



# Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention -3671-

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Tel. No.: (670) 235-0843 • Fax No.: (670) 235-0842

July 31, 1995

The Honorable Juan S. Demapan  
President of the  
Ninth Commonwealth Senate  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President:

The Committee on Organization and Procedures of the Third Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention seeks your assistance in expediting the passage of House Bill 9-408, the "Special Constitutional Amendment Election Act of 1995. As originally passed by the House on May 8, 1995, the bill provides for a special election to put constitutional amendments proposed by the Convention before the voters six months after the November general election, on May 4, 1996.

The Constitutional Convention will adjourn sine die this Thursday, August 3. Without the timely passage of H.B. 9-408, the numerous amendments to the Constitution proposed by the Convention will go on the ballot this November 4. This will allow barely three months for public education regarding the proposed amendments. Because of the numerous substantive amendments proposed, this will not be enough time for the voters to become sufficiently informed on the critical issues at stake. The partisan climate of a general election is likely to overshadow the very important issues raised by the constitutional amendments.

Mr. President, the Constitutional Convention has worked long and hard to formulate constitutional amendments to put before the voters. We now ask for your assistance to ensure that they have sufficient time to consider them and set the course of the Commonwealth for the next twenty-five years.

Si Yuus Maase.

Sincerely,

  
Herman T. Guerrero  
President

cc: Senate Members



*The House of Representatives*  
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. Box 586  
Saipan, MP 96950

-3672-

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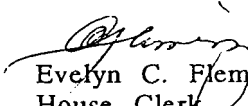
The Honorable Ricardo Atalig  
Acting President of the Senate  
Ninth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting President Atalig:

This is to inform you that on July 14, 1995, the House of Representatives, in its First Day, Fourth Special Session, adopted a motion to amend House Bill No. 9-408, S.D.2 (Special Constitutional Amendment Election Act of 1995) to delete all references to Senate amendments.

I am transmitting again for further Senate action House Bill No. 9-408, S.D.2, now in the form of H.S.1.

Sincerely,

  
Evelyn C. Fleming  
House Clerk

Attachment

NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

H. B. NO. 9-408, S.D.2, H.S.1

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1995

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To provide for a special election to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution which may be submitted by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1           Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the Special Constitutional  
2 Amendment Election Act of 1995.

3           Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that the Pre-Convention  
4 Committee of the Third Constitutional Convention has requested that the  
5 Legislature provide for a special election to consider constitutional  
6 amendments, instead of putting the amendments on the ballot of the general  
7 election of November 1995.

8           There are two compelling reasons for holding a special election. First, it  
9 appears that the Convention will not complete its work until August of 1995.  
10 This would allow only three months for public education, discussion and  
11 debate. These important issues should be given more time.

12           Second, if the amendments are placed on the general election ballot, it is  
13 likely that the Constitutional issues will become part of the general election  
14 campaign, and will be mixed with partisan politics.

15           For this reasons, the Legislature finds that the amendments should be  
16 considered separately, in a special election to be held at least six months after  
17 the end of the Convention.

18           Section 3. Special Election.

19           a) Authority. Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 5(a) of the  
20 Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the  
21 Commonwealth Legislature hereby provides for a special election to  
22 consider those amendments to the Constitution which may be proposed  
23 by the Third Northern Marianas Islands Constitutional Convention.

1                   b) Date of election. The special election shall be held on the first  
2 Saturday following the date that is six months after the end of the 1995  
3 General Election.

4                   c) Scope of election. The election shall only consider those  
5 Constitutional amendments proposed by the Third Constitutional  
6 Convention.

7                   Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application  
8 of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by  
9 a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application  
10 of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is  
11 held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

12                   Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein  
13 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract  
14 or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order  
15 adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any  
16 proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this  
17 Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any  
18 liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this  
19 Act becomes effective.

20                   Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
21 the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

DATE: Prefiled 05/05/95  
          Introduced 05/08/95

Introduced by: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Jesus T. Attao

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta

Reviewed for legal sufficiency: /s/ Maya B. Kara