



GOV. COMM. 24-197
(HOUSE)

David M. Apatang
Governor

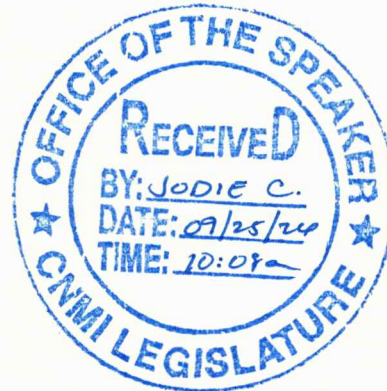
Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 24, 2026

GOV2026-621

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



9/25/26

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. 24-30, SD1**, entitled, "To appropriate funds from Accounts 1501B and 1501S to support the operational and personnel needs of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and to direct the Secretary of Finance to establish and maintain a separate sub-account within the Cannabis Tax Account for the purpose of segregating and reserving PSS's designated share, 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. 24-39**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY 
DATE 10/6/2026 TIME 10:27 AM

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission;
Public Auditor; Acting Secretary of Finance; Cannabis Commission; PSS;
Micronesian Legal Services; Special Assistant for Administration;
Programs and Legislative Review



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

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 11, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 3 (*for herself*), in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. No. 24-30, SD1
AN ACT**

TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM ACCOUNTS 1501B AND 1501S TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONAL AND PERSONNEL NEEDS OF THE CNMI CANNABIS COMMISSION AND TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SEPARATE SUB-ACCOUNT WITHIN THE CANNABIS TAX ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEGREGATING AND RESERVING PSS'S DESIGNATED SHARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-17; adopted 7/31/2025.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 31, 2025;**
without amendments and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-68; adopted 2/13/2026.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 7, 2026;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 24-30, SD1 and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 24-, SD1 during its Second Day, Fourth Regular Session on September 18, 2026.

**H. B. No. 24-30, SD1 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, FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

H. B. No. 24-30, SD1

AN ACT

**TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM ACCOUNTS 1501B AND 1501S
TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONAL AND PERSONNEL NEEDS
OF THE CNMI CANNABIS COMMISSION AND TO DIRECT
THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND
MAINTAIN A SEPARATE SUB-ACCOUNT WITHIN THE
CANNABIS TAX ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SEGREGATING AND RESERVING PSS'S DESIGNATED
SHARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

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

2 Section 1512 of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code establishes a special
3 Cannabis Tax Account (CTA) separate and apart from the general fund. Taxes
4 collected pursuant to 4 CMC § 1402(a)(21), 4 CMC § 1310, and any other gross
5 revenue taxes imposed under Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 3, that are generated
6 from licensees of the Cannabis Commission are deposited into the CTA for
7 appropriation by the Legislature. Of the total appropriation provided under this

HOUSE BILL 24-30, SD1

1 section, twenty-five percent (25%) is statutorily required to be allocated to the
2 Public School System. Account 1501S is the account established pursuant to
3 4 CMC § 1512, and as of March 31, 2025, Account 1501S has a certified balance of
4 \$112,358.38.

5 As previously mentioned, the law requires that twenty-five percent (25%) of
6 the appropriation provided for pursuant to 4 CMC § 1512 be allocated to the Public
7 School System (PSS). As such, the Legislature finds it prudent to segregate the
8 twenty-five percent (25%) designated for PSS under 4 CMC § 1512 into a separate
9 sub-account within the Cannabis Tax Account. This subaccount will be used to
10 reserve PSS's designated share.

11 Section 53036(g) of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code states that all license
12 fees and application fees established under 4 CMC § 53036(d) shall be placed in
13 an account separate from the general fund to pay the expenses necessary for the
14 operation of the CNMI Cannabis Commission, subject to legislative appropriation.
15 The Chairman of the Commission, or his or her designee, shall serve as the
16 expenditure authority of this account. Account 1501B is the account established
17 pursuant to 4 CMC § 53036(g), and as of March 31, 2025, Account 1501B has a
18 certified balance of \$372,442.50.

19 Thus, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds from Accounts 1501B
20 and 1501S to support the operational and personnel needs of the CNMI Cannabis
21 Commission and to direct the Secretary of Finance to establish and maintain a
22 separate sub-account within the Cannabis Tax Account for the purpose of
23 segregating and reserving PSS's designated share.

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SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) The sum of \$84,268.78 is hereby appropriated to the CNMI Cannabis Commission from Account 1501S (Cannabis Tax Account), which was established pursuant to 4 CMC § 1512, as follows:

(1) \$84,268.78 for personnel salaries and wages of the CNMI Cannabis Commission.

(b) The sum of \$156,856.00 is hereby appropriated as follows:

(1) \$100,00 to the Secretary of Finance to fund the retirees 25% pension. The Secretary of Finance shall be the expenditure authority of the funds under this subsection; and

(2) \$56,856.00 for the operations and personnel of the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation – Marianas Office. The expenditure authority of the funds under this subsection shall be the MLSC Executive Director.

SECTION 3. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; PSS SUB-ACCOUNT.

(a) If, at the time this Act becomes law, 4 CMC § 1512(a) requires that twenty-five percent (25%) of appropriations from the Cannabis Tax Account be allocated to the Public School System (PSS), then the following shall apply:

(1) Of the total certified balance of \$112,358.38 in Account 1501S, which is the Cannabis Tax Account, twenty-five percent (\$28,089.60) shall be segregated into a subaccount for the Public School System (PSS) for future appropriation.

(2) The Secretary of Finance is hereby directed to establish and maintain a separate sub-account within the Cannabis Tax Account for the purpose of segregating and reserving PSS's designated share.

(3) The funds appropriated in this Act from the Cannabis Tax Account shall apply only to the portion of the fund not reserved for PSS. The funds in the PSS-

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1 designated sub-account shall remain unappropriated and reserved until such time
2 as the Legislature determines otherwise.

3 (b) If, at the time this Act becomes law, the statutory requirement to allocate
4 25% of the appropriations made from the Cannabis Tax Account to the Public
5 School System has been repealed or amended to remove the mandatory allocation,
6 then this Section shall be deemed inoperative and shall not be implemented.

7 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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

13 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

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SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

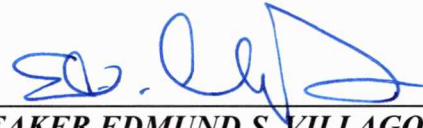
This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by:



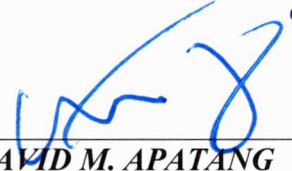
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



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

Approved this 24th day of September, 2026



DAVID M. APATANG
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands