

ARTICLE V: REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Section 1: Representative to the United States. A representative to the United States shall be elected to represent the Commonwealth in the United States and to perform those related duties provided by law. The governor shall provide promptly to the United States Department of State and to the representative a certification of selection.

Section 2: Term of Office. The term of office of the representative shall be two years unless it is increased to no more than four years by initiative under article IX, section 1.

Section 3: Qualifications. The representative shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, a citizen of the United States, at least twenty-five years of age, and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least seven years immediately preceding the date on which the representative takes office. A different period of residence and domicile may be provided by law. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office unless a full pardon has been granted.

Section 4: Annual Report. The representative shall submit a written report by the second Monday of January of each year to the governor and legislature of the Commonwealth on the representative's official activities during the preceding

year and matters requiring the attention of the government or people of the Commonwealth.

Section 5: Compensation. The representative shall receive an annual salary and reasonable allowance for expenses provided by law. The salary may not be changed during a term of office.

Section 6: Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy in the office of representative to the United States, the governor shall appoint a successor with the advice and consent of the legislature.

Section 7: Impeachment. The representative is subject to impeachment as provided in article II, section 8, of this Constitution for treason, commission of a felony, corruption or neglect of duty.

Adopted in Committee of Whole and Plenary Session 11/30/76

ARTICLE VI: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Local Government. Agencies of local government shall be established as provided by this article.

Section 2: Election of Mayor. The qualified voters from Rota, Saipan, Tinian and Aguiguan, and the islands north of Saipan shall elect a mayor for each island or group of islands.

a) A mayor shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least twenty-five years of age, a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which the mayor takes office, and shall meet other qualifications provided by law. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in an area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for this office unless a full pardon has been granted.

b) A mayor shall be elected at a regular general election for a term of office of four years. A vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled by special election if one-half or more of the term remains and otherwise as provided by law.

Section 3: Responsibilities of Mayor.

a) A mayor shall serve on the governor's council established under section 5 of this article.

b) A mayor shall review the government services and appropriations provided by law for the island or islands he serves and shall submit to the governor findings or recommendations relating to these services or appropriations.

c) A mayor may investigate complaints and conduct public hearings with respect to local matters and may submit findings or recommendations to the governor.

d) A mayor shall recommend items for inclusion in the proposed annual budget, review the proposed budget before its submission by the governor to the legislature, and recommend amendments in the proposed budget relating to the island or islands served by the mayor. A recommendation relating to the budget made by a mayor shall be considered by the governor and rejected only for good cause.

e) A mayor may promulgate regulations on local matters as provided by law.

f) A mayor may expend for local public purposes the revenues raised by local taxes that are designated by law for those purposes after the expenditures are authorized by the legislature or by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the legislature representing the island or islands served by a mayor.

g) A mayor may appoint, supervise and remove those employees as are provided by law to assist in the performance of mayoral responsibilities.

h) A mayor shall perform other responsibilities specified by law.

Section 4: Compensation. A mayor shall receive an annual salary and reasonable allowance for expenses provided by law. The salary of a mayor may not be decreased during a term of office. Salaries and expenses for assistants to a mayor shall be provided by law.

Section 5: Governor's Council. The mayors elected pursuant to section 2 and the executive assistant appointed under article III, section 18, shall be members of a governor's council that shall advise the governor on local matters. The governor shall preside over the council which shall meet at least four times each year to consider matters concerning the relationship between the Commonwealth and its separate islands.

Section 6: Other Agencies of Local Government.

a) The chartered municipality form of local government shall cease to exist on the effective date of this Constitution. Local taxes paid to the chartered municipal governments on Rota, Saipan and Tinian shall remain in effect until otherwise provided by law and may

be expended for local public purposes on the island or islands producing those revenues if authorized by the legislature or by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the legislature from the applicable senatorial district. Ordinances and other regulations enacted by municipal councils on Rota, Saipan and Tinian that are consistent with this Constitution shall remain in effect until superseded by Commonwealth law or local ordinances or regulations enacted under this Constitution.

b) No additional agency of local government may be established for at least five years from the effective date of this Constitution, after which the legislature may establish agencies of local government in place of or in addition to the agencies provided for in this article with powers, elected officials and financing as provided by law. Agencies of local government may not be created for geographical units smaller than an individual island. New agencies of local government may not be established without the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the persons qualified to vote from the island or islands to be served by the proposed agency of local government.