



David M. Apatang
Governor

Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 18, 2026

GOV2026-181

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. 24-13, HD1**, entitled, "To amend the fee structure for the Office of the Registrar of Corporation under the Department of Commerce and to remove daily penalty fees.", 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. 24-27**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DAVID M. APATANG".

DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission;
Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Secretary of Commerce; Registrar of Corporation;
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

February 11, 2026

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. 24-13, HD1**, entitled, "To amend the fee structure for the Office of the Registrar of Corporations under the Department of Commerce and to remove daily penalty fees.", 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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 11, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Julie M. A. Ogo, and Patrick H. San Nicolas) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 24-13, HD1

AN ACT

TO AMEND THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TO REMOVE DAILY PENALTY FEES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-12; adopted 7/14/2025.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 14, 2025;

with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 24-13, HD1 and transmitted to **THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development, and Workforce, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-60; adopted 2/4/2026.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 4, 2026;
without amendments and returned to **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

H. B. No. 24-13, HD1 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

FIRST DAY, FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 14, 2025

H. B. No. 24-13, HD1

AN ACT

TO AMEND THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TO REMOVE DAILY PENALTY FEES.

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

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

2 The Legislature finds the Public Law No. 21-37 was enacted on
3 January 7, 2021. The law aimed to establish an elevated fee structure for the
4 Department of Commerce, Office of the Registrar of Corporations, and to
5 designate a specific percentage of these fees to the department to secure
6 necessary funding for technological upgrades and maintenance, thereby
7 enhancing their operational efficiency. The law mandates that the Secretary of
8 Finance establish a separate account, designated as the Commerce Registrar of
9 Corporation Account, into which 75% of the fees collected under 4 CMC § 4205
10 shall be deposited without fiscal year limitations, with the Secretary of Commerce

HOUSE BILL 24-13, HD1

1 serving as the expenditure authority. In an additional effort to ensure compliance
2 and hold the department accountable for its actions, a sunset provision was
3 incorporated. It read, “If the CNMI Department of Commerce is unable to procure
4 and implement an online platform for the submission and processing of
5 documents by December 21, 2022, all new and increased fees established by this
6 Act shall be reduced by 25%”.

7 The Legislature recognizes that the Department of Commerce requires
8 additional resources to support its operations; thus, the purpose of this Act is to
9 delete the sunset provision that will reinstate the higher fee structure; authorize
10 the Secretary of Commerce to adjust fees; and eliminate daily penalty fees.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT:**

12 Title 4, Division 4, Section 4205 of the Commonwealth Code shall be
13 amended to read as follows:

14 “§ 4205. Filing, Service, and Copying Fees.

15 (a) The following fees are imposed and, shall be paid to the Department
16 of Finance and proof of payment delivered to the Registrar of Corporations
17 when the documents described in this subsection are delivered for filing:

18 (1) \$112.50 Articles of Organization (LLC);

19 (2) \$112.50 Articles of Incorporation;

20 (3) \$187.50 Application for Reinstatement following
21 Administrative Dissolution;

22 (4) \$187.50 Application for Certificate of Authority for Foreign
23 Corporation;

HOUSE BILL 24-13, HD1

- 1 (5) \$37.50 Application for Amended Certificate of Authority for
2 Foreign Corporation;
- 3 (6) \$22.50 Non-Profit Corporation (Petition, Charter & Bylaws);
- 4 (7) \$75 Registration of Partnership;
- 5 (8) \$75 Amended Articles of Organization;
- 6 (9) \$75 Amended Articles of Incorporation;
- 7 (10) \$75 Restated Articles of Incorporation;
- 8 (11) \$37.50 Articles of Dissolution/Termination;
- 9 (12) \$75 Articles of Merger or Share Exchange;
- 10 (13) \$37.50 Articles of Revocation of Dissolution;
- 11 (14) \$75 Annual & Initial Corporation Report for: Domestic,
12 Foreign & Partnership, LLC.;
- 13 (15) \$37.50 Application for Certificate of Withdrawal;
- 14 (16) \$18.75 Articles of Correction;
- 15 (17) \$150 Service of Process served on the Registrar of
16 Corporations;
- 17 (18) \$37.50 Any other document required or permitted to be filed,
18 such as bylaws affidavit, minutes, resolution, Amendment annual
19 report & amendment, by-law, operating agreement, stocks, resignation
20 as officer or director;
- 21 (19) \$7.50 Non-Profit Corporation Report, Initial;
- 22 (20) \$37.50 Application for Certificate of Existence or
23 Authorization or Good Standing;
- 24 (21) \$37.50 Registered Agent Form;

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- 1 (22) \$7.50 Agent's statement of: change of registered office or
2 resignation;
- 3 (23) \$37.50 Application for Reservation of Name, Notice of
4 Transfer of Reserved Name;
- 5 (24) \$37.50 Application for Registered Name, Application for
6 Renewal of Registered Name;
- 7 (25) \$18.75 Corporation's statement of change of registered
8 agent or registered office or both;
- 9 (26) \$15 For Certificate or Certification of Document; \$0.75 for
10 additional page for copying (Acct. No. 1300-62300);
- 11 (27) \$75 Annual Subscription for the Commonwealth Register;
12 and (Acct. No. 7745-45570);
- 13 (28) \$22.50 Postage fee for the Commonwealth Register (Acct. No.
14 1170- 62250);
- 15 (29) \$3.75 Per document, i.e., Articles of Inc., Bylaws, Annual
16 Reports (uncertified copies), \$0.75 per copy of each additional
17 attachments;
- 18 (30) \$112.50 Expedited Service fee, business organization
19 document filing (fulfilled within 1 business day);
- 20 (31) \$112.50 Expedited Service fee, certified research request, i.e.,
21 certification requests of documents (fulfilled within 1 business day);
- 22 (32) \$112.50 Penalty for documents received after March 1st, i.e.,
23 Initial Reports, Annual Reports; and

HOUSE BILL 24-13, HD1

1 (33) \$18.75 Penalty for late filing on Non-Profit Corporation
2 Report, Annual & Minutes

3 (b) The Secretary of Finance shall establish a separate account,
4 Commerce Registrar of Corporation Account, and shall deposit 75% of the
5 fees collected pursuant to 4 CMC § 4205 without fiscal year limitation. The
6 Secretary of Commerce shall be the expenditure authority.

7 (c) The authority to adjust fees resides exclusively with the Secretary
8 of Commerce; however, any adjustment shall not exceed 25 percent.”

9 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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


15 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

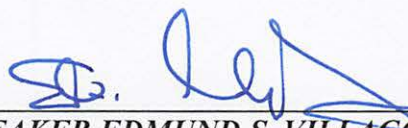
16 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as
17 affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
18 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.
19 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding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

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1 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming
3 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 18th day of March, 2026


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands