

AGENDA

II .7

Education

A. Public Education

.6-8 1. Should the Convention include a provision on education in the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands?

If so, should the provision be provided through:

.8-9 a. An article devoted solely to the subject?

.9 b. An article encompassing a broad range of socially oriented programs?

.9 c. The bill of rights?

d. An article addressing miscellaneous subjects?

2. If a provision on education is included in the Commonwealth Constitution, should the provision include:

.11 a. A provision declaring the rights of Commonwealth residents to an education?

.12 b. A provision declaring the system of schools to be free?

If so, should the grant of free education be limited to:

- (1) education for persons between certain ages?
 - (2) education between certain levels or grades within the schools?
- .12 c. A provision declaring education to be compulsory?
If so, should the command of compulsory education be limited to:
- (1) persons between certain ages?
 - (2) certain levels or grades within the schools?
- .13-15 d. A provision declaring equal educational opportunity?
- .15-16 e. A provision vesting administrative authority for the school system?
If so, should the Convention vest this authority in:
- .16-18 (1) A centralized system over which the Commonwealth has direct control?
 - .18-19 (2) A decentralized system over which the municipalities have direct control and the Commonwealth indirect authority?
 - .19-20 (3) A hybrid of the two?
- .20 (a) primary responsibility vested in the Commonwealth, with advisory responsibility vested in the municipalities?
- .20 (b) residual responsibility vested in the Commonwealth, with delegation of direct control to the municipalities?

If a provision vesting administrative authority is included, should the Convention provide for the "structure" of the administrative authority by providing:

- .20-21 (1) A superintendent of schools?
- (2) A board of education?
- .21 (3) A hybrid of a superintendent of schools and board of education?

If such a provision is included, should the Convention prescribe:

- (1) the method of selection for these positions through:
 - .23 (a) legislative appointment?
 - .23 (b) executive appointment?
 - .23 (c) election?
 - .23 (d) appointment by another authority?
 - .23 (i) board of education?
 - .23 (ii) superintendent of education?
 - .23 (e) a combination of the above?
 - (f) a method to be prescribed by the legislature (executive?)
- .23-24 (2) the tenure of persons holding these positions?
- .24-26 f. A provision addressing the financing of the school system?

If so, should the provision provide that:

- .26 (1) the system be funded out of general revenues?
- .27 (2) a school fund be created to be used only for educational purposes?
If a fund is created, should the Convention:
- .28-29 (a) earmark certain revenues for the fund?
- .29-30 (b) provide for investment of the fund?
- .30-31 (c) provide for distribution of the fund's income by:
- .30-31 (i) specifically designating the legislature to supervise and plan the distribution?
- .31 (ii) specifically distributing the income to the subdivisions of the educational system?
- .32-33 (3) the system be financed by school taxes?
If so, should the Convention specify:
- .33 (a) that such taxes be used only to benefit the schools?
- .33 (b) maximum tax rates?
- .33 (c) the taxes to be levied or "earmark" certain taxes?
- .33 (4) church-run schools be distinguished?

B. Higher Education

1. Should the Convention include a provision on higher education in the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands?