August 01, 2023

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

The Honorable Edith E. Deleon Guerrero  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madame President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 23-60, HD1 entitled, “To re-appropriate funds under Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the Health Network Program (HNP); and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes Public Law No. 23-08. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General;  
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor;  
Secretary of Finance; CEO, CHCC; Special Assistant for Administration;  
Programs and Legislative Review Office
July 18, 2023

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Marianas Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Palacios:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action H. B. No. 23-60, HD1, entitled: "To re-appropriate funds under Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the Health Network Program (HNP); and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

Linda B. Mano
House Clerk

Attachment
H. B. No. 23-60, HD1

AN ACT

TO RE-APPROPRIATE FUNDS UNDER SECTION 2(G) OF PUBLIC LAW 20-61 FOR THE HEALTH NETWORK PROGRAM (HNP); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill not was referred to a House Committee.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 7, 2023; with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 23-60, HD1 and transmitted to THE SENATE.

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JULY 17, 2023; without amendments and returned to THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

H. B. NO. 23-60, HD1, IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk
H. B. No. 23-60, HD1

AN ACT

TO RE-APPROPRIATE FUNDS UNDER SECTION 2(G) OF PUBLIC LAW 20-61 FOR THE HEALTH NETWORK PROGRAM (HNP); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

The Legislature finds that the Office of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) under the Executive Branch has identified funds for the architectural and engineering design, and construction of a solid waste transfer station for the southern part of Saipan. The Legislature further finds that Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 appropriated One Million Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars ($1,085,000.00) for the exact same project.

Additionally, the Legislature finds that the Health Network Program (HNP) under the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) is in dire need of additional funds to assist patients from the Commonwealth seeking medical assistance/treatment outside of the Commonwealth. The Legislature finds that it is imperative that the House, Senate and the Administration work harmoniously to find funds to assist the HNP and CHCC to continue these
services for the people of the Commonwealth in their medical needs outside of the
Commonwealth.

Therefore, the intent of this Act is to reappropriate the remaining funds under
Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the Health Network Program.

SECTION 2. RE-APPROPRIATION.

Notwithstanding any laws, statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary the legislature
hereby reappropriates the remaining funds of Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Nine
Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars ($881,987.00) under Section 2(g) of Public Law 20-61 for the
Health Network Program for but not limited for travel, housing and transportation expenses.
Provided however that Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) shall be reserved for inter-island
medical referrals. Expenditure authority of the funds under Section 2 of this Act shall be the
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC).

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

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

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

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

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

Attested to by:

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:

SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 1st day of August, 2023

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands