



**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor

**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**22 JUL 2025**

**GOV2025-552**

The Honorable Dennis James C. Mendiola  
President  
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern  
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Bill No. 24-17, SD1**, entitled, "To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename "Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority" to "Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-07**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arnold I. Palacios".

**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;  
Public Auditor; Acting Special Assistant for Administration;  
Secretary, Department of Commerce; Programs and Legislative Review Office



THE SENATE  
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

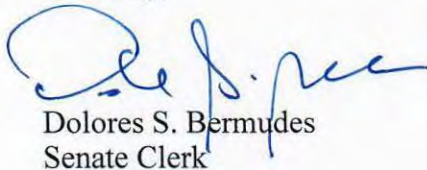
June 27, 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang  
Acting Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Apatang:

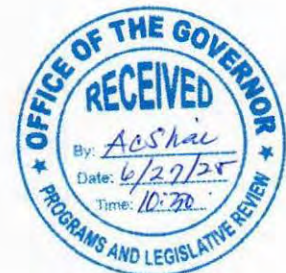
I have the honor of transmitting herewith **Senate Bill No. 24-17, SD1**, entitled, "To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename "Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority" to "Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 24<sup>th</sup> Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,



Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachment





**THE SENATE  
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-17, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority” to “Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority”; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Corina L. Magofna

**Date:** February 10, 2025

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**Final Reading:** February 28, 2025

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** Committee on Commerce

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 24-11 adopted 06/20/25

**Final Reading:** June 20, 2025

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**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025** **S.B. NO. 24-17, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority” to “Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority”; 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 the Commonwealth Free  
 2 Trade Zone Authority (“Authority”) was established by Public Law 12-20 “to aggressively  
 3 market and promote the CNMI free trade zones internationally to businesses of the type  
 4 determined by the Board by regulation to be desirable for the future economic development  
 5 and diversification of the CNMI.”

6           The Legislature further finds that the term “free trade zone” can be interpreted in a  
 7 way that can be confusing to the stakeholders of the businesses the Authority is tasked with  
 8 attracting. The Authority is best able to market and promote CNMI, in a manner that fulfills  
 9 its statutory duties, if the name of the Authority and the zones the Authority administrates  
 10 better reflect the economic incentives being offered.

11           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to  
 12 rename “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority” to “Commonwealth Economic  
 13 Incentive District Authority” and to rename “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone” to  
 14 “Commonwealth economic incentive district”.

15           **Section 2. Global Amendment.** The references in Division 1 of Title 4 and Chapter  
 16 14 of Division 5 of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code and all references in any contract,

SENATE BILL NO. 24-17, SD1

1 Executive Order, rule, regulation, or document to the “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone  
2 Authority” or “Free Trade Zone Authority” shall be amended to or read as the  
3 “Commonwealth Economic Incentive ~~Zone~~ Authority” or “Economic Incentive ~~Zone~~  
4 Authority”.

5 **Section 3. Global Amendment.** The references in Division 1 of Title 4 and Chapter  
6 14 of Division 5 of Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code and all references in any contract,  
7 Executive Order, rule, regulation, or document to the “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone” or  
8 “Free Trade Zone” or “free trade zone” shall be amended to or read as the “Commonwealth  
9 Economic Incentive ~~Zone~~ District” or “Economic Incentive ~~Zone~~ District” or “economic  
10 incentive-~~zone~~ district”.

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

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

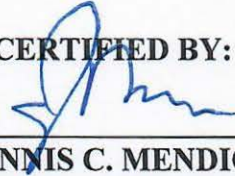
22 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
23 Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

SENATE BILL NO. 24-17, SD1

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CERTIFIED BY:



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DENNIS C. MENDIOLA  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:



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FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

*Approved* this *22<sup>nd</sup>* day of *July*, 2025



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ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands