



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Eloy S. Inos**  
Governor

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Lieutenant Governor

**13 FEB 2015**

Honorable Victor B. Hocog  
Senate President, The Senate  
Nineteenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Nineteenth 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. 18-67, SD1, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 8112 and 4 CMC § 8122 to prioritize net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 18-75**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloy S. Inos", with a vertical line extending upwards from the end of the signature.

ELOY S. INOS

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Directors; Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission; Public School System; Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



THE SENATE  
Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

January 06, 2015

The Honorable Eloy S. Inos  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Inos:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith Senate Bill No. 18-67, SD1, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 8112 and 4 CMC § 8122 to prioritize net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachment



**THE SENATE**  
**EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 18-67, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 4 CMC § 8112 and 4 CMC § 8122 to prioritize net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity; and for other purposes.

**SENATE ACTION**

**Offered by Senator(s):** Pete P. Reyes and Paul A. Manglona

**Date:** August 21, 2014

**Referred to:** Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 18-80 Adopted on 12/23/14

**Final Reading:** December 23, 2014

**SENATE ACTION**

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**First and Final Reading:** December 30, 2014

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Handwritten signature of Dolores S. Bermudes in black ink.

**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
**SENATE CLERK**

**EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2014**

**S. B. NO. 18-67, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To amend 4 CMC § 8112 and 4 CMC § 8122 to prioritize net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1       **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the  
2 Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and the Public School System (PSS)  
3 continue to struggle to pay its very exorbitant utility bills each month. At the same time, the  
4 Legislature finds that the Commonwealth government cannot afford to fully subsidize  
5 CHCC and the PSS in order to satisfy their monthly utility bills.

6       The Legislature finds that the only way to reduce utility costs is to utilize renewable  
7 energy sources to offset the electricity or other utility required for the operations of CHCC  
8 and PSS. Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to provide a definition for net  
9 metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and education  
10 renewable energy capacity at CUC. Any reasonable direct expense to CUC for reviewing  
11 and interconnecting the PV or wind power renewable energy capacity shall be the  
12 responsibility of CHCC and PSS. There will be no cost to CUC to prioritize the  
13 interconnection of the renewable energy. Over time, CHCC and PSS will save millions of  
14 dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other essential needs of the public  
15 health and education entities.

16       **Section 2. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 8112 is amended to read as follows:

17       “§ 8112. **Definitions.**

1 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall, unless the context clearly indicates  
2 otherwise, have the following meanings:

3 (a) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Utilities  
4 Corporation;

5 (b) "Commonwealth" means the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

6 (c) "Commission," or "PUC," means the Commonwealth Public Utilities  
7 Commission;

8 (d) "Corporation," or "CUC," means the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;

9 (e) "Health and education renewable energy capacity" means a renewable capacity  
10 that is located on the premises of a public health or education entity; operated in parallel  
11 with the utility's transmission and distribution facilities; in conformance with the utility's  
12 interconnection requirements; and intended primarily to offset part or all of the electrical  
13 requirements of the health and education government agencies.

14 (f) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, parent-in-  
15 law, sibling-in-law, child-in-law, or household member;

16 (g) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between the electricity supplied  
17 through the electrical grid and the electricity generated by an eligible entity and fed back to  
18 the electric grid over a monthly billing period; provided that net energy metering shall be  
19 accomplished using one or more meters capable of registering the flow of electricity in two  
20 directions and any additional metering shall be used only to provide the information  
21 necessary to accurately bill or credit the public health or education entity.

22 (h) "Utility service" means the delivery of electrical, water, and sewer services in the  
23 Commonwealth.

24 **Section 3. Amendment.** 4 CMC § 8122 is amended to add a subsection (f) to read as  
25 follows:

26 "(f) CUC shall prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and  
27 education renewable energy capacity. CUC shall establish a net metering agreement with  
28 public health and education entities, as may be requested by the entity, have authority to  
29 review and approve the engineering and interconnection plan in accordance with industry

1 standard standards; and shall apply net metering credits to off-set the base, levelized energy  
2 adjustment, and other utility cost. Any net metering credits for the public health and  
3 education organizations may be applied to the overall bill of the public health or education  
4 entity and not a specific site where photovoltaic (PV) or wind power renewable energy may  
5 be located. The excess energy credit shall be carried forward as credits for public health and  
6 education agencies for no more than two fiscal years. Any reasonable direct expense to the  
7 CUC for reviewing and interconnecting the PV or wind power renewable energy capacity  
8 shall be the responsibility of the health or educational agency.”

9 **Section 4. Timeline.**

10 (a) CUC shall adopt any rules and procedures necessary to implement the net  
11 metering priority for the public health or education entities within 45 days after this Act  
12 becomes law.

13 (b) The net metering agreement between CUC and the requesting public health  
14 or education entity, and the full implementation of the net metering request, shall be  
15 completed and operational no later than one year after this Act becomes law.

16 **Section 5.** Notwithstanding any laws or regulations to the contrary, the  
17 implementation of this Act shall not require the review or approval of the Commonwealth  
18 Public Utilities Commission.

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

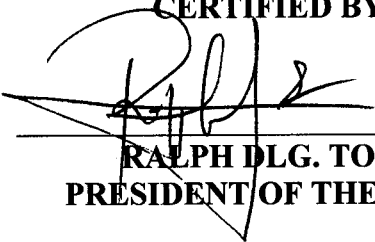
23 **Section 7. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
24 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
25 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
26 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior  
27 law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way  
28 modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date  
29 this Act becomes effective.

SENATE BILL NO. 18-67, SD1


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**Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

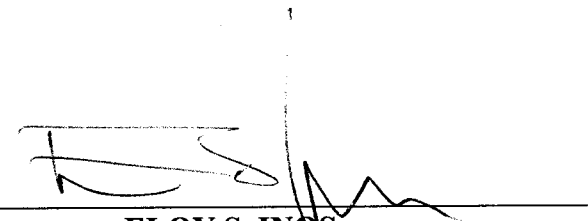
**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
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**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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**JOVITA M. TAIMANAO**  
**SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

*APPROVED* this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014<sup>15</sup>

  
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**ELOY S. INOS**  
**Governor**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**