

SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2011

S.L.I. NO. 17-12

A SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

To amend Section (b) of Article XV of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the Board of Regents to revise the mission statement of the Northern Marianas College.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Legislative Findings.** The Legislature finds that unlike most colleges
2 in the United States, the mission statement of the Northern Marianas College is set forth
3 in the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. This prohibits the Northern Marianas
4 College from revising its mission statement as necessary from time to time. The
5 Legislature finds that effective organizations, especially post-secondary institutions, must
6 evolve responsibly in order to continually improve and grow as a reflection of the
7 communities that they serve.

8 The Legislature further finds that in order to comply with accreditation standards,
9 the Northern Marianas College must have a mission statement that defines the
10 institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, and its
11 commitment to achieving student learning and the statement must be approved by the
12 Board of Regents. Moreover, accreditation standards as well as best practices in higher
13 education require that the mission statement of the Northern Marianas College be
14 reviewed on a regular basis using the institution's governance and decision making
15 processes and be revised when necessary. Accordingly, the purpose of this legislative
16 initiative is to amend the Constitution of the Northern Marian Islands to allow the Board
17 of Regents of the Northern Marianas College to identify and set the college's mission
18 statement in order to assist the College conform to best practices in higher education and
19 to accreditation standards. It further strengthens the college's autonomy.

1 **Section 2. Legislative Initiative.** The Seventeenth Northern Marianas
2 Commonwealth Legislature, by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of
3 each house present and voting, hereby amend Section (b) Article XV of the Constitution
4 of the Northern Marianas Islands to be placed before the people for ratification at the next
5 general or special election:

6 **“A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:**

7 To amend Section (b) of Article XV of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana
8 Islands to read as follows:

9 b) The purpose of the college shall be to provide the best quality and
10 meaningful postsecondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of
11 improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a
12 whole. The college shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of
13 adult and continuing education, postsecondary and adult vocational education and
14 professional development for the people of the Commonwealth. The board of
15 regents shall establish the mission statement of the college.”

16 **Section 3. Adoption and Transmittal.** The President of the Senate and the
17 Speaker of the House shall certify, and the Senate Legislative Secretary and the House
18 Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this Legislative Initiative. The Senate Clerk shall
19 then transmit a certified copy of the Initiative to the Governor and the Board of Elections.
20 Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the Board shall
21 place this Legislative Initiative, with the Findings and Purpose section herein, before the
22 people of the Commonwealth for ratification vote at the earlier of the next regular general
23 election or the next special election established by law.

Prefiled:

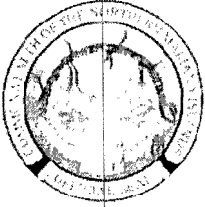
Date: 10/17/11

Introduced By: /s/

Sen. Paul A. Manglona

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Antonette R. Villagomez
Senate Legal Counsel



The Senate
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P.O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

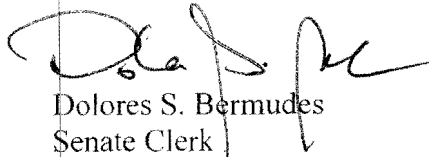
October 20, 2011

The Honorable Eliceo D. Cabrera
Speaker
House of Representatives
Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Speaker Cabrera:

I have the honor of transmitting Senate Legislative Initiative No. 17-12, entitled, "To amend Section (b) of Article XV of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the Board of Regents to revise the mission statement of the Northern Marianas College." The Senate passed the legislative initiative on First and Final Reading with the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members, present and voting, in its 8th Day, Fourth Regular Session on October 20, 2011.

Sincerely,



Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachment

Transmitted to HOUSE:

Received by:



Date: 10/24/11 Time: 9:58am