



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FROILAN C. TENORIO  
Governor

JESUS C. BORJA  
Lt. Governor

Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 664-2200  
Fax: (670) 664-2211

08 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**

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**AN ACT**

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

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

**DATE:** September 25, 1995

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**SENATE ACTION**

**Second and Final Reading:** September 25, 1995

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**HOUSE ACTION**

**First and Final Reading:** September 27, 1995

  
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**DAVID M. CING**  
**SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

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10/10/95

**NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

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

**FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 1995**

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**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.

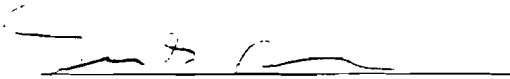
14 Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any  
15 such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of  
16 competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to  
17 persons or circumstances other 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.

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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:**



JUAN S. DEMAPAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

**ATTESTED TO BY:**



DAVID M. QING  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

*Approved* this *6<sup>th</sup>* day of *October*, 1995.



FROILAN C. TENORIO  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

October 4, 1995

To: Herman Guerrero

Fr: Nancy Weil

Re: Newsmaker lunch at Jade Garden, 11:30 am,  
Wednesday, Oct. 11, Sponsored by Society  
of Professional Journalists (SPJ)

SPJ would like to invite you to  
be our guest at the Newsmaker  
lunch Wednesday, Oct. 11, to discuss  
the issues on which the public  
will be voting re the Con Con Amendments.  
It's a good opportunity to educate.  
(Remember, principles over personalities -  
I'll remind Ruth of that, too).

Please let me know if your schedule  
permits, and who else you would  
~~like~~ think would be a good  
spokesperson on the issue.

Thank you, and Hapa Adai -  
Nancy