

David M. Apatang
Governor



Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 23, 2025

GOV2025-620

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

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors
President
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 24-75** entitled, "To authorize the continued payment of employer premiums for the Group Health & Life Insurance (GHLI) Program by permitting expenditure of \$3,747,585.00 recently identified by the Governor that shall be appropriated by the Legislature for FY 2026.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-19**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;
Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Special Assistant for Management & Budget;
Office of Personnel Management; Special Assistant for Administration;
Programs and Legislative Review



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950
cnmileg.net

December 23, 2025

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

Dear Governor Apatang:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 24-75**, entitled: "To authorize the continued payment of employer premiums for the Group Health & Life Insurance (GHLI) Program by permitting expenditure of \$3,747,585.00 recently identified by the Governor that shall be appropriated by the Legislature for FY 2026.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,


Linda B. Muña, MPA
House Clerk

Attachment





TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 5, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DiC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 24-75
AN ACT

TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED PAYMENT OF EMPLOYER PREMIUMS FOR THE GROUP HEALTH & LIFE INSURANCE (GHLI) PROGRAM BY PERMITTING EXPENDITURE OF \$3,747,585.00 RECENTLY IDENTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR THAT SHALL BE APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR FY 2026.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 5, 2025;
without amendments and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was not referred to a Senate Committee.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 22, 2025;
without amendments and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

H. B. NO. 24-75 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.


Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TENTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 5, 2025

H. B. No. 24-75

AN ACT

TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED PAYMENT OF EMPLOYER PREMIUMS FOR THE GROUP HEALTH & LIFE INSURANCE (GHLI) PROGRAM BY PERMITTING EXPENDITURE OF \$3,747,585.00 RECENTLY IDENTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR THAT SHALL BE APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR FY 2026.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Legislature finds that the Governor, in a communication dated
3 November 14, 2025, notified the presiding officers that the Group Health & Life
4 Insurance (GHLI) Program is at immediate risk of termination due to the absence
5 of funding for the GHLI Retiree business unit (11881700) in the Fiscal Year 2026
6 Budget. The Governor reported that approximately \$7.2 million is required to
7 maintain uninterrupted retiree employer premium payments and avoid the
8 cancellation of retiree coverage.

HOUSE BILL 24-75

1 The Legislature further finds that the Governor identified \$3,747,585.00 in
2 available revenues for Fiscal Year 2026. These revenues can be immediately
3 applied toward urgent government priorities, including constitutional obligations
4 and the protection of critical programs such as GHLI.

5 The Legislature additionally finds that Article XV, Section 1(e) of the
6 Commonwealth Constitution mandates that twenty-five percent (25%) of all
7 general revenues shall be appropriated to the Public School System. Consistent
8 with this constitutional requirement, \$936,896.25, representing twenty-five
9 percent (25%) of the identified revenues, must be allocated to the Public School
10 System for Fiscal Year 2026 operations.

11 The Legislature further finds that after satisfying the constitutional
12 allocation to the Public School System, the remaining seventy-five percent (75%)
13 of the identified revenues—\$2,810,688.75—may be used to sustain the GHLI
14 Program. These funds are immediately needed to support the GHLI Retiree
15 business unit (11881700) and prevent termination of retiree coverage.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Finance
17 to utilize \$3,747,585.00 in Fiscal Year 2026 revenues as follows:

18 (1) \$936,896.25 to the Public School System in compliance with Article XV,
19 Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth Constitution; and

20 (2) \$2,810,688.75 for allocation into and expenditure under GHLI Retiree
21 business unit 11881700 for retiree employer premium payments.

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SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.

1 **SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.**
2 Notwithstanding any laws, rules, or regulations to the contrary, the
3 Secretary of Finance is hereby authorized to utilize \$3,747,585.00 in Fiscal Year
4 2026 revenues as follows:

5 (a) \$936,896.25 shall be allocated and expended for the Public School System
6 in compliance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Commonwealth Constitution;
7 and

8 (b) \$2,810,688.75 shall be allocated into and expended under the GHLI
9 Retiree business unit (11881700) exclusively for the payment of retiree employer
10 premiums.

11 This authorization does not constitute a new appropriation and does not
12 increase the Fiscal Year 2026 budget ceiling.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

13 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**
14 If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such provision to any
15 person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction,
16 the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
17 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected
18 thereby.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

19 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**
20 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
21 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
22 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.

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1 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or
2 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of
3 terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
4 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

5 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming
7 law without such approval.


Attested to by:


Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:


SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 23rd day of December, 2025


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands