



FEBRUARY 11, 2025

***THE SENATE***  
**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SENATE SESSION – 2025**

SESSION DAY	CALENDAR DAY	TIME
2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	Friday, February 14, 2025	1:00 p.m.
SENATE CHAMBER, SAIPAN		

***ORDER OF BUSINESS***

***A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER***

**A. ROLL CALL:**

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**C. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL:**

1. **SJ 24-01** - Organizational Session – 01/13/25

**D. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR:**

1. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-01**: Jan. 10, 2025 – Signed into law H.B. No. 23-120, HD1, SS1, SD1 – To impose a 3% surtax on gross revenues derived from non-residential construction projects that cost three hundred fifty thousand dollars or more, becomes ***PUBLIC LAW NO. 23-31***.
2. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-02**: Jan. 10, 2025 – Signed into law S.B. No. 23-54 – To regulate afok or bweesch (lime) under the Pure Food and Drug Control Act; and for other purposes, becomes ***PUBLIC LAW NO. 23-32***.
3. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-03**: Jan. 10, 2025 – Signed into law S.B. No. 23-67, SS1 – To allow the Health Care Professions Licensing Board to promulgate regulations for the licensing physicians licensed to practice in a foreign country; and for other purposes, becomes ***PUBLIC LAW NO. 23-33***.
4. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-04**: Jan. 10, 2025 – Signed into law S.B. No. 23-17, HD1 –To amend the provisions pertaining to village and agricultural homesteads in Rota, Tinian and Saipan,

and to specifically prohibit the Department of Public Lands from revoking a village or agricultural homestead permit after it is approved and issued because the applicant met all the requirements, including that the applicant has no interest in land at the time the permit was approved; and for other purposes, becomes ***PUBLIC LAW NO. 23-34***.

5. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-05**: Jan. 10, 2025 – Signed into local law H.L.B. No. 23-60, D2 – To impose an additional 1% tax on the yearly gross revenue of constructions activities in excess of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00).; and for other purposes, becomes ***SAIPAN LOCAL LAW NO. 23-24***.
6. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-06**: Jan. 17, 2025 – Amend FY 2025 CNMI Budget.
7. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-07**: Jan. 17, 2025 – Signed into local law H.L.B. No. 23-71, D1 – To appropriate Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes, becomes ***TINIAN LOCAL LAW NO. 23-21***.
8. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-08**: Jan. 15, 2025 – Nomination of Mr. Barley A. Jackson to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District.
9. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-09**: Jan. 16, 2025 – Appointment of Senate President Mendiola as a member of the CNMI America250 Commission.
10. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-10**: Feb. 05, 2025 – Revised and updated information of Mr. Barley A. Jackson appointed to serve on the CPA Board of Directors to represent the Third Senatorial District.
11. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-11**: Feb. 03, 2025 – Nomination of Ms. Frances A. Torres to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission representing the Third Senatorial District.
12. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-12**: Feb. 07, 2025 –Resume, and statement of financial interest of Ms. Frances A. Torres to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission representing the Third Senatorial District.
13. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-13**: Jan. 28, 2025 – Appointment of Senator Corina L. Magofna to the serve as a member of the CNMI State Workforce Development Board to represent the Senate.
14. **Gov. Msg. No. 24-14**: Feb. 07, 2025 – Signed into local law, H.L.B. No. 24-54, D2 – To impose a 0.5% ad valorem local excise surtax for the privilege of importing construction materials from outside the Commonwealth by licensed construction contractors into the Second Senatorial District, becomes ***TINIAN LOCAL LAW NO. 23-22***.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY: (NONE)**

**F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPT.:**

1. [Dept. Msg. No. 24-01](#): Jan. 16, 2025 – DOF regarding MPLT EDA Line of Credit Status Quarterly Report.
2. [Dept. Msg. No. 24-02](#): Jan. 29, 2025 – DPL re Mariana Eland Corp. new lease for former Marianas Resort & Spa Property. ([See attached new lease](#))

**G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE: (NONE)**

**H. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE:**

1. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-01](#): Jan. 13, 2025 – Senate President Mendiola’s off-island notice from 01/14/25 through -1/17/25.
2. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-02](#): Jan. 13, 2025 – Senate President on the appointment of Senate Standing Committee Chairpersons.
3. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-03 to 24-11](#): Jan. 15, 2025 – Appointment of Senate Committee members.
4. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-12](#): Jan. 21, 2025 – Appointment of Senator Magofna as a member of the CNMI America250 Commission.
5. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-13](#): Jan. 22, 2025 – Referral to EAGI Committee the appointment of Mr. Barley A. Jackson to serve as a member of the CPA Board of Directors representing the Third Senatorial District.
6. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-14 and 24-15](#): Jan. 22, 2025 – Appointment of PUTC Committee members.
7. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-16](#): Jan. 24, 2025 – Senate President Mendiola to Governor Palacios regarding vacant Board and/or Commission appointments.
8. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-17](#): Jan. 24, 2025 – Senate President Mendiola to Governor Palacios regarding CNMI State Workforce Development Board appointment.
9. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-18](#): Jan. 24, 2025 – Senate President Mendiola appointing Senator Corina L. Magofna as a member of the CNMI State Workforce Development Board.

10. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-19](#): Jan. 30, 2025 – Referral to RED & Workforce Committee DPL letter regarding Mariana Eland Corporation new lease for former Marianas Resort & Spa Property.
11. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-20](#): Feb. 03, 2025 – Senate President Mendiola to Governor regarding resubmission of CPA appointee Mr. Bartley A. Jackson’s documents.
12. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-21](#): Jan. 31, 2025 – Referral to FA CPA’s funding request for FY 2025-2026.
13. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-22](#): Feb. 04, 2025 – Senate President to RED and Workforce Committee on the deliberation of DPL -Marianas Eland Corporation new lease for former Marianas Resort & Spa Property.
14. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-23](#): Feb. 05, 2025 – Ref to EAGI Committee the updated and revised documents of Mr. Bartley A. Jackson appointed to serve as a member on the CPA Board of Directors.
15. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-24](#): Feb. 03, 2025 – Chairman EAGI on the validity of pertinent documents of Mr. Bartley A. Jackson appointed to serve as a member of the CPA Board of Directors.
16. [Sen. Comm. No. 24-25](#): Feb. 10, 2025 – Referral to EAGI Committee the nomination of Ms. Frances A. Torres to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission representing the Third Senatorial District.

**I. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CNMI DELEGATE:**

1. [CNMI Delegate Comm. No. 24-01](#): Jan. 13, 225 – Congratulatory message to Senate President Mendiola.

**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (NONE)**

**K. PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. [Senate Bill No. 24-01](#): To create a CNMI Term Pension Plan; and for other purposes.  
*[Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider – 01/13/25]*
2. [Senate Bill No. 24-02](#): To improve the food security of the CNMI by amending 4 CMC §§ 8182 and 8183 to establish agricultural water usage rates for commercial farmers, commercial ranchers, and livestock producers; and for other purposes.  
*[Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider – 01/15/25]*

3. [Senate Bill No. 24-03](#): To transfer the management and supervision of the soil and water conservations districts to the Northern Marianas College CREES; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider – 01/15/25]*
4. [Senate Bill No. 24-04](#): To advance the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI. *[Sen. Manny Gregory T. Castro – 01/22/25]*
5. [Senate Bill No. 24-05](#): To establish a Fire Reserve Corps to assist the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority-Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (CPA-ARFF) in fire prevention and suppression, rescue operations, basic and advanced life support; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Manny Gregory T. Castro – 01/22/25]*
6. [Senate Bill No. 24-06](#): To authorize CNMI Department of Corrections to pay inmates and establish work programs. *[Sen. Manny Gregory T. Castro – 01/22/25]*
7. [Senate Bill No. 24-07](#): To establish a Police Reserve Unit within the Department of Public Safety. *[Sen. Manny Gregory T. Castro – 01/27/25]*
8. [Senate Bill No. 24-08](#): To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Manny Gregory T. Castro – 01/27/25]*
9. [Senate Bill No. 24-09](#): Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Captive Insurance Act of 2025; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Celina R. Babauta – 01/27/25]*
10. [Senate Bill No. 24-10](#): To repeal Sections 101 and 201 (d) of Executive Order 94-3 and to establish the Office of Management and Budget within the Department of Finance; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola – 01/28/25]*
11. [Senate Bill No. 24-11](#): To regulate off-road vehicles including ATVs, SxS, and UTVs; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Donald M. Manglona – 01/29/25]*
12. [Senate Bill No. 24-12](#): To enhance fiscal responsibility and transparency in the development and updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and for other purpose. *[Sen. Corina L. Magofna – 02/06/25]*
13. [Senate Bill No. 24-13](#): To enact a whistleblower protection provision for Commonwealth government employees reporting on prohibited personnel practices; to provide whistleblower rewards for individuals who report underpayments of taxes; to clarify the mechanism for the payment of rewards for disclosures leading to the recovery of public funds; and for other purpose. *[Sen. Corina L. Magofna – 02/06/25]*
14. [Senate Bill No. 24-14](#): To temporarily suspend the collection of certain charges by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; and for other purpose. *[Sen. Celina R. Babauta – 02/06/25]*

15. [Senate Bill No. 24-15](#): To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Corina L. Magofna – 02/10/25]*
16. [Senate Bill No. 24-16](#): To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Corina L. Magofna – 02/10/25]*
17. [Senate Bill No. 24-17](#): To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority” to “Commonwealth Economic Incentive Zone Authority”; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Corina L. Magofna – 02/10/25]*
18. [Senate Bill No. 24-18](#): To amend 1 CMC §2803 regarding the budget submission of the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors – 02/11/25]*
19. [Senate Bill No. 24-19](#): To amend 9 CMC §2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. *[Sen. Donald M. Manglona – 02/11/25]*
20. [Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-01](#): Supporting the Commonwealth Ports Authority’s request for exemption from Federal Limitations on Scheduled Chinese Air Service to the CNMI and for the Reinstatement of Annex VI under the US Department of State’s “US-China Air Transport Agreement of 2007”. *[Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors – 02/11/25]*
21. [Senate Local Bill No. 24-01](#): To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors and Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz – 02/11/25]*
22. **Senate Bill No. 24-20**: To establish the Hunting Act of 2025 for the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. *[Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz – 02/11/25]*
23. **Senate Bill No. 24-21**: To amend 9 CMC § 2103 to require execution of a Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability by the appropriate parties upon the ownership transfer of a vehicle. *[Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz – 02/11/25]*

**L. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**M. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. **Standing Committee Report No. 24-01:** From the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the Executive Appointment of **Mr. Bartley A. Jackson** to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District.

**N. REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: (NONE)**

**O. RESOLUTION CALENDAR: (NONE)**

**P. BILL CALENDAR:**

**FINAL READING**

LEG. NO.	<u>TITLE</u>

**Q. PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS;**

1. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-01](#): Jan. 14, 2025 – Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Info Technology Center (ITC) free courses for Continuing Education online.
2. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-02](#): Grace Christian Ministries 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – February 17, 2025.
3. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-03](#): Jan. 16, 2025- Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Press Release - What's Happening in the Children of our Homeland (Children's Library) at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library?
4. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-04](#): Jan. 17, 2025 – LB regarding contract for services for the 24<sup>th</sup> NMCL.
5. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-05](#): Jan. 14, 2025 – CUC invitation to the Integrated Resources Plan Stakeholder Workshop on January 22.

6. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-06](#): Jan. 16, 2025 – Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Chinese New Year.
7. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-07](#): Jan. 17, 2025 – Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation 24<sup>th</sup> Officers.
8. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-08](#): Jan. 21, 2025 – Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation 24<sup>th</sup> Officers.
9. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-09](#): Jan. 22, 2025 – TALD Resolution No. 24-01 – Official Rules of Procedures of TALD.
10. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-10](#): Jan. 14, 2025 – President of Chuuk State Legislature congratulatory message to the 24<sup>th</sup> NMCL.
11. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-11 and 24-12](#): NM Professional Firefighters Union re CBA dated 01/13/25 and 01/23/25.
12. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-13](#): Jan. 29, 2025 – Rota Legislative Delegation 24<sup>th</sup> Officers.
13. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-14](#): Jan. 22, 2025 – YC Resolution No. 19-31 – 2024 Congressional App Challenge.
14. [Misc. Comm. No. 24-15](#): Jan. 29, 2025 – CPA’s funding request for FY 2025-FY 2026.

**R. ANNOUNCEMENTS; and**

**S. ADJOURNMENT.**



APPEARANCE OF SENATE LOCAL BILLS

LEG. NO.	<u>TITLE</u>
<b>S.L.B. N0. 24-01</b>	To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; and for other purposes.  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</i>

The Senate may consider, debate, and/or act upon any item contained in this Order of Business at the time and place described herein.