

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

James A. Joseph, Under Secretary of the Interior
Chairman of the Commission.

Jesus Borja, of Saipan, Mariana Islands, the Assistant
Director of Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.

Agnes Manglona McPhetres, of Saipan, Mariana Islands,
a researcher for the Northern Marianas Vocational
Advisory Council.

Edward Pangelinan, of Saipan, Mariana Islands, the
elected representative to the United States for
the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Pedro Agulto Tenorio, of Saipan, Mariana Islands,
Executive Director of the Marianas Public Land
Corporation.

Myron B. Thompson, of Honolulu, trustee of the
Kamhemaha Schools Bishop Estate.

Phillip Burton, Congressman, U. S. House of Representatives.

PROPOSED AGENDA: FIRST MEETING NORTHERN
MARIANA COMMISSION ON FEDERAL LAWS

- OPENING REMARKS: Chairman, Northern Mariana Commission on
Federal Laws. Discussion of Commission purpose.
- COMMENTARY: Congressman Phillip Burton
Clyde Martz, Solicitor
Wallace O. Green, Acting Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs
- INTRODUCTIONS: By Chairman. Comments of Commissioners.
- DISCUSSION: Led by Chairman with Commission participation.
Suggested discussion topics:
- Review highlights of P.L. 94-241
- Commission by-laws
- Guidelines and criteria for recommending
applicability of Federal Laws to NMI
- BREAK: (Discretionary)
- Proposed format for statute memoranda
- Staff role
- Budget items
- Additional discussion areas
- LUNCH
- WORK SESSIONS: (To be developed)
- CLOSE: Discussion - conclusions, recommendations,
scheduling of next meeting and selection
of a proposed agenda.

BY-LAWS
OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMISSION ON FEDERAL LAWS
ESTABLISHED BY P.L. 94-241

Section 1 - The Commission.

1-1. The official name of the Commission shall be the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws.

1-2 - Membership. Pursuant to P.L. 94-241, the members of the Commission shall consist of seven persons appointed to the Commission by the President of the United States. At least four members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands who are and have been for at least five years domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana Islands at the time of their appointments. One member of the Commission shall be designated Chairman of the Commission by the President.

1-3 - Voting. Each member of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote. Action of the Commission shall be taken when four members vote in favor thereof. Every vote of the Commission shall be entered upon the minutes. Voting by proxy shall be allowed.

1-4 - Duties of the Commission. In accordance with Section 504 of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, P.L. 94-241, March 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 263, the Commission will survey the laws of the United States and make recommendations to the United States Congress as to which laws of the United States not applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands should be made applicable, to what extent and in what manner, and which applicable laws should be made inapplicable, to what extent and in what manner. The commission will make its final report and recommendations to the Congress within one year after the

termination of the Trusteeship Agreement between the Security Council of the United Nations and the United States of America. It may make interim reports before that time to the Congress as it considers appropriate. The Commission will, undertaking its duties, take into consideration the potential effect of each law on local conditions within the Northern Mariana Islands, the policies embodied in the law and the provision and purposes of the Covenant.

Section 2 - Meetings.

2-1 - Quorum. No Commission meeting shall be convened without a quorum of at least five commissioners being present.

2-2 - Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Commission shall be held at least three times a year at places designated by the Commission. Should the Commission fail at a meeting to designate the time and place of the next meeting, such designation shall be made by the Chairman.

2-3 - Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman at his discretion. He shall call a special meeting when requested in writing to do so by at least four (4) members of the Commission.

2-4 - Notice. Written notice of all meetings shall be given to each member of the Commission by the Chairman, not less than twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meetings; except that if the Chairman deems it appropriate or necessary, he may provide less than twenty-one days written notice of a meeting.

2-5 - Recessed Meetings. A recessed meeting shall be considered a continuation of the preceding meeting.

2-6 - Open Meetings. Except as otherwise voted by the Commission, all meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. Notice of meetings shall be published in the Federal Register and at least one newspaper of general circulation in the Northern Mariana Islands not less than seven days

in advance of a meeting.

Section 3 - Office of the Commission. The principal office of the Commission shall be at Washington, D.C.

Section 4 - Organization of the Commission. The Commission shall have a Chairman as designated by the President of the United States. The Commission shall elect a Vice-Chairman. The Chairman of the Commission or Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, shall:

- (1) preside at all meetings of the Commission and of the Committee as a whole;
- (2) appoint special committees of the Commission as may be required;
- (3) rule on all questions or points of order, subject to appeal to the Commission;
- (4) sign all resolutions of the Commission adopted in his presence.

Section 5 - Agenda. An agenda for each meeting of the Commission shall be prepared by the Executive Director in consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman. Copies of the agenda for each meeting shall be distributed to the Commissioners at least three weeks before the meeting, unless shorter notice of the meeting is provided under §2-4. Any matter not on the agenda so distributed may be considered at the meeting by consent of the majority of the Commissioners present.

Section 6 - Order of Business. The order of business at each meeting of the Commission shall be as follows:

- (a) Call to Order;
- (b) Roll Call;
- (c) Proof of Notice of meeting, or Waiver thereof;

- (d) Review and approval of minutes of previous meetings;
- (e) Report - the Executive Director;
- (f) Introduction of Staff Memoranda;
- (g) Old Business;
- (h) New Business;
- (i) Place and date of next meeting;
- (j) Other matters.

Section 7 - Rules of Proceedings.

(a) The presiding officer at any meeting may move, second, and debate from the chair, and he shall not be deprived of any right to vote or of any other right, power, or duty of a Commission by virtue of occupying the chair.

(b) A motion to reconsider may be made by a Commissioner on the prevailing side, and such motion may be made only either at the same meeting at which the action is taken or at the next succeeding meeting of the Commission;

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided by the Commission, or these by-laws, the proceedings of the Commission shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 8 - Minutes. The Executive Director shall have prepared and distributed to the Commissioners, minutes of each meeting. The minutes of any meeting may be approved without reading whenever they have been distributed at least 24 hours prior to the time of approval. The minutes of each meeting and any corrections thereof duly adopted, shall be signed by the Executive Director.

Section 9 - Committees. The Commission shall establish standing committees as it deems appropriate and necessary.

Section 10 - Commission Staff. There shall be an Executive Director of the Commission, together with other staff, as necessary, appointed by the Chairman, pursuant to the Civil Service laws, rules and regulations of the United States and subject to consultation with the Commission. Staff other than the Executive Director shall report to the Chairman through the Executive Director.

Section 11 - Administrative and Personnel Services. Administrative and Personnel Services, including provisioning of space, shall be provided by _____.

Section 12 - Amendments. These by-laws may be added to, amended, or repealed at any time by a three-fourths vote of the Commission. Any and all amendments, additions, or any such repeal shall be published in a like manner in which these original by-laws are published.

Approved by the Northern Marian Islands Commission on Federal Laws at its meeting of _____, 19__.

Date

Chairman