



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FROILAN C. TENORIO
Governor

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06 OCT 1995

The Honorable Diego T. Benavente
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ninth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Juan S. Demapan
President of the Senate
Ninth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill Number 9-209, "The Special Constitutional Amendment Act of 1995".

I have carefully considered both sides of this issue. I understand that the Post Con-Con Committee changed its position and requested that the election be held in November. The Committee felt that the necessary public education and discussion could be held in the next few weeks. The Committee also pointed out that a March election would cost more money, and might not have as much public participation as a general election.

On the other hand, it appears that the public is not yet very well informed on the issues. The Committee has done an excellent job publicizing the Convention's work, but it is not enough. I think it may well take four more months to do the job.

Additionally, I know that many of the candidates for public office this November are concerned about running on the same ballot as the proposed amendments. They are already being asked to take positions for or against particular constitutional changes. I feel that this is unfair, both to the candidates and to the Convention. The candidates should be judged on issues and character, and the Convention's work should be judged on its own merits.

As to the additional expense of the election, I am confident that the Legislature will act responsibly, and will provide funding in some appropriate manner.

This bill becomes law as Public Law 9-56.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Froilan C. Tenorio".

FROILAN C. TENORIO

THE SENATE
NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 1995

PUBLIC LAW NO. 9-56
SENATE BILL NO. 9-209

AN ACT

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

Offered by Senators Thomas P. Villagomez; Henry DLG. San Nicolas;
Eusebio A. Hocog; and Jesus R. Sablan

DATE: September 25, 1995

SENATE ACTION

Second and Final Reading: September 25, 1995

HOUSE ACTION

First and Final Reading: September 27, 1995


DAVID M. CING
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

**NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

PUBLIC LAW NO. 9-56
SENATE BILL
NO. 9-209

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 1995

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 Legislature
5 provide a special election to consider constitutional amendments, instead of placing
6 the amendments on the ballot of the general election of November 1995.

7 There are two compelling reasons for holding a special election. First, the
8 Convention completed its work on August 3, 1995. This allows only three months for
9 public education, discussion and debate. These important issues should be given
10 more time.

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

1 For these reasons, the Legislature finds that amendments should be considered
2 separately, in a special election to be held at least six months after the end of the
3 Convention.

4 Section 3. Special Election.

5 (a) Authority. Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 5(a) of the
6 Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
7 Commonwealth Legislature hereby provides for a special election to consider
8 those amendments to the Constitution which may be proposed by the Third
9 Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.

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

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

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

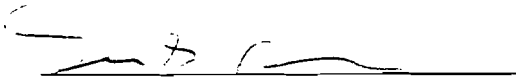
19 Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
20 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
21 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the
22 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall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

PUBLIC LAW NO. 9-56
SENATE BILL NO. 9-209

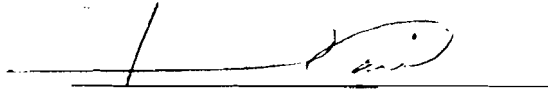
1 Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
2 Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:



JUAN S. DEMAPAN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



DAVID M. QING
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this *6th* day of *October*, 1995.



FROILAN C. TENORIO
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS