



**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor

**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

April 10, 2023

**GOV 2023-544**

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. 23-6** entitled, "To amend 4 CMC §8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; 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. 23-02**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; Joeten-Kiyu Public Library; CHCC; PSS; Programs and Legislative Review Office



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950  
cnmileg.net

March 13, 2023

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

Dear Governor Palacios:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 23-6**, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; 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. Muñoz  
House Clerk

Attachment



# TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN PAUL P. SABLON, OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Marissa R. Flores, Julie M.A. Ogo, Edwin K. Propst, 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. 23-6**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 4 CMC § 8112 TO PRIORITIZE NET METERING  
TO INCLUDE PUBLIC LIBRARIES; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee, it was subsequently placed on the Bill Calendar.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON  
FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 3, 2023;  
*without amendments* and transmitted to THE SENATE.**

**IN THE SENATE**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 9, 2023;  
*without amendments* and returned to THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**H. B. NO. 23-6 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE.**

  
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

SECOND DAY, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

---

**H. B. No. 23-6**

**AN ACT**

**TO AMEND 4 CMC § 8112 TO PRIORITIZE NET METERING TO  
INCLUDE PUBLIC LIBRARIES; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

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

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

The Legislature finds that Public Law 18-75 found that the only way to reduce utility costs was to utilize renewable energy sources to offset the electricity or other utility required for the operations of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and the Public School System. Accordingly, the purpose of Public Law 18-75 was to provide a definition for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. In addition, any reasonable direct expense to CUC for reviewing and interconnecting the PV or wind power renewable energy capacity shall be the responsibility of CHCC and PSS and that there would be no cost to CUC to prioritize the interconnection of the renewable energy. Over time, CHCC and PSS will save millions of dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other essential needs of the public health and education entities.

---

**HOUSE BILL 23-6**

---

1           Accordingly, the intent of this Act is to include public libraries as an education entity  
2 for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for renewable energy  
3 capacity at the CUC. In addition, including public libraries in the definition of education  
4 entities, will allow the entity to qualify and apply for federal grants that support the  
5 Administration's priorities for clean energy to power the future in the U.S. territories as part of  
6 the larger efforts towards energy security in America.

7           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

8           Title 4, Division 8, Chapter 1, Article 1 § 8112 (e) and (g) of the Commonwealth Code  
9 are hereby amended to read as follows:

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

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

23           **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

28           **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

29           This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any  
30 existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,



---

**HOUSE BILL 23-6**

---

1 regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect  
2 any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not  
3 have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which  
4 shall 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 law without  
7 such approval.

Attested to by:

  
**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**

Certified by:

  
**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ**  
House of Representatives  
23<sup>rd</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

*Approved* this *10<sup>th</sup>* day of *April*, 2023

  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands