

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE

Second Reg. Session, 2025

S. B. 24- 51

---

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend the quorum and removal of members provisions for  
the State Board of Education, and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.**

2           The Legislature finds that pursuant to 1 CMC § 2261, the Board of  
3 Education consists of five voting members. The Legislature further finds that under  
4 1 CMC § 2267, four voting members are presently required to establish a quorum.  
5 This requirement has created recurring difficulties in convening meetings and has  
6 impeded the Board's ability to conduct timely and effective business.

7           The Legislature also finds that most boards and commissions within the  
8 Commonwealth require only a simple majority of their members to constitute a  
9 quorum. This standard promotes both efficiency and the orderly administration of  
10 government. Accordingly, the Legislature finds it appropriate to amend 1 CMC §  
11 2267 to provide that three voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Board  
12 of Education.

13           The Legislature recognizes that the Board of Education serves as the rule-  
14 making authority for the Public School System (PSS) and is charged with  
15 overseeing policies essential to the education and development of the  
16 Commonwealth's youth. As duly elected officials, Board members have a solemn  
17 duty to perform their responsibilities diligently. Failure by any member to attend to

1 critical matters undermines the operations of the PSS and adversely affects the  
2 educational opportunities available to students.

3 Therefore, the Legislature finds that such neglect of duty must be addressed  
4 through strengthened statutory provisions to ensure accountability and effective  
5 governance.

6 The purpose of this Act is to amend 1 CMC § 2267 to revise the quorum  
7 requirement for the Board of Education, authorize electronic participation in  
8 meetings, and strengthen the provisions governing the removal of members for  
9 neglect of duty.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC §2267 is amended to read as follows:

11 **“§2267. Board of Education: Quorum; Removal of Members.**

12 (a) All actions of the board requiring a vote shall be conducted at a board  
13 meeting. The presence of ~~four~~ three voting members shall constitute a quorum for  
14 the transaction of business at any board meeting, provided that members from at  
15 least two senatorial districts shall be present to constitute a quorum. And provided  
16 further that a member may participate in a meeting through any electronic means  
17 only when the member is physically present in the Commonwealth. All actions of  
18 the board requiring a vote requires the concurrence of three of the voting members,  
19 ~~except for the removal of board members as provided in subsection (d) of this~~  
20 ~~section.~~

21 (b) Ex officio members of the board are permitted to vote only in the  
22 standing committees or other special committees established by the board.

23 (c) In the absence of a quorum where the board has the responsibility to act,  
24 or in the absence of board policy, the Commissioner shall have the authority and  
25 responsibility to take appropriate action, subject to ~~the~~ review by the board.

26 (d) A board member shall be removed by the concurrence of three of the  
27 voting board members for conviction of a felony, corruption, neglect of duty,

1 mental or physical incapacitation; ~~provided, for the neglect of duty, a board member~~  
2 ~~may be removed by concurrence of four of the voting members.”~~

3       **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
4 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
5 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
6 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
7 shall not be affected thereby.

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

15       **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
16 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled:

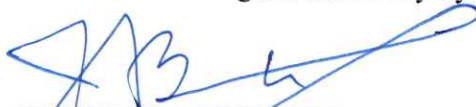
Date:

Introduced by:



Senator Manny T. Castro

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

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