

SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST **Special** SESSION, 2010

S. L. I. NO. **17-05**SD1

A SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

To propose a constitutional amendment to Article III section 5 of the CNMI Constitution to change the salary reduction limitations when austerity holidays or other reduced work hour legislation is applied to government workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The legislature finds that Article III, Section 5
2 prevents executive branch personnel from sharing in the burden of austerity
3 measures. We believe it is unjust to ask our people to forego a portion of their
4 salaries while we remain exempt. Leaders must lead by example, we are not better
5 than our constituents, and should only ask them to sacrifice when we do so in kind.
6 Indeed, those in constitutionally protected positions are better placed to shoulder
7 the burden of reduced pay than the vast majority of our workforce. Therefore, we
8 present to the people this initiative:

9 **Section 2. Legislative Initiative.** The Seventeenth Northern Marianas
10 Commonwealth Legislature, by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the
11 members of each house present and voting, hereby proposes the following
12 amendment to the Constitution to be placed before the people for ratification:

13 **“A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT”**

14 To amend Article III Section 5 of the CNMI Constitution to allow for a reduction in
15 salary of elected officials during the implementation of government wide austerity
16 measures.

17 **Article III, Section 5 is amended to read as follows:**

18 Section 5. Compensation. The governor shall receive an annual salary of
19 twenty thousand dollars and the lieutenant governor an annual salary of eighteen

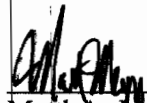
1 thousand dollars. Both shall receive reasonable allowances for expenses
2 provided by law. Upon the recommendation of the advisory commission on
3 compensation provided for the article II section 10, the legislature may change
4 the salary of the governor or lieutenant governor. Neither salary may be changed
5 during a term of office. This section shall not apply when legislation is enacted
6 to reduce government fiscal obligations by way of pay period or work hour
7 reduction, government shutdown, furlough or other similar legislative measure.
8 In the case of a legislated mandate to reduce government personnel costs, the
9 compensation of the governor and lieutenant governor shall be reduced
10 proportionately to that of government employees and under the same terms and
11 conditions.

12 **Section 3. Adoption and Transmittal.** The President of the Senate and the Speaker of
13 the House shall certify and the Clerks of the Senate and House shall attest to the adoption of this
14 Legislative Initiative. The Senate Clerk shall then cause the Initiative to be transmitted to the
15 Governor and the Board of Elections with instructions that the Board place it before the people of
16 the Commonwealth for a ratification vote, in conformance with Article XVIII, Section 5 of the
17 Commonwealth Constitution and 1 CMC § 6432.

4/12/2010

By: /s/ _____
Senator Paul Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:



Matthew Meyer

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