

Public Education on “House Legislative Initiative 16-11 to Amend Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution”

Question: Do you approve of House Legislative Initiative 16-11 to amend Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law Article XV, Section 2(a) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands? Yes or No.

Stated Findings: The Legislature finds that in the past decade the Legislature and the Governor failed to pass the budget for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2006, by the September 1 deadline. The Legislature also finds that the submission of the Governor’s proposed budget to the Legislature is on or before April 1 allowing sufficient time for members to reach an agreement by September 1, which provides the Legislature with five months to consider the budget. The failure to enact a budget has contributed to the Commonwealth Government’s cumulative deficit of approximately \$170 million, which is in violation of Article X, Section 6, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which requires that if an operating deficit is incurred in future fiscal years, that the government shall retire the deficit during the second consecutive fiscal year following the year.

The Legislature also finds that 23 U.S. states contain provisions to effectuate the shutdown of government services until a budget is enacted, further emphasizing the fiscal importance of enacting a budget. Thirty-seven states have provisions against carrying deficits into the next fiscal year, which further enforces the principle of a balanced budget. The Legislature additionally finds that in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth it is necessary that the government continue to provide essential services without interruption and effectuate the cessation of services that are not essential in a safe, effective, and orderly manner.

There are many costs associated with the failure to enact a budget including increased operational costs, the inability to deal with contractual obligations, and increased deficit spending resulting from working at the previous year’s spending levels. Other incalculable costs include the decline in public confidence in elected officials, damage to the image of the Commonwealth Government, and a poor credit rating.

General Summary: House Legislative Initiative 16-11’s priority is to ensure that on October 1, the beginning of each fiscal year, the legislator has passed a balanced budget. The House concludes that in the past not having a balanced budget at the beginning of the new fiscal year has caused the Commonwealth to spend outside its means until a balanced budget is finalized and passed. Accordingly, this initiative, attempts to ensure that both the Legislators and the Governor pass a balanced budget by October 1, by suspending their salaries if they do not meet their deadlines. If the Governor does not submit a “detailed and balanced budget” to

the Legislature by April 1, each year, then the Governor’s salary will be suspended until a detailed and balanced budget is submitted. If the legislators do not submit and pass a balanced budget by October 1, each year, then their salaries will be suspended until they do so. If a balanced budget is not passed by October 1, then this initiative states that until a balanced budget is passed the only money that can be drawn from the general fund is for certain government services and employees whose services are “essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth and to protect against damage to and destruction of property.”

Pros:

1. This initiative puts pressure on the Legislature and the Governor during this economic crisis to create a balanced budget by October 1, each year.
2. The initiative holds the Legislature accountable, if they do not balance the budget by October 1, their pay will be suspended until a balanced budget is passed.
3. The initiative holds the Governor accountable, if the Governor does not submit a proposed detailed and balanced budget by April 1, the Governor’s salary will be suspended.
4. This initiative ensures that the government will not spend money until it has created a budget so that it may spend within its means.

Cons:

1. The initiative states that if October 1 passes without a balanced budget, no non-essential money can be drawn from the general fund.
2. If a budget is not passed by October 1, all non-essential government workers may be put on austerity leave or have their salaries suspended until a budget is passed.
3. During a time of crisis, the government may need to spend money when a budget does not exist.
4. The salary suspensions that both the Legislators and the Governor face if a budget is not passed may force a budget through that is not in the best interest of the people in order that a budget is passed by the deadline so that the Governor and Legislators’ salaries are not suspended.



Edukasion Publika ni “House Legislative Initiative 16-11 para u Amenda i Attikulu III, Seksiona 9(a) gi Konstitusion”

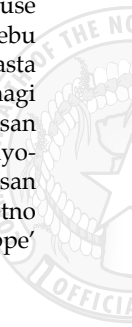
Kuestion: Kão un apreba i House Legislative Initiative 16-11 para u amenda i Attikulu III, Seksiona 9(a) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas para u pribi i linaknos maseha hãfa na fondo siha ginen i Fondon Heneråt solo ginen i apropositu siha ni fina’tinas i Attikulu XV na lai, Seksiona 2(a) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas? Hunggan pat Àhe’.

Yãma na Sinedda’ Siha: I Lehislatura ha sodda’ na gi ma’pos dies años na tiempo na i Lehislatura yan i gobietno ti mapãsa i budget para i años fiskåt siha desde i 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, yan 2006, ginen i Septiembre 1 na deadline. I Lehislatura ha sodda’ lokkue’ na i nina’hãlom propositon budget ni gobietno para i lehislatura pã’go pat antes di Abril 1 ni para u nina’i sufisiente tiempo para i miembro siha para u fãtto i kontrãta gi Septiembre 1, ni pribeniya i lehislatura gi halom i singko meses na tiempo para u konsidera i budget. I ti muna’otdena i budget ni manna’halom para i Gobietnamenton Commonwealth na cumulative deficit gi propiu \$170 milyon pesos ni ha kontra i Attikulu X, Seksiona 6, gi Konstitusion i Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha ni ha dimãnda na i operating deficit ha incurred gi mamamaila’ na años fiskåt siha, na i gobietnamento debi na u ritira u deficit gi durãnten i segundo año fiskåt ni uma’atattiyi gi sigiente sãkkan.

I Lehislatura lokkue’ ha sodda’ na 23 U.S. estãdu siha mañahguan probensyon siha ni para efektibu i setbision i gobietnamenton siha estaki i ma’otdena i budget mãs mo’na inemfisisa i empottãnten i fisiskåt ni inetdonan i budget. Trenta i dos(32) na estãdu manggai probensyon siha kontra i makãtgan i deficit siha asta i sigiente na sãkkan fisikåt ni mãs mo’na ha nã’i fuetsa i balãnsian i prinsipãt na budget. I lehislatura ha sodda’ mãs na i manera na para u prutehi i hinemlo’, siguridãt, yan minaolek i taotão gi Commonwealth ni nesisãrio na i gobietnamento ha kontinuha para u pribeniya manprisisu na setbisio siha sin u inestotba yan effectuate i cessation i setbisio siha ni ti manprisisu i gi halom i sinafo’,efektibu yan areklão na manera.

Kantidã na gãsto siha ni mana’achule’ yan i pineddong i otdenan i budget sãsaonão i inadilãntan i gãston operasion siha, ti mangkapãs na kontrãta yan i contractual obligations, yan i inadilãntan i malingon i gãsto ni rinisusutta ginen i che’cho’ gi manma’pos na gãsto na manera siha. Otro i manmakatkula na gãsto siha sãsaonão i tumunok i konfidentsian i publiku gi manma’ayek na ofisiãt siha, nina’tailayi i figuran i Gobietnamenton Commonwealth, yan bãban i credit rating.

Sumãrian Heneråt: I House Legislative Initiative 16-11 ha na’ siguru na i Oktubri 1, i tinituhon i kada sãkkan fisikåt, i lehisladot ha pãsa i binalãnsan salãppe’. I House ha detitmina na gi manma’pos tãya’ binalãnsan salãppe’ gi tinituhon i nuebu na sãkkan fisikåt ha na’fangãsta i Commonwealth gi hiyong i nina’sinã-ña asta ki i binalãnsan salãppe’ mafinalisa yan mapãsa. Sigun, este i initiative, ha chagi para u na’ siguru na parehu i lehisladot siha yan i Gobietno mapãsa i binalãnsan salãppe’ gi Oktubri 1, gi sinuspenden i suetdon-ñiha komu ti manmãtto gi iyo-ñiha deadlines. Yanggen i Gobietno ti ha na’hãlom i “detailed yan binalãnsan salãppe’ ” para i lehislatura gi Abril 1, kada sãkkan, pues i suetdon i gobietno siempre masuspende asta ki ma’entrega hãlom i detailed yan binalãnsan salãppe’



Yanggen i Lehisladot siha ti mana'hålom yan mapâsa i binalânsan salâppe' gi Oktubri 1, kada sâkkan, pues i suetdon-ñiha debi na u masuspende asta ki macho'gue. Yanggen i binalânsan salâppe' ti mapâsa gi Oktubri 1, pues este i initiative ha yâma siha na asta ki i binalânsan salâppe' mapâsa ayu ha' na salâppe' siña malaknos ginen i fondon henerât para i pumalu na setbision gobietnamento siha yan emple'âo siha ni setbision-ñiha man''essential para i hinemlo', sinâfo', yan minaolek i taotâo i Commonwealth yan para u protehi kontra i dâñu para yan destrososon propiadât''

Finabot Siha:

1. Este na initiative ha nâ'i fuetsa i lehislatura yan i gobietno gi durânten este i predikamenton ekonomia para u fa'tinas i balanced budget gi Oktubri 1, kada sâkkan.
2. I initiative ha go'te accountable, yanggen ti mana'balânsia i budget gi Oktubri 1, i suetdon siempre ma suspende asta ki i mapâsa i balanced budget.
3. I initiative ha go'te i Gobietno accountable, yanggen ti ha na'hålom i mapropne i detailed yan balanced budget gi Abril 1, siempre masuspende i suetdon i Gobietno.
4. Este na initiative ha na'siguru na i Gobietnamento ti u gâsta i salâppe' asta ki ha fa'tinas i budget kosa ki siña magâsta ti dipotsi na manera siha.

Kinentra Siha:

1. Este na initiative ha yâma na yanggen i Oktubri 1, maloffan sin i balanced budget, tâya' non-essential na salâppe' siña malaknos ginen i fondon henerât.
2. Yanggen ti mapâsa i salâppe' gi Oktubri 1, todou non-essential na hotnaleron gobietnamento siha siña manmapega gi austerity leave pat i suetdon- ñiha manmasuspende asta ki mapâsa i salâppe'.
3. Gi durânten i predikamento, i gobietnamento siña manesisita para u gâsta i salâppe' yanggen i tumâya' salâppe'.
4. I sinuspenden i suetdo siha parehu i lehisladot siha yan i Gobietno mafâna' mo'na yanggen ti mapâsa i salâppe', siña ma'afuetsas i salâppe' ginen i ti gof mâolek gi interes i taotâo ya siakâso na mapâsa i budget gi deadline pues i suetdon i Gobietno yan lehisladot siha ti u masuspende.



Ammatafal Toulap reel “House Initiative 16-11 iye ebwe siweli Article III, Section 9(a) reel Allégh Lapalap”

Ayegh: U aprebai “House Initiative 16-11 iye ebwe siweli Article III, Section 9(a) reel Allégh Lapalap ye reel Téél Falúw Kka Eféng Mellól Marianas iye ebwe pileey isisiwowul salapi kka sáangi General Fund, bwe ngáre schagh appropriations kka e toowow mereel alléghúl Article XIV, Sectio 2(a) mereel Allégh Lapalap ye reel Téél Falúw Kka Eféng Mellól Marianas? Awer me ngáre Saabw.

Ikka re schuungil: Legislature re schuungi bwe llól rágh kka eló nge Legislature me Sów Lemelem rese bwungúw salapiyal rágh kka 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, me 2006, sáangi September 1 deadline. Legislature e bwal schungi bwe isáliyalong Sow Lemelem pomwol budget ngáliir legislature nge wóól me ngáre mmwal April 1 iye re ayoor ótol membro kkaal igha rebwe bwungúw fengáli llól September 1, iye re ayoor ngáliir legislature limwoow maram igha rebwe aghiyágh wóól budget. I gha ese bwung budget aa toowow Gobennool Commonwealth aa ayoor deficit sibwe ira llapal \$170 million iye ese tabweey Article X, Section 6 mereel Allégh Lapalap ye Téél Falúw Kka Eféng Mellól Commonwealth, iye e tingór bwe ngáre operating deficit e yoorolong llól rágh kka e tooto, ye Gobenno ebwe ayuwuló deficit llól aruwowal ráágh ye e tabw mwiril.

Legislature e bwal schungi bwe 23 U.S. states re ayoor alléghéló akkayulóól mwóghutul Gobenno milli yaal alléghéló budget iye ebwe bwaari pirisisul rebwe ayoor budget. Eliigh me fisuuw states kka re ayoor allégh kka ese tabweey ngáre ebwe atolongoow deficits kkaal llól rágh ye ebwe toolong llól iye e amamaawa aweweel igha ebwe balance budget. Legislature aa bwal appashalong chungiyal bwe ngáre ebwe ammwala yaar health, safety me welfare aramasal Commonwealth bwe e pirisisu Gobenno ebwe ayoor essential services nge essóbw weires me ebwe akkayuló ikka ese ghi pirisisu nge efil.

Eghil ssogh milikka e associate ngáli budget ye ese bwung, ebwal toolong tumwóghótál operational costs, ese mmwel ebwe deal-li contractual obligations me tómwoghul deficit spending eyooretá sáangi trabwaghol previous years spending levels. Akkááw incalculable costs me bwal ppaschelong ghittighiitiwel yaar apúlúghúlúghúr toulap wóór elected officials, e anngawar ló mellól Commonwealth Government me eghi sóssóletiw yaar credit rating.

Aweewe: Ghi mmwal yaal House Legislative Initiative 16-11 nge ebwe allégh ló bwe October 1, bweletál ghal fiscal year, leghislator aa bwungúw ló balance budget, House e conclude-li bwe ighiwe igha ese yoor balanced budget bweletál fisikál year ye ffé eayoor ngáli Commonwealth ebwe yááli ngáli milikka, lughul faal nge mille yaal finalized me bwung balanced budget. Accordingly, initiative ekke melal bwe ebwe alléghúló bwe iir legislators me Gobenno rebwe bwungúw ló balanced budget sáangi October 1, ebwe akkayulóól óbwóósúr ngáre rese meet-li yaar deadline. Ngáre Gobenno ese atootolong “detailed me balanced budget” reel legislature sáangi April 1, llól ghal rágh, iwe óbwóósul Gobenno ebwe akkayulóól mille yaal atootolong “detailed me balanced budget. Ngáre Legislators

rese atootolong balanced budget me féerú bwe ebwe bwung balanced budget sáangi October 1, llól ghal rágh, iwe ebwe akkayúúló óbwóosur mille yaar féerú. Ngáre balanced budget ese bwung sáangi October 1, iwe initiative yeel e irátiw bwe mille yaal bwung balanced budget salapi ye schagh e mmwel ebwe toowow sáangi general fund iye ebwe yááyá ngáli schagh akkááw government services me schóól tarabwagho kka yaar angaang e “essential ngáli health, safety, me amweleer(welfare) aramasal Commonwealth me ebwe affáliir mereel damage me destruction of property.

Ghatchúl:

1. Initiative yeel e ayoorá weires ngáliir Legislature me Sów Lemelem llól nngówal economic crisis bwe ebwe ayoorá balanced budget ngáli October 1, llól rágh.
2. Initiative yeel e lo ngáliir Legislature bwe ebwe responsibilidad reel, ngáre rese balanced-li budget llól October 1, nge óbwóosur ebwe yúúló mille yaal balanced budget e passed.
3. Initiative yeel ebwal lo ngáli Sów Lemelem bwe e accountable, ngáre Sów Lemelem ese issáililong pwomol féer me balanced budget llól April 1, óbwóosul Sów Lemelem ebwe yúúló.
4. Initiative yeel ebwe apúlúghúlúghúw bwe Government e ssóbw yááli salapi mille yaal féerú budget bwe ebwe yááyá ngáli meeta.

Ngówal:

1. Initiative yeel e state-litiw bwe ngáre e luu ló October 1 nge ese yoor budget, esóór salapil non-essential ebwe bweibwogh mereel general fund.
2. Ngáre e luuló October 1 ese passed budget, alongeer non- essential government worker emmwel bwe rebwe isááliirlong llól austerity leave me ngáre emmwel ebwe yúúló óbwóosur mille yaal passed budget.
3. Llól ótol crisis, government emmwel ebwe yááli ló salapi igha budget ese exist.
4. Akkayúúlól óbwóos reer Legislature me Gobenno ngáre budget ese, bwung emmwel ebwe force-li budget ye ese lo llól yaar aramas mwuschel bwelle budget ebwe bwung llól deadline bwe óbwóosur Gobenno me Legislature e ssóbw yúúló.

