

A BILL FOR A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

To amend Article II, Section 16 of the Constitution and increase spending ceiling of the Legislature by 10% each Fiscal Year until it reaches \$4,000,000.

1           Section 1. Title. This Act may be referred to as the  
2 "Legislature Spending Ceiling Legislature Initiative Act of  
3 1989".

4           Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that the  
5 present ceiling of \$2,800,000 is an inadequate amount of  
6 funding for the operations and activities of both Houses of  
7 the Legislature. The Legislature is faced with numerous  
8 societal challenges which require an additional amount of  
9 research and analysis; thus necessitating increased  
10 professional staff and information retrieval technology and  
11 the overall amount of legislature costs and expenses.

12           In addition, the Legislature finds that the equal  
13 division of the present spending budget works to the  
14 disadvantage of the House of Representatives, which has  
15 fifteen members compared to the Senate's, 9 members. The  
16 Legislature finds that this situation can be remedied by  
17 excluding the salaries of the members of the Legislature from  
18 the Legislative budget ceiling.

19           Section 3. Legislative Initiative. The Sixth Northern  
20 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature does hereby approve the  
21 following Initiative to be placed on the November 1988

1 General Election in order for the people to express their  
2 judgment on the Legislative Budget Ceiling:

3 "A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

4 To amend Article II, Section 16 relating to the  
5 Legislature's Spending Ceiling.

6 I. Article II, Section 16 is amended to read:

7 Section 16. Budget Ceiling. There shall be a  
8 ceiling on the budget of the legislature.

9 (a) Appropriations, or obligations and  
10 expenditures, excluding salaries of the  
11 members of the Legislature, may shall not  
12 exceed ~~two~~ four million ~~eight hundred thousand~~  
13 dollars in any fiscal year, and shall be  
14 increased by 10% each year over the previous  
15 years budget, excluding salaries of the  
16 members of the Legislature, until the four  
17 million dollar budget ceiling is reached.

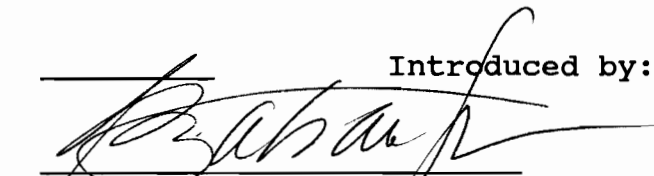

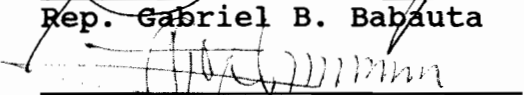
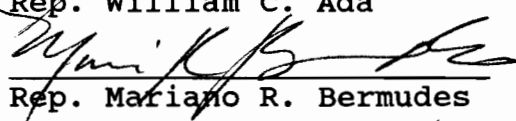

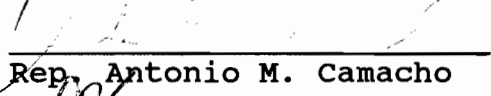
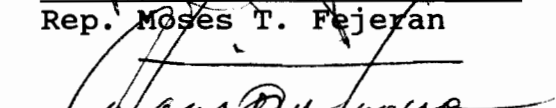
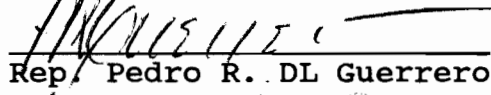

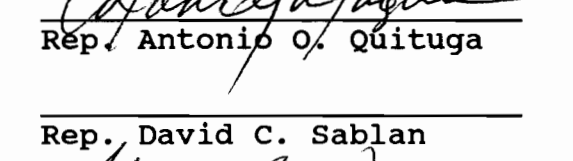
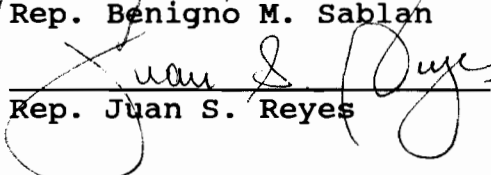
18 This ceiling on the legislative budget shall  
19 be divided equally between the Senate and the  
20 House of Representatives.

21 (b) Obligations and expenditures for the  
22 operations and activities of the legislature  
23 for the period October 1 through the second  
24 Monday in January of a fiscal year in which  
25 there is a regular general election, may not

1 exceed ~~seven hundred thousand dollars~~ on the  
2 spending authority ~~otherwise~~ available by  
3 law, ~~whichever is less~~. This ceiling shall  
4 apply to the various offices and activities in  
5 the same proportions as the annual spending  
6 authority provided by law."  
7

8 Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act  
9 is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the  
10 remainder of the Act shall not be affected by such holding.

11 Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect  
12 upon approval by the voters in the general election of  
13 November 1989.

Date: _____	Introduced by: _____
	
Rep. Gabriel B. Babauta	Rep. William C. Ada
	
Rep. Franklin T. Cabrera	Rep. Mariano R. Bermudes
	
Rep. Moses T. Fejeran	Rep. Antonio M. Camacho
	
Rep. Antonio O. Quituga	Rep. Pedro R. DL Guerrero
Rep. David C. Sablan	
	Rep. Benigno M. Sablan
Rep. Gregorio B. Sablan	
Rep. Vicente M. Sablan	Rep. Juan S. Reyes
	David C. Sablan
	Rep. Juan S. Torres