



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FROILAN C. TENORIO  
Governor

JESUS C. BORJA  
Lt. Governor

Capital Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

JAN 06 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

*P.L. 9-18*

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 9-217 ("H.B. 9-217"), entitled, "Northern Marianas Third Constitutional Convention Enabling Act of 1994," which was passed by the Ninth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

I certainly appreciate the Legislature's accomplishment in addressing each of the legal and practical concerns that I expressed in my comments to H.B. 9-4. With H.B. 9-217's enactment into law, the government is finally fulfilling its duty and the public's mandate of providing for a Third Constitutional Convention.

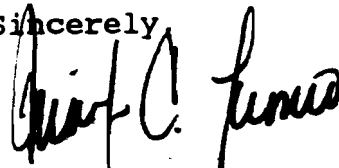
In order that there be no misunderstanding as to the timing of Convention related matters, the following are the critical dates that should be observed:

1. February 5, 1995 Filing Date Deadline for Delegates.
2. February 5, 1995 Deadline for the Legislature to appropriate funds necessary to pay for Convention costs. If such funds are not appropriated by this date, the Governor shall have the authority to reprogram funds to support the Convention.
2. March 7, 1995 Last day that the Board of Elections may hold a special election for the election of delegates.

3. April 6, 1995 Last possible day for the delegates to choose the Pre-Convention committee members. If the election of delegates is held earlier than March 7, 1995, the deadline for the selection of Pre-Convention members shall be 30 days following the date of the election.
4. April 6, 1995 Deadline for the Governor to call to order the Pre-Convention Committee.
5. May 6 - June 5 The first day of the Convention must be convened during this thirty (30) day period, which date is to be determined by the Pre-Convention Committee. The duration of the Convention shall be for no more than sixty (60) calendar days unless the President of the Convention decides that up to fifteen (15) additional days are needed, and that decision is voted upon and approved by at least 3/4 of the delegates.
6. August 4, 1995 Last day for the Convention to run if the Convention is first convened on June 5 and runs for sixty (60) days.
7. August 19, 1995 Last possible day for the Convention to run if it is first convened on June 5, runs the maximum sixty (60) days, and the President decides and the delegates vote to convene for the maximum additional fifteen (15) days.
8. November 4, 1995 Proposed amendments submitted to the voters at the regular general election

H.B. 9-217 becomes Public Law No. 9-18.

Sincerely,



FROILAN C. TENORIO

cc: Board of Elections

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, 1994

PUBLIC LAW NO. 9-18  
HOUSE BILL NO. 9-217, S.D.1

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## AN ACT

To provide for a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands; to prescribe its powers, duties, functions, and procedures; to provide for the election of delegates; to specify the method by which proposed amendments shall be ratified; and for other purposes.

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**Offered by Representatives:** Oscar M. Babauta,  
Diego T. Benavente, Vicente T. Attao, Maria T. Peter, Manuel A. Tenorio, Jesus T. Attao,  
Pete P. Reyes, Joaquin G. Adriano, Benjamin A. Sablan and Ana S. Teregeyo

**Date:** June 28, 1994

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### HOUSE ACTION

Standing Committee Report: None

First and Final Reading: June 28, 1994

Acceptance of Senate Amendment: December 2, 1994

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### SENATE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law

Standing Committee Report No. 9-67

Second and Final Reading: November 30, 1994

  
Evelyn C. Fleming  
House Clerk