

REPORT TO THE CONVENTION BY THE  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Subject: Committee Recommendation No. 64

Your Committee on Governmental Institutions recommends that the Convention meeting in Committee of the Whole adopt the attached proposed constitutional amendment relative to public education in the Commonwealth.


Your Committee's recommended constitutional amendment would establish an independent board of education to administer the elementary and secondary schools and an independent Northern Marianas College under a board of regents to provide for adult and continuing education, postsecondary and adult vocational education and professional training. The board of education would have from five to seven members, four of whom would be elected on a nonpartisan basis. One member would be elected from Rota, one member would be elected from Tinian, and two members would be elected from Saipan. The Governor would appoint at least one member and could appoint as many as three if necessary to ensure that at least one member is a woman and at least one member is a person of Carolinian descent.


Your Committee's recommendation also requires that the educational system recognize our cultural heritage and language needs while preparing our children for participation in the world at large. The proposed constitutional amendment also guarantees a minimum budget to the elementary and secondary school system and to the college in order to ensure that sufficient resources are dedicated to the educational needs of our people.

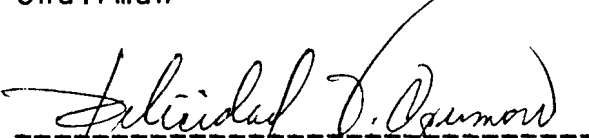
Delegate Proposals: Your Committee on Governmental Institutions considered Delegate Proposal Nos. 32-85, 33-85, 106-85, 117-85, 182-85, 193-85 214-85 and 266-85 and determined that the attached Committee Recommendation represents the best approach.


Therefore, your Committee strongly urges all delegates to support the attached committee recommendation.

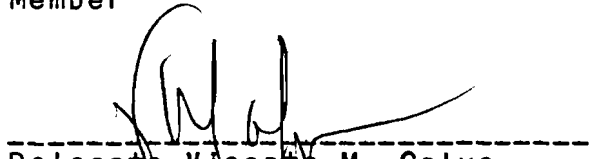
Respectfully submitted,

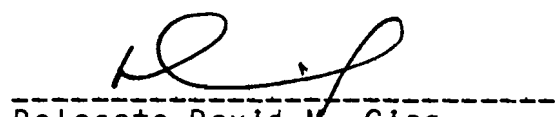
  
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Delegate Juan T. Lizama, Esq.  
Chairman

  
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Delegate Jesus P. Mainas  
Vice Chairman

  
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Delegate Felicidad T. Ogumoro  
Member

  
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Delegate Benusto R. Kaipat  
Member

  
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Delegate Vicente M. Calvo  
Member

  
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Delegate David M. Cing  
Member

  
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Delegate Alonzo Igisomar  
Member

SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, 1985

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION NO. 64

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To repeal Section 13 of Article III, and to amend Article XV relative to education.

BE IT ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

Upon ratification pursuant to Section 5 of Article XVIII of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution and Public Law No. 4-30, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is amended as follows:

1 I. Effective on the second Monday of January 1988, Section 13  
2 of Article III is repealed.

3 II. Effective on the second Monday of January 1988, Article XV  
4 is amended to read:

5 "ARTICLE XV: EDUCATION

6 Section 1. Elementary and Secondary Education.

7 a) Every person in the Northern Mariana Islands  
8 shall have the right to free, compulsory and public  
9 elementary and secondary education within age and  
10 educational levels provided by law. The educational  
11 system shall recognize the distinct and unique cultural  
12 heritage and indigenous way of life of the people and  
13 shall be committed to provide for the language needs of  
14 the people and the preservation of <sup>their</sup> cultural integrity  
15 within a global community.

16 b) Administration of the public elementary and  
17 secondary system of the Commonwealth shall be the  
18 responsibility of a superintendent of education appointed  
19 by a representative board of education. The board of  
20 education shall formulate policy and exercise control over  
21

Adopted by amended  
by Conv - 7/19/85

1 the public school system through the superintendent.

2 Other matters pertaining to its operations and duties  
3 shall be provided by law.

4 c) The board of education shall ~~have not less~~ <sup>be composed</sup>  
5 <sup>of</sup> ~~than five or more than~~ seven members, one of whom shall be  
6 elected on a nonpartisan basis from the first senatorial  
7 district, one of whom shall be elected on a nonpartisan  
8 basis from the second senatorial district, two of whom  
9 shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis from the third  
10 senatorial district, and ~~the remainder~~ <sup>three</sup> of whom shall be  
11 appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of  
12 the senate. At least one member <sup>appointed by the Governor</sup> ~~of the board of education~~  
13 shall be a woman and at least one member shall be a person  
14 of Carolinian descent. In the event that neither a woman  
15 or a person of Carolinian descent is elected, the Governor  
16 shall appoint three members in such manner as to fulfill  
17 the requirements of this section. In the event that  
18 either a woman or a person of Carolinian descent is  
19 elected, but not both, the Governor shall appoint two  
20 members in such manner as to fulfill the requirements of  
21 this section. In the event that both a woman and a person  
22 of Carolinian descent are elected the Governor shall  
23 appoint one member. Elected members of the board of  
24 education shall serve a term of four years commencing on  
25 the second Monday of January in the year following the  
26 regular general election at which they were elected.

27 Appointed members of the board of education shall serve a term  
28 <sup>concurrent with the term of the Governor</sup> ~~until their successor is appointed and qualified, following~~  
29 ~~the regular general election at which the governor is elected.~~

30 d) A member of the board of education shall be  
31 qualified to vote in the Commonwealth, at least

1           twenty-five years of age, and a resident and domiciliary  
2           of the Commonwealth for at least five years immediately  
3           preceding the date on which the member takes office. A  
4           longer residency and domicile requirement may be provided  
5           by law.

6                       e) The public elementary and secondary education  
7           system shall be guaranteed an annual budget of not less  
8           than fifteen percent of the general revenues of the  
9           Commonwealth.

10                   Section 2. Higher and Adult Continuing Education.

11                   a) The legislature shall establish by law a  
12           Northern Marianas College that shall be headed by a  
13           president. The president of the college shall be  
14           appointed by a representative board of regents. The board  
15           of regents shall be appointed to staggered terms by the  
16           governor and shall formulate policy and exercise control  
17           over the college through the president. The composition  
18           of the board of regents and other matters pertaining to  
19           its operations and duties shall be provided by law.

20                   b) The mission of the college shall be to  
21           provide the best quality and meaningful postsecondary and  
22           adult educational opportunities for the purpose of  
23           improving the quality of life for the individual and for  
24           the Commonwealth as a whole. The college shall be  
25           responsible for providing education in the areas of adult  
26           and continuing education, postsecondary and adult  
27           vocational education and professional development for the  
28           people of the Commonwealth.

29                   c) The college shall be guaranteed an annual  
30           budget of not less than one percent of the general  
31           revenues of the Commonwealth."