

June 14, 1995

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND PUBLIC FINANCE

REPORT NO. 1: ARTICLE VIII: ELECTION

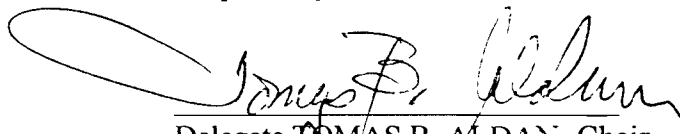
The Committee met on Monday, June 12, 1995, and Wednesday, June 14, 1995, to consider proposed amendments to Article VIII. The Committee considered Delegate Proposal 42 that had been referred to it by the Committee on Organization and Procedures.

The Committee considered whether to repeal Article VIII, Section 3, entitled "Election Procedures." This section authorized the Legislature to provide for the registration of voters, nomination of candidates and various other matters with respect to election procedures. It was included in the first Constitution in 1976 to address the need for an appropriate legal framework within which CNMI citizens could exercise their fundamental right to vote.

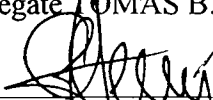
After the commencement of constitutional government in the Commonwealth in January 1978, the Legislature acted pursuant to the authority granted it by Section 3. The Commonwealth now has a comprehensive statutory scheme governing elections. There being no further need for Section 3, the Committee recommends that it be deleted from the Constitution.

The constitutional language reflecting the Committee's decision is attached. The Committee recommends this language to the Convention.

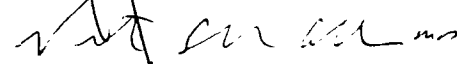
Respectfully submitted,




Delegate TOMAS B. ALDAN, Chair



Delegate JUAN S. TENORIO, Vice Chair



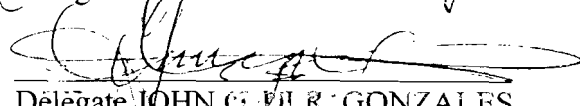
Delegate VICENTE S. ALDAN



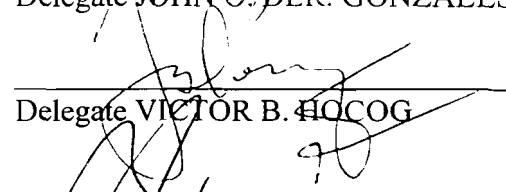
Delegate MARIAN ALDAN-PIERCE



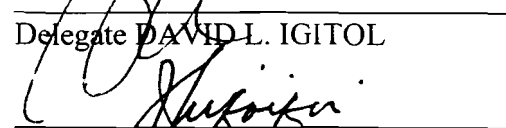
Delegate FRANCES LG BORJA



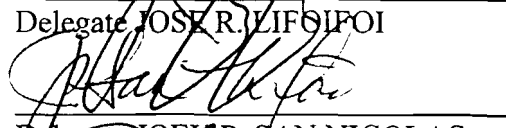
Delegate JOHN G. DLR. GONZALES



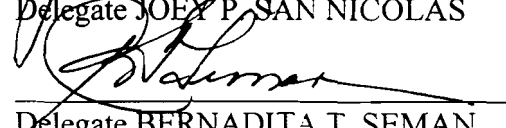
Delegate VICTOR B. HOCOG



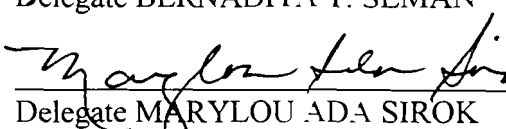
Delegate DAVID L. IGITOL



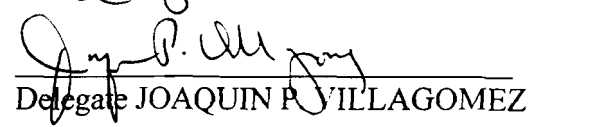
Delegate JOSE R. LIFOIFOI



Delegate JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS



Delegate BERNADITA T. SEMAN



Delegate MARYLOU ADA SIROK



Delegate JOAQUIN P. VILLAGOMEZ

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTION

Section 1: Regular General Election.

The regular general election of the Commonwealth shall be held on the first Saturday in November.

Section 2: Other Elections.

Other elections may be held as provided by law.

~~Section 3: - - - Election Procedures.~~

~~The legislature may provide for the registration of voters, nomination of candidates, absentee voting, secrecy in voting, administration of elections, resolution of election contests, and other matters with respect to election procedures.~~

Section 4: Taking Office After Elections.

Officers elected at the regular general election shall take office on the second Monday of January of the year following the year in which the election was held.

Section 5: Resignation from Public Office.

An elected public official shall resign from office upon certification to be a candidate for another public office, if the term of the office sought begins before the end of the term of the office held.