



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2007

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-94

H. B. No. 15-246, HD1, SD2

AN ACT

To establish the electric charges and rates for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Findings.** The Legislature finds that the present schedule of electric charges and rates
2 are exorbitant. Many of our residents earn wages below the United States poverty level and
3 cannot afford to pay their increased power bills. Many residents, especially the indigent and
4 the elderly, have been subjected to disconnection of electric service in their homes because
5 they are unable to pay their power bills as well as other monthly costs and expenses. The
6 Legislature finds that because electricity is such an essential part of life, the exorbitant
7 electric rates have proven to be detrimental, and may eventually be disastrous to the CNMI
8 community and economy as unemployment rates spike up and residents are displaced
9 because they can no longer afford to live in our islands. Accordingly, the purpose of this
10 legislation is to establish reasonable residential electric charges and rates for the
11 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

12 **Section 2. Electric Charges and Rates.** Notwithstanding any law or regulation to
13 the contrary, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation shall establish the following
14 residential electric charges and rates:

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Schedule of Electric Charges and Rates**

Customer Classification	Monthly Customer Charges	Electric Non-Fuel Rates	Electric Fuel Rates	Total Rates Per kWh
RESIDENTIAL	\$3.50			
First 1000 kWh		\$0.00	\$0.176	\$0.176
Over 1000 kWh		\$0.044	\$0.176	\$0.220

The electric charges and rates in this section shall supersede and replace the residential rates established by the Amendments to Part 24 of the Electric Service Regulations of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation as set forth in 28 Com. Reg. 9, 26156 *et seq.* (Sept. 27, 2006), which became effective on October 27, 2006; provided that the electric fuel rates may fluctuate depending on the actual cost of fuel. Any proposed change to the electric charges and rates by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation or any privately-owned or operated public utility shall be reviewed and approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission before promulgation.

Section 3. Metering. Any new schedule of electrical fuel rates shall not apply until the subsequent scheduled monthly meter reading date after the effective date of this Act. Meter reading estimates shall not exceed the average monthly billing amount for the previous three (3) months. All metered accounts shall have a monthly billing cycle of no greater than 32 days, except that the month of February's billing cycle shall not be greater than 30 days.

Section 4. Regulations. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

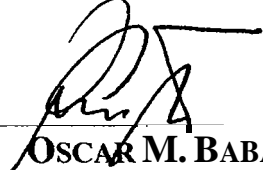
Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 6. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be

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

7 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
8 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



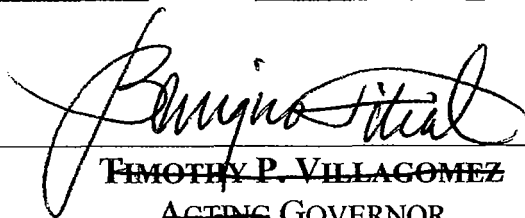
OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:



EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

DISAPPROVED on this 14th day of SEPTEMBER, 2007



TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
ACTING GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Overridden by the House of Representatives on October 3, 2007, and by the Senate on October 4, 2007, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house.



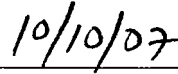
OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



DATE



JOSEPH M. MENDIOLA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



DATE