *24th* day of *July*, 2026


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands