



Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2025-002

SUBJECT: Transfer of authority for supervision of casino gaming from the Commonwealth Casino Commission to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission.

AUTHORITY: NMI Const. art. III, § 1 provides that “[t]he executive power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a governor who shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws;” and NMI Const. art. III, § 15 permits the governor to “make changes in the allocation of offices, agencies and instrumentalities and in their functions and duties that are necessary for efficient administration.”

WHEREAS; Public Law 3-30 established a Commonwealth Lottery Commission with a mandate to “supervise, organize, and operate a public lottery . . . to produce the maximum amount of net revenues for the Commonwealth consonant with the general welfare of the people”; and

WHEREAS; Public Law 18-56 established a separate Commonwealth Casino Commission to regulate casino gaming; and

WHEREAS; trying economic times necessitate consolidation of duplicative government instrumentalities to ensure that the Commonwealth’s limited fiscal resources are allocated to provision of essential public services; and

WHEREAS; the exclusive casino licensee under Public Law 18-56 ceased operations in spring 2020 and has never reopened, rendering the Casino Commission’s regulatory function inactive for more than five years and into the foreseeable future, even as it continues to accumulate operational expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Arnold I. Palacios, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and in order to achieve effective and efficient government administration so as to better serve the interests of the Commonwealth and its people, hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Enactment.

- (a) The duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth Casino Commission to supervise casino gaming in the Commonwealth under Title 4, Division 2, Chapter 3, Article 2 of the Commonwealth Code, 4 CMC §§ 2311–37, are hereby transferred to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission established under 1 CMC §§ 9301–23.
- (b) To the greatest extent possible under applicable law, authority for enforcement of the existing Casino License Agreement between the Commonwealth and the exclusive licensee of the sole casino license issued pursuant to 4 CMC § 2317, including authority

to negotiate cure amounts for any encumbrances on said license, is likewise transferred to the Lottery Commission.

- (c) Because the Commission is divested by this order of any statutory duties or responsibilities, the Commissioners no longer owe duties within the meaning of NMI Const. Article III, Section 21 and their terms are accordingly terminated for cause.

Section 2. General Provisions.

- (a) This executive order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law.
- (b) Except as specifically provided in Section 1 of this executive order, the statutory provisions of Title 4, Division 2, Chapter 3 of the Commonwealth Code and the regulations under Title 175 of the NMI Administrative Code shall remain in force in full, except that references to commissioners of the Commonwealth Casino Commission shall instead mean commissioners of the Lottery Commission.
- (c) This executive order is not intended to and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
- (d) In accordance with NMI Const. art. III, § 15, this executive order shall be submitted to the legislature and shall become effective sixty days after submission, unless specifically modified or disapproved by a majority of the members of each house of the legislature.
- (e) If any provision of this executive order 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 executive order or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

It is so Ordered,

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED on this 30th day of May 2025.


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor