

EIGHTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1992

H. B. NO. 8-66, C.S.I. SD.1

AN ACT

To establish a Youth Congress under the administrative supervision of the Legislative Bureau of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; to enumerate the composition of its membership and functions, and for other purposes.

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE EIGHTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:*

1 Section 1. Title. This Act may be known and cited as the “Northern
2 Mariana Islands Youth Congress Act of 1993”.

3 Section 2. Puroose. The purpose of this Act is to establish a youth
4 congress under the administrative supervision of the Legislative Bureau of the
5 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and to provide a system which
6 allows the youth to prepare to meet the challenges of the future and to make
7 recommendations to the policy makers on youth programs.

8 Section 3. Findinas. The Legislature finds that:

9 (a) Policies on youth and youth programs and activities are lacking
10 in the Commonwealth.

11 (b) Juvenile offenses in the Commonwealth have increased by
12 over 56 percent from 1982 to 1992.

13 (c) The percentage of high school attrition has increased by 680
14 percent from 1982 to 1992.

15 (d) There is a need for the development of youth programs and
16 activities.

1 Section 4. Definitions.

2 (a) "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the
3 Northern Mariana Islands Board of Elections.

4 (b) "Bureau" means the Legislative Bureau of the Northern
5 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

6 (c) "Meetings" means all meetings and sessions of the Youth
7 Congress.

8 (d) "Youth" means a person between the age of fourteen (14) and
9 twenty-five (25) years.

10 (e) "Youth Congress" means the Northern Marianas Islands Youth
11 Congress.

12 Section 5. Establishment. There is hereby established a "Northern
13 Mariana Islands Youth Congress" under the administrative supervision of the
14 Legislative Bureau of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

15 Section 6. Functions. The Youth Congress shall act as a legislative body
16 with the power to make its own rules, establish committees, hold hearings, pass
17 resolutions, and to prepare and pass bills, which will be forwarded to the
18 Governor and the presiding officers of the Legislature for disposition.

19 The Youth Congress represents the Youth of the Commonwealth, their
20 desires and aspirations, and shall serve as training for the Commonwealth's
21 future leaders.

22 The Youth Congress shall hold a Youth Conference within the
23 Commonwealth at least once a year to report and discuss essential matters
2-l pertaining to the Youth of the Commonwealth.

1 Section 7. Composition. The Youth Congress shall be composed of
2 members to be known as Senators, to be elected from the following areas as
3 follows:

4 (a) Saipan Election Precinct:

5 (1) Precinct No. 1, three (3) senators;

6 (2) Precinct No. 2, one (1) senator;

7 (3) Precinct No. 3, three (3) senators; and

8 (4) Precinct No. 4; one (1) senator.

9 (b) Tinian Election Precinct:

10 (1) Precinct No. 5, one (1) senator.

11 (c) Rota Election Precinct:

12 (1) Precinct No. 6, one (1) senator.

13 (d) School Representation:

14 (1) -Two (2) senators from each private and public Junior
15 High School;

16 (2) Two (2) senators from each private and public Senior
17 High School; and

18 (e) Three (3) senators from the Northern Marianas College.

19 Section 8. Eligibility of Senators and Voters. No person shall be eligible
20 to vote for a senator or sit in the Youth Congress who has not attained the age
21 of fourteen (14) years, who will be twenty-five (25) prior to the expiration of the
33 term for which he seeks to qualify as a voter or as a member, or who has been
23 convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude and has not received a
24 pardon restoring his civil rights.

1 Section 9. Term-

2 (a) The term of each member shall be one (1) year.

3 (b) Any member who graduates from college or high school or
4 drops out of school shall automatically forfeit the balance of his term.

5 (c) Any member who is outside of the Commonwealth for a total of
6 90 days shall automatically forfeit the balance of his term.

7 Section 10. Elections. The general election to the Youth Congress shall
8 be held on the first Monday in August of each year. The elections for Precincts
9 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be conducted by the members of the House of
10 Representatives from those Election Precincts. The election for school senators
11 shall be conducted by the school principals and by the president of the college
12 at the schools the eligible voters attend, and at which the voters are officially
13 enrolled, and each voter shall be entitled to vote for the number of candidates
14 authorized for his school election precinct as provided for in Section 3 of this
15 Act. The eligible voter may vote both in the school and his election precinct.

16 The Executive Director of the Board of Elections or his designee shall be
17 responsible to:

18 (a) oversee the election process;

19 (b) develop the forms for petitions, ballots and tally sheets;

20 (c) provide the necessary ballot boxes and personnel to supervise
21 the election and count and tally the ballots; and

22 (d) verify and certify the results and forward such results to the
23 Governor, Commissioner of Education, President of the Northern
24 Marianas College, and the Presiding Officers of the Legislature.

25 Section 11. Petition. Candidates for election shall be non-partisan and
26 all candidates must obtain at least 50 signatures by petition in their Election

1 Precincts or schools from individuals who qualified to vote under Section 8. No
2 candidate shall run in both Election Precinct and school, but must select the one
3 in which he may be eligible as a candidate.

4 Section 12. Election Dispute. Any election dispute shall be resolved by
5 an ad hoc committee of not more than seven (7) members to be appointed by
6 the executive director of the board of elections. The executive director shall
7 serve as the chairman of the committee. The committee's decision shall be
8 final.

9 Section 13. Vacancies. Each vacancy shall be filled by the candidate
10 who received the next highest vote in that election precinct or school, except
11 that no person filing a vacancy shall hold office longer than the remainder of the
12 term for which his predecessor was elected. If there is no candidate to fill a
13 vacancy, a special election shall be held to fill the remaining term of his
14 predecessor.

15 Section 14. Session.

16 (a) Regular sessions of the Youth Congress shall be held every
17 three months on the third Saturday of the month exclusive of holidays for
18 one (1) day, commencing the third Saturday in October. Additional
19 session days, but not more than (3) days, are permitted from June 1 to
20 August 15 of each year.

21 (b) For the first organizational meeting until a speaker is elected,
22 the speaker of the House of Representatives shall preside over the
23 session. In the absence of the Speaker, the President of the Senate shall
24 preside.

25 (c) Sessions shall be held in the legislative chamber of the House
26 of Representatives of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

1 (d) The meetings of the Youth Congress and its committees shall
2 be open to the public.

3 Section 15. Oraanization and Qualification of Members. The Youth
4 Congress shall be the judge of the selection and qualification of its own
5 members. It shall elect its own officers consisting of Speaker, Vice Speaker,
6 Legislative Secretary and Floor Leader. It shall establish its own standing and
7 special committees essential to carry out its functions as set forth in Section 6 of
8 this Act. The Youth Congress shall adopt its own rules and procedures not
9 inconsistent with this Chapter or the Rules of the House of Representatives of
10 the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

11 Section 16. Quorum. The quorum of the Youth Congress shall equal
12 one-half of its members plus one. No bill or resolution shall be considered
13 passed unless, a quorum being present, a majority of the members present and
14 voting indicate by affirmative vote.

15 Section 17. Operations. The Legislative Bureau may provide the staff
16 services to the Youth Congress. The Youth Congress is authorized to employ
17 on a full time or part time basis staff consisting of an administrative officer, a
18 secretary and other essential personnel subject to the availability of funds. The
19 Youth Congress shall first consider utilizing the staff of the Legislative Bureau
20 before hiring the necessary personnel.

21 Section 18. Appropriation Authority. There is hereby authorized to be
22 appropriated from the Northern Marianas General Fund the sum of One
23 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1 00,000.00) to fund the operations and activities of
24 the Youth Congress.

1 Section 19. Expenditure Authority. The Speaker of the Youth Congress
2 shall be the expenditure authority of the funds appropriated under this Act. A
3 request for payment shall be certified by the Director of Finance for fund
4 availability.

5 Section 20. Compensation. Members of the Youth Congress shall be
6 compensated at the rate of twenty-five (\$25) dollars for each regular session
7 meeting they attend. Members from Rota and Tinian shall be provided air
8 transportation, per diem and other related travel expenses at the established
0 Commonwealth Government rates.

10 Section 21. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of
11 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a
12 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
13 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
14 shall not be affected thereby.


15 Section 22. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein
16 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
17 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted
18 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any
19 proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act
20 shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability civil
21 or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes
33 effective.

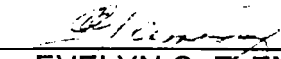
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Section 23. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

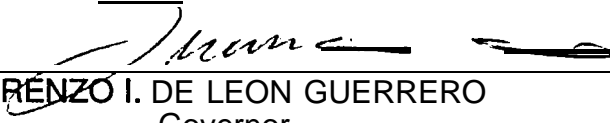
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:


THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Speaker of the House


EVELYN C. FLEMING
House Clerk

APPROVED this 13th day of SEPT., 1993


LORENZO I. DE LEON GUERRERO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands