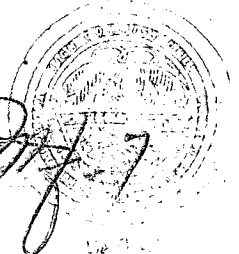


PRESS RELEASE



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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

22-9-7

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

AUGUST 25, 1965
RELEASE: 118-65

URGENT LEGISLATION SIGNED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER

Aug 25, 65

SAIPAN, M.I. (August 25)...High Commissioner M. W. Goding today signed into law a bill (Public Law No. 1-6) which delineates the primary powers and responsibilities of the various levels of government of the Trust Territory. The bill was introduced into the General Assembly of the Congress on July 21 and designated "urgent" by the High Commissioner since the powers and responsibilities of other levels of government depend largely on powers granted to them by the Congress of Micronesia.

Other legislation signed today included Public Law No. 1-7 which provides for trial by jury in certain criminal and civil cases; Public Law No. 1-8 which provides a means for enacting and promulgating ordinances for the area in Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands District, used by the United States pursuant to use and occupancy agreements with the Government of the Trust Territory; and Public Law No. 1-9 which provides for levy of an excise tax on the use, distribution or sale of motor vehicle fuel.

Public Law No. 1-6 delineates the primary powers and responsibilities of the Trust Territory Government, district governments and local governments. Under the law, the territorial government, through the High Commissioner and the Congress of Micronesia, has the primary responsibilities among others for all problems of a territory-wide

concern, including activities involving relations with other government or government agency outside the Trust Territory; construction and maintenance of primary roads and harbor facilities; control of banking, organization of business corporations, business associations, credit unions and cooperatives, insurance, sale of securities, and public utilities, including the exclusive licensing of such activities; control of the establishment and operation of and investment in businesses and corporations by non-citizens of the Trust Territory; establishment and control of the terms and conditions under which importing and exporting licenses shall be issued; making of grants to districts and municipalities; exclusive control of import, export, and income taxes including any excise taxes which are collected on the basis of imports; support of all judicial activities in the Trust Territory; support of public education, public health; and law enforcement.

District governments have the responsibility for liquor control, land law, inheritance law, domestic relations, construction and maintenance of secondary roads, exclusive issuance of licenses for wholesale businesses, other than banking, insurance, sale of securities, and public utilities, including the exclusive right to collect fees for such licenses; imposition and collection of sales taxes; support of public education and public health.

Municipal governments also have certain powers which are subject to all territory-wide laws and all district laws of their respective districts.

Public Law No. 1-7 provides for trial by jury in certain criminal and civil cases. This law only comes into effect in a district whose

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district legislature has adopted it. It has no effect in any district whose district legislature has not adopted it.

In criminal actions only a person accused of a felony punishable by more than five years imprisonment or by more than two thousand dollars fine, or both, shall be entitled to a trial by jury.

In civil actions in the Trial Division of the High Court, parties are entitled to a trial by jury only where the amount claimed or value of the property involved exceeds one thousand dollars.

Under Public Law No. 1-7 a jury shall be of six persons or a smaller number as the parties may stipulate with the approval of the court.

Persons exempt from jury duty include members in actual service in the Armed Forces of the United States, members of the Insular Constabulary or police or fire department of the Trust Territory; and public officers in the executive, legislative or judicial branches of the Government of the Trust Territory or a subdivision thereof who are actively engaged in the performance of official duties.