

NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FOURTH REG. SESSION, 1995

H. B. NO. 9-468

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To provide for a special election to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution 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 a special election to consider constitutional amendments,
6 instead of placing the amendments on the ballot of the general election of
7 November 1995.

8 There are two compelling reasons for holding a special election. First,
9 the Convention completed its work on August 3, 1995. This allows only three
10 months for public education, discussion and debate. These important issues
11 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 these reasons, the Legislature finds that 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 Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.

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1 (b) Date of Election. The special election shall be held on the
2 first Saturday of March 1996.

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

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

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13 or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order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

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

Date: Aug. 29, 1995
Prefiled: 8-30-95

Introduced By: [Signature]
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider
[Signature]
Tony T. Torres

Approved for legal sufficiency: _____
House Legal Counsel