NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

First Regular SESSION, 2015 S. B. NO. 19-08

A BILL FOR AN ACT

TO AMEND 1 CMC § 1104(A), REMOVING THE TIME OF 11:00 A.M. FOR THE INAUGURAL SESSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that the duration of the inauguration session in which the House of Representatives and Senate conduct its first session for organizational purposes has steadily increased over the past several years. The organization session of the Nineteenth Legislature for both the House of Representatives and the Senate lasted more than three hours. The Legislature finds it necessary to amend 1 CMC § 1104(a) which provides that the session for organizational purposes be conducted at 11:00 a.m. The organizational session time should be flexible rather than restricted to 11:00 a.m. The time for the organization session should be decided by the presiding officers of the legislature. Removing the specific time allows the presiding officers the opportunity to schedule their organizational sessions at different times so that the general public, family members and dignitaries may attend both inauguration sessions.

The purpose of this Act is to amend 1 CMC § 1104(a) to change the requirement that the organization session be conducted at 11:00 a.m. so that it is left open for the presiding officer of each house of the legislature to decide the time of the inaugural session.

Section 2. Amendment. 1 CMC § 1104(a) is amended to read as follows:

"Each house of the legislature shall:

(a) Convene for organizational purposes on Saipan at ~~11:00 a.m.~~ the time scheduled by the presiding officer of each house of the legislature on the second Monday of January in the year

following the regular general election at which members of the legislature are elected and shall be a continuous body for the two years between these organizational meetings."

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled:

Date: 1/22/15

Introduced By: _____
Senator Justo S. Quitugua

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

_____
Senate Legal Counsel