

PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE III

Section 17: Public Services

a) Public services shall be provided on an equitable and effective basis to the citizens of the Commonwealth. The governor shall ensure that all public services are provided in accordance with Commonwealth laws, policies, standards, rules and regulations.

b) The governor shall delegate to the mayors of Rota, and Tinian and Aguiguan, responsibility for the delivery of Commonwealth public services relating to community and cultural affairs, commerce, public works, lands and natural resources. The delegation by the governor shall specify the particular programs and services in each of these areas that are assigned to the mayor and the related administrative and financial duties that are included in the delegation. Any such mandatory delegation by the governor to the mayors relating to public services may be revoked by the governor for cause.

c) The governor shall delegate to the mayors of Rota, and Tinian and Aguiguan, at the beginning of their terms of office responsibility for enforcing Commonwealth laws, policies, standards, rules and regulations with respect to those programs and services delegated to them under subsection (b). The governor shall retain the unlimited authority and discretion to withdraw such delegation of enforcement responsibility in whole or part at any time.

d) The mayors of Rota, and Tinian and Aguiguan, may appoint under article VI, section 3, a resident department head to supervise the delivery of public services that have been delegated to the mayor by the governor. A resident department head shall submit a budget to the mayor pursuant to the budget instructions. No resident department head may be appointed to serve on any Commonwealth-wide board, commission or authority. The mayors of Tinian and Aguiguan, and Rota, in the exercise of the responsibilities delegated to them by the governor, shall ensure that the resident department heads execute their duties in accordance with the laws, policies, standards, rules and regulations of the Commonwealth and shall have the authority to discipline or dismiss the resident department heads for failing to do so.

e) The governor may delegate to the mayor of Saipan and the islands north of it responsibility for the delivery of public services as deemed appropriate.