

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature acknowledges that the issuance  
2 of a driver’s license under 9 CMC § 2208(d)(5) requires the applicant to submit proof of  
3 U.S. citizenship or U.S. national, alien lawfully admitted for permanent or temporary  
4 residence in the United States; conditional permanent resident status; an approved asylum  
5 application or has entered into the United States in refugee status; has a valid, unexpired  
6 nonimmigrant visa or nonimmigrant visa status; has a pending application for asylum in  
7 the United States; has a pending or approved application for temporary protected status in  
8 the United States; has approved deferred action status; or has a pending application for  
9 adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the  
10 United States or conditional permanent resident status in the United States.

11           The Legislature finds that a person without legal status in the CNMI cannot obtain  
12 a driver’s license to operate a motor vehicle. The Legislature also finds that individuals not  
13 licensed to operate motor vehicles have limited transportation means to get to and from  
14 their jobs, dental and medical appointments, school, and other necessary destinations.  
15 Therefore, these individuals take chances and operate a motor vehicle without a driver’s  
16 license, have no vehicle insurance, and don’t pay the driver’s license fee.

17           The purpose of this Act is to allow all CNMI residents to obtain proper motor  
18 vehicle licensure.

19           **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 2208 is hereby amended to read:

20           “§2208. Issuance of Licenses and Identification Cards.

1 (a)-(c) [Unchanged.]

2 (d) Minimum issuance standards. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall require, at a  
3 minimum, presentation and verification of the following information before issuing a card  
4 to a person:

5 (1) A photo identity document, except that a non-photo identity document  
6 is acceptable if it includes both the person's full legal name and date of birth.

7 (2) Documentation showing the person's date of birth.

8 (3) Proof of the person's social security account number or verification that  
9 the person is not eligible for a social security account number.

10 (4) Documentation showing the person's name and address of ~~principle~~  
11 principal residence.

12 (5) Except as provided in paragraph (8) of this subsection, Documentation  
13 documentation showing that the person:

14 (i) is a citizen or national of the United States;

15 (ii) is an alien lawfully admitted for permanent or temporary  
16 residence in the United States;

17 (iii) has conditional permanent resident status in the United States;

18 (iv) has an approved application for asylum in the United States or  
19 has entered into the United States in refugee status;

20 (v) has a valid, unexpired nonimmigrant visa or nonimmigrant visa  
21 status for entry into the United States;

22 (vi) has a pending application for asylum in the United States;

23 (vii) has a pending or approved application for temporary protected  
24 status in the United States;

25 (viii) has approved deferred action status; or

26 (ix) has a pending application for adjustment of status to that of an  
27 alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States or  
28 conditional permanent resident status in the United States.

1 (6) Declaration required. Each applicant must sign a declaration under  
2 penalty of perjury that the information presented on the application is true and  
3 correct, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles must retain the declaration. An applicant  
4 must sign a new declaration when presenting new source documents to the Bureau  
5 of Motor Vehicles on subsequent visits.

6 (7) Regulations. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall promulgate  
7 regulations describing the documents that it will accept for verification of the data  
8 required by this subsection.

9 (8) Exception process. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles may issue ~~regulations~~  
10 ~~that provide an exception process for persons who, for reasons beyond their own~~  
11 ~~control, are unable to present the necessary documents and must rely on alternate~~  
12 ~~documents to establish identity or date of birth.~~ the following:

13 (A) A learner's permit under 9 CMC § 2206 to a person who is not  
14 able to provide any of the required documentation under subparagraph (5)  
15 of this subsection. Provided that the applicant shall provide any other form  
16 of identification.

17 (B) A driver's license, not a Real ID driver's license, to a person  
18 who is not able to provide the documentation required under subparagraph  
19 (5) of this subsection. Provided that the applicant shall provide any other  
20 form of identification. And provided further that the driver's license under  
21 this provision shall be for one year and a fee of \$50.00, renewable each year  
22 upon the payment of the annual fee of \$50.00.

23 (9) Successfully pass the required written and driving tests.

24 (10) The driver's license provided under this subsection shall not be used  
25 for travel or access to any federal building.

26 (e)-(h) [Unchanged.]”

27 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
28 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent

1 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
2 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

3       **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not  
4 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under  
5 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.  
6 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant  
7 to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any  
8 way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the  
9 date this Act becomes effective.

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

Date: 02/11/25

Introduced By:   
Senator Donald M. Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
Senate Legal Counsel