

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1998**

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**A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE**

To propose a constitutional amendment to provide that only persons of Northern Marianas descent can vote on constitutional amendments affecting the protections against alienation of land.

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

Section 1. Legislative Initiative. The Eleventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting, hereby proposes the following amendment to the Constitution to be placed before the people for ratification:

“A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To amend Article XVIII, Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution to provide that only persons of Northern Marianas descent can vote on constitutional amendments affecting the protections against alienation of land in Article XII of the Constitution.

I. Article XVIII, Section 5 is amended to add a new subsection (c) thereto to read as follows:

(c) In the case of a proposed amendment to Article XII of this Constitution, the word “voters” as used in subsection 5(a) above shall be limited to eligible voters under Article VII who are also persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article XII, Section 4, and the term “votes cast” as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters.”

Section 2. Adoption and Transmittal. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall certify, and the Clerks of the Senate and House shall attest

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INITIATIVE NO. 11-1**

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to the adoption of this Legislative Initiative. The Senate Clerk shall then cause the Initiative to be transmitted to the Governor and the Board of Elections with instructions that the Board place it before the people of the Commonwealth for a ratification vote, in conformance with Article XVIII, Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution and 1 CMC § 6432.

**PASSED BY THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 13, 1998 AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JUNE 24, 1999 BY THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THREE-FOURTHS (3/4) OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE PRESENT AND VOTING.**

**CERTIFIED BY:**

/s/ Paul A. Manglona  
**PAUL A. MANGLONA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

/s/ Diego T. Benavente  
**DIEGO T. BENAVENTE**  
**SPEAKER**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**ATTESTED TO BY:**

/s/ Nicolasa B. Borja  
**NICOLASA B. BORJA**  
**SENATE CLERK**

/s/ Evelyn C. Fleming  
**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
**HOUSE CLERK**