

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

March 27, 1979

Honorable Oscar C. Rasa
Speaker of the House of Representatives
and
Honorable Lorenzo I. Guerrero
President of the Senate
First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Speaker Rasa and President Guerrero:

I have acted favorably on House Bill No. 1-130, H.D.1, S.D.1, with minor observation, "An Act to authorize the Governor to seek implementation of a Food Stamp Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands", as Public Law No. 1-28.

Section 3(a) imposes the duty upon the Governor to "consult closely with the Legislature prior to agreeing with the Secretary of Agriculture" on standards of eligibility, etc. U.S. P.L. 95-348. Section 3 does not require that the Governor agree with the Secretary but only that the Secretary consult with him prior to making the determinations. This subsection adds another consultation step which appears to be reasonable and will provide useful information to the Governor before he consults with the Secretary.

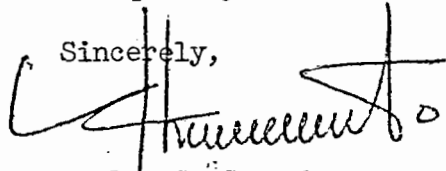
Section 3(b) gives the Governor an authorization not provided by Section 3 of U.S. P.L. 95-348. That law makes a geographical distinction that allows the Governor to employ other federally donated food (ie. U.S.D.A.) to "any part of the Northern Mariana Islands for which the Governor has not requested that the food stamp program be implemented." Section 3(b) of H.B. 1-130 gives an authorization to the Governor to request the Secretary to continue federally donated food to persons not eligible for the Food Stamp Program and goes beyond U.S.P.L. 95-348.

The goal of the Food Stamp Program is to safeguard the health and well being of our people by raising levels of nutrition among the low income households and at the same time attempt to override the

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many factors that limit the purchasing powers of low income households. I feel that this program will prove itself to be very beneficial and its implementation will greatly promote the general welfare for those who qualify for such assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camacho", with a large, stylized initial "C" on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Carlos S. Camacho
Governor

FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

Third Regular Session, 1979

AN ACT

To authorize the Governor to seek implementation of a Food Stamp Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Offered by Representative Oscar C. Rasa

Date: December 4, 1978

House Action

Referred to: Committee on Health, Education and Welfare

Standing Committee Report Nos. 1-148; 1-178

First Reading: January 8, 1979

Second Reading: January 10, 1979

Final Reading: March 1, 1979

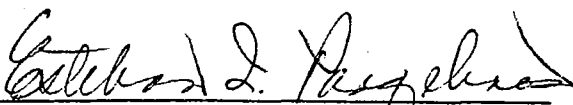
Senate Action

Referred to: Committee on Programs

Standing Committee Report No. 1-183

First Reading: January 30, 1979

Second Reading: February 6, 1979



Esteban I. Pangelinan, Clerk
House of Representatives

AN ACT

To authorize the Governor to seek implementation of a Food Stamp Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Authority. Subsection (c) of Section 3 of U.S.
2 Public Law 95-348 authorizes the Governor of the Commonwealth of the
3 Northern Mariana Islands, acting pursuant to legislation, to request
4 the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to implement a Food
5 Stamp Program in all of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6 Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that at the present
7 time, there are a large number of low income persons within the
8 Northern Mariana Islands who would benefit greatly by the implementation
9 of a Food Stamp Program in that the program would promote their general
10 welfare by raising nutrition levels among low income households.

11 Section 3. Implementation. The Governor is hereby authorized to
12 seek implementation of a Food Stamp Program in the Commonwealth of the
13 Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Section 1 of this Act. The
14 Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is hereby designated to
15 implement the Food Stamp Program and to provide administrative and
16 managerial services in accordance with federal laws and rules and
17 regulations established for the Food Stamp Program; PROVIDED, however,
18 that the Department of Cultural and Community Affairs shall consult
19 with the office of each mayor and shall coordinate its activities with
20 the mayors of Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, and the islands north
21 of Saipan. Notwithstanding the provision of Section 3, subsection (c)

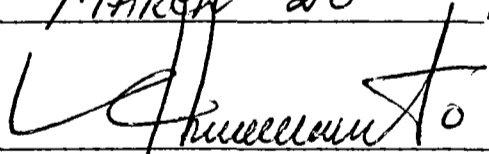
1 of U.S. Public Law 95-348:

2 (a) The Governor shall, by this Act, consult closely with
3 the Legislature prior to agreeing with the Secretary of
4 Agriculture on the household standards of eligibility,
5 deductions, and allotment values to be determined for the
6 Northern Marianas as determined by the prevailing economic
7 and social circumstances.

8 (b) The Governor is hereby authorized to request the
9 Secretary to continue the distribution of federally donated
10 food to those persons who would otherwise not be eligible to
11 participate in the Food Stamp Program.

12 Section 4. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its
13 approval by the Governor, or upon its becoming law without such
14 approval.

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MARCH 28th, 1979


Carlos S. Camacho
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas