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FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE
_____ REGULAR SESSION

ACT NO. _____ -197
INTRODUCED BY:

AN ACT CREATING A COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF
THE CONSTITUTION; PRESCRIBING THE COMMITTEE'S
POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS; AUTHORIZING AN
APPROPRIATION THEREFOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE, THAT:

- Section 1. Committee in Support of the Constitution. There is hereby created a Committee in Support of the Constitution.
- Section 2. Composition. The Committee shall consist of _____ members. _____ members shall have been delegates to the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention held pursuant to District Law No. 4-205, Act 347.1976, and shall be appointed by the President of the Convention. _____ members shall be [senators of the Legislature] appointed by the Speaker of the Legislature. _____ members shall be appointed by the Director of the Office of Transition Studies and Planning. A vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the official who appointed the former member.
- Section 3. Organization. The Committee shall select a Chairman from among its membership. The Chairman shall preside over meetings of the Committee and shall coordinate its activities and supervise the work of its staff. The Committee may select other officers from among its membership as it considers advisable. The Committee shall cease to exist upon the approval of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by the United States government.
- Section 4. Duties. The Committee shall promote support among the Northern Marianas people for the Constitution during the period preceding the referendum on the adoption of the Constitution. Following the Northern Marianas people's approval

of the Constitution, the Committee shall urge the United States government to approve the Constitution. To perform these duties, the Committee shall:

- (1) conduct programs of political education throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. These programs shall emphasize the merits of the Constitution and the benefits of a rapid achievement of Commonwealth status;
- (2) retain professional and other assistance as needed to inform the Northern Marianas people and the United States government of the objectives and strengths of the Constitution; and
- (3) engage in other activities that the Committee determines will increase support for the Constitution among the Northern Marianas people and within the United States government.

Section 5. Governmental Activities. The Committee shall, insofar as is possible, offer advice to the Resident Commissioner, the Northern Mariana Islands government, and to the Office of Transition Studies and Planning with respect to activities pertaining to the approval of the Constitution by the Northern Marianas people and the United States government. The Committee is authorized to receive moneys from the Resident Commissioner, an agency of the Northern Mariana Islands government, and the Office of Transition Studies and Planning to assist the Committee in performing its duties.

Section 6. Appropriation. There is hereby authorized and appropriated out of [specify source of funds, such as unobligated surplus in the General Fund of the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature] the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for the above purposes. These moneys may be devoted to uses such as, but not limited to, travel, professional and other

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assistance, and materials.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Resident Commissioner, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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