

July 24, 1995

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND PUBLIC FINANCE

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS, SECOND READING

The Committee presents the following report to the delegates with respect to Article VIII: Elections, on second reading.

Delegate Proposals. The Committee's Report No. 1 is dated June 14, 1995. Thereafter, Delegate Proposal 620 was introduced. The Committee has considered this proposal and concluded that there is no need for primary elections in the CNMI. The political parties should be free to select their own candidates.

Floor Discussion. The Committee of the Whole discussed Report No. 1 on June 19, 1995. Several delegates suggested a need for a provision preventing voters from registering in districts in which they do not reside, and asked the Committee to review recent litigation involving the Mayor of the Northern Islands. The Committee discussed the Superior Court's opinion in Ruben v. Ogumoro, No. 94-14, which interpreted the provisions of the Commonwealth Code governing voter registration. The Committee concluded that the courts appear to be effectively enforcing the existing legislative scheme governing voter registration and there is no need for a constitutional provision.

Delegate Amendments. The Committee received no Delegate Amendments with respect to this article.

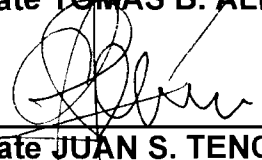
Committee Changes. The Committee recommends no further changes to this article.

Summary. The Committee recommends passage of the attached Article VIII on second reading.

Respectfully submitted,



Delegate TOMAS B. ALDAN, Chair



Delegate JUAN S. TENORIO, Vice Chair

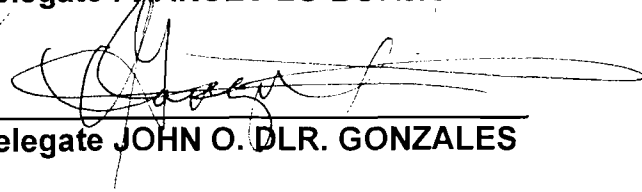
Delegate VICENTE S. ALDAN



Delegate MARIAN ALDAN-PIERCE



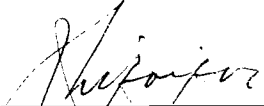
Delegate FRANCES LG BORJA



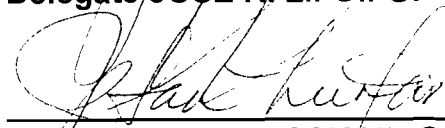
Delegate JOHN O. DLR. GONZALES

Delegate VICTOR B. HOCOG

Delegate DAVID L. IGITOL



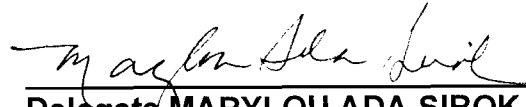
Delegate JOSE R. LIFOIFOI



Delegate JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS



Delegate BERNADITA T. SEMAN



Delegate MARYLOU ADA SIROK



Delegate JOAQUIN P. VILLAGOMEZ

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

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: 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 4: 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.