

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025

S. B. NO. 24-26

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 1 CMC § 2893(d) to give the mayors of the First and Second Senatorial District authority to concur on all OGM-SC applications, programs and funding for the First and Second Senatorial Districts; 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, among other things,
2 the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse (OGM-SC) was created to
3 establish a database of those federal grants currently received by the CNMI, and to research
4 all federal grants which the CNMI is eligible to receive but has not applied for. These
5 OGM-SC mandates apply to the First and Senatorial Districts as well. Since the creation
6 of the OGM-SC office, the mayors of the respective First and Second Senatorial Districts
7 have submitted to OGM-SC countless requests for assistance, funding, equipment and
8 training for their municipalities and employees. Although OGM-SC has provided some
9 assistance, funding, equipment and training to the First and Second Senatorial Districts,
10 the equipment, programs, funding or recipients of such benefits were not always consistent
11 with the mayor's policies.

12 The Legislature finds that the mayor's municipal policies are paramount over any
13 other policy because the mayor is the head of each municipality. The mayor is responsible
14 for the health, welfare and safety of the people. The mayor has the ultimate responsibility
15 to provide essential public services to the people in their municipalities. The mayor should
16 determine what OGM-SC assistance is needed and where such assistance will go.
17 Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to authorize the respective mayors of the
18 First and Second Senatorial Districts to concur on all OGM-SC applications, programs and
19 funding for the First and Second Senatorial Districts.

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 2893(d) is amended to read as follows:

2 “(d) the Administrator of the CNMI OGM-SC shall have expenditure
3 authority for all funds relating to CNMI OGM-SC; provided that the respective
4 mayors of the First and Second Senatorial Districts shall concur on all OGM-SC
5 applications, programs and grant funding for the First and Second Senatorial
6 Districts. The Administrator shall also inform the respective mayors of the First and
7 Second Senatorial Districts of the status of the submitted grant application; and”

8 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
9 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
10 jurisdiction, 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 thereby.

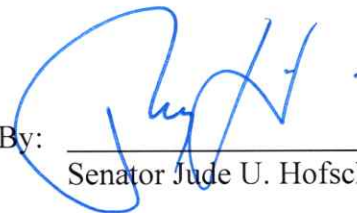
12 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not
13 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under
14 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.
15 Repealers contained in this Act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

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

Prefiled:

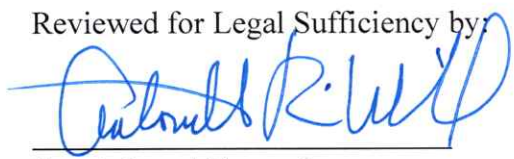
Date: 03/04/25

Introduced By: _____



Senator Jude U. Hofschneider

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



Senate Legal Counsel