



THE SENATE
SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2011

SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE NO. 17-12, HD1

A SENATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

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

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

1 identify and set the college's mission statement in order to assist the College conform to best
2 practices in higher education and to accreditation standards. It further strengthens the
3 college's autonomy.

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

9 **"A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:**

10 To amend Section 2 (b) of Article XV of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana
11 Islands to read as follows:


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

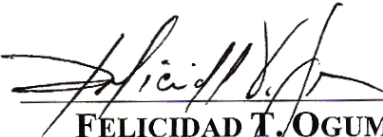
19 **Section 3. Adoption and Transmittal.** The President of the Senate and the Speaker
20 of the House shall certify, and the Senate Legislative Secretary and the House Clerk shall
21 attest to the adoption of this Legislative Initiative. The Senate Clerk shall then transmit a
22 certified copy of the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

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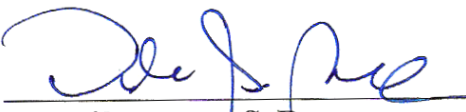
Passed by the Senate on June 28, 2012 and the House of Representatives on May 15, 2012 by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members in each house.

CERTIFIED BY:


PAUL A. MANGLONA
SENATE PRESIDENT


FELICIDAD T. OGUMORO
ACTING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:


DOLORES S. BERMUDES
SENATE CLERK


LINDA B. MUNA
HOUSE CLERK