

July 12, 1995

Memorandum for the Delegates

From: The Committee on Organization and Procedures

Re: Delegate Amendments

Pursuant to the responsibilities of the Committee on Organization and Procedures for the general business of the Convention, the following procedures will govern consideration by the Convention of delegate amendments made during the process before and during second reading. These procedures do not apply to first reading, where the Committee recommendations are discussed more informally.

The purpose of these procedures is to ensure that every delegate has a fair chance to reflect on every proposed amendment, and that no one is rushed to a decision without enough time to understand what is at issue and what the pros and cons are with respect to the changes that are being urged. At the same time, because of the limited duration of the Convention, we need to be sure that our procedures are streamlined enough to get through all 22 articles by August 4.

General: After an article has passed on first reading, changes may be made in two ways:

. The Committee that reported the article to the floor will meet again on each article to do a thorough review before second reading for possible inconsistencies with other articles that passed on first reading, possible additional requirements for transition measures, and substantive changes due to additional input from delegates and others. When the Committee brings the article to the floor for second reading, the article may incorporate changes recommended by the Committee.

. Delegates who want to make changes may introduce amendments.

Delegate Amendment Procedures

(1) Germane: Delegate amendments must be germane. That is, the proposed amendment cannot deal with an entirely different subject matter than the section that is being amended.

(2) Writing: Delegate amendments must be in writing. A form for that purpose is attached.

(3) Processing: Delegate amendments will be processed by legal counsel in the same

manner that delegate amendments were handled. Delegates should take their proposed amendments to legal counsel. They will be numbered and put in proper form, and given back to the delegate to sign. It is particularly important that proposed amendments be put in proper form. Delegate amendments must be in constitutional language showing the exact words to be adopted by the Convention so that all delegates can understand exactly what is being proposed.

(4) Publication: Delegate amendments that have been signed and that have been authorized by the delegate to be distributed will be put in the Daily Journal, in the same manner as delegate proposals were handled. All delegates should review their Daily Journal to be sure they know what amendments are being proposed.

(5) Referral to Committee: COP will refer delegate amendments to the substantive committee that reported out the article to which the delegate amendment pertains. The Committee will consider the amendment and report its recommendation on all relevant delegate amendments when it brings the article back to the floor for second reading.

(6) Consideration on the Floor: Committee recommendations, incorporating delegate amendments that the Committee sponsors, will be considered on the floor. In addition, delegates may bring to the floor any amendment that has gone through steps 1-5 above and that the substantive committee has rejected, or revised. Delegate amendments must be presented at the time the Committee brings the article to the floor for second reading. Any delegate amendments offered for the first time on the floor during second reading will be referred automatically back to the Committee for its recommendation.

(7) Reconsideration: Reconsideration after second reading requires two days' notice.



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

Delegate Amendment No.

Date:

ARTICLE AND SECTION TO BE AMENDED:

COMMITTEE ASSIGNED:

It is proposed that the article passed on first reading be amended as follows:

Submitted by: _____
Delegate

Notes: