

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To establish the Hunting Act of 2025 for the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that hunting practices in  
2 the Commonwealth have been a long-standing tradition in the islands with unique skills  
3 and practices passed down from generation to generation, primarily for the purpose of  
4 consumption. As a small community, striving to balance tradition with modern advances  
5 in a fast-changing world, certain laws of the land must be enacted to conserve our limited  
6 resources for future generations.

7           The Legislature recognizes that the hunting seasons, license, fees, and hunting  
8 restrictions are currently enforced through regulations promulgated by the Division of Fish  
9 and Wildlife, under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, as mandated by  
10 Public Law No. 2-51. With the advancement in hunting equipment and a growing  
11 population, the Legislature finds that it is time to revise the existing provisions relating to  
12 the hunting of certain wildlife in the Commonwealth to formally enact such administrative  
13 provisions to effectuate the purpose and intent of preserving and conserving our wildlife.  
14 Therefore, the purpose of this Act it to establish hunting seasons, restrictions, and penalties  
15 pertaining to certain wildlife in the Commonwealth.

16           **Section 2. Short Title.** This Act may be referred to as the “Hunting Act of 2025”.

17           **Section 3. Enactment.** The following provisions are hereby enacted subject to  
18 codification by the CNMI Law Revision Commission:

19           **“Section 101. Hunting Seasons and Restrictions.**

20           (a). Residents, nonresidents, and visitors seeking to engage in hunting in the  
21 Commonwealth shall register and obtain a hunting permit with the Division of Fish and

1 Wildlife under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and shall abide by the  
2 specific seasons and restrictions as follows:

3 (1) The hunting seasons of the sambar deer in the Commonwealth shall be  
4 from February 14 to April 14 and from September 15 to November 15 of each year.  
5 The hunting of a female sambar deer is prohibited.

6 (2) The hunting seasons of coconut crab in the Commonwealth shall be from  
7 February 14 to April 14 and from September 15 to November 15 of each year. It is  
8 prohibited to take coconut crab that is less than three inches wide across the back.

9 (3) The hunting seasons of the Philippine Turtle-Dove in the  
10 Commonwealth shall be from April 15 to May 31 and from October 1 to November  
11 30 of each year.

12 (4) The hunting seasons of land crab in the Commonwealth shall be from  
13 April 1 to June 30 and from September 1 to December 31 of each year.

14 (5) The hunting seasons of wild goat, wild pig, and wild cow in the  
15 Commonwealth shall be open all year.

16 (b) Within 90 days of the effective day of this Act the Secretary of the Department  
17 of Lands and Natural Resources shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the  
18 enforcement and the imposition and collection of fees and fines.

19 (c) Any person who violates a provision of this Act shall be fined up to \$500 for  
20 the first violation and up to \$1,000 for the second and subsequent violation.

21 (d) Permit fees and fines collected pursuant to this Act shall be deposited into the  
22 general fund of the Commonwealth government.

23 Section 102. Exemption.

24 Notwithstanding section 101, the Secretary of the Department of the Lands and  
25 Natural Resources may authorize, through a temporary permit and for a specific limited  
26 quantity, hunting of sambar deer and coconut crab specifically to be consumed at a cultural  
27 fiesta.”

28 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
29 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 5. 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 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
11 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled

Date: 2/11/25

Introduced By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Legal Counsel