

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1986

AN ACT

To make appropriations for the operations of the Legislative and Judicial Branches of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for Fiscal Year 1986, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Short Title. This act may be cited as the Legislative
2 and Judicial Appropriation Act of 1986.

3 Section 2. Purpose. This act appropriates the funds necessary for
4 the operations and activities of the Legislative and Judicial Branches
5 of the Commonwealth Government for Fiscal Year 1986. The Legislature
6 has appropriated the funds for these two branches because the amounts
7 involved are minimal or constitutionally limited. The appropriations
8 for the executive branch must await the submission of more current data
9 regarding needs of the various agencies and departments. The Legislature
10 has also set personnel ceilings for these branches in accordance with
11 Constitutional Amendment # 30.

12 Section 3. Definitions. As used in this act the word(s):

13 (a) "FTE" means full time equivalent. An FTE number
14 shall be the maximum number of employees which may be employed
15 by a branch or agency of government specifically enumerated in
16 this act. Any employee who works more than 40 hours bi-weekly
17 is a FTE. Unless otherwise stated, FTE numbers refer to
18 locally funded personnel only.

19 (b) "Operations" means appropriations for all lawful
20 activities other than personnel.

1 (c) "Personnel" includes appropriation for base
2 salaries, employer's contribution for social security,
3 overtime, night differential, hazardous duty and any
4 other lawful benefits.

5 Section 4. Appropriations. The Legislature hereby appropriates
6 the following sums from the General Fund for the operating costs of the
7 Legislature and the Commonwealth Trial Court of the Northern Mariana
8 Islands for Fiscal Year 1986:

9 (a) Legislature
10 1. Senate Operations and Personnel
11 (40 FTE) \$1,000,000
12 2. House of Representatives Operations
13 and Personnel (40 FTE) \$1,000,000
14 3. Legislative Bureau (40 FTE)
15 A. Personnel \$ 600,000
16 B. Operations \$ 200,000
17 TOTAL \$2,800,000
18 (b) Commonwealth Trial Court
19 1. Personnel (16 FTE) \$ 346,800
20 2. Operations \$ 103,200
21 TOTAL \$ 450,000

22 Section 5. Administrative Provisions.

23 (a) Judicial Account. The Chief Judge may request that
24 the Director of Finance transfer funds appropriated in this
25 act for the "operations" of the Commonwealth Trial Court into

1 a separate commercial account which shall be used for the
2 payment of obligations incurred for the operations of the
3 judicial branch. Funds from such account shall only be
4 expended upon the signature of the Chief Judge or his
5 authorized designee during his absence; Provided, that the
6 total balance of such account shall at no time exceed
7 \$30,000. The Chief Judge shall provide the Director of
8 Finance with a complete accounting at least quarterly, and
9 at any other time upon request to the Director.

10 (b) Expenditure Authority. The expenditure authority
11 for the funds appropriated in Section 4(a)(1) and (2) shall
12 be vested in the Senate President and the Speaker of the
13 House, respectively. The expenditure authority for the
14 funds appropriated in Section 4(a)(3) shall be vested in
15 the Executive Director of the Legislative Bureau; Provided,
16 that the Director shall maintain a separate account for the
17 amounts which are expended for the support of functions and
18 activities of each house of the Legislature. Neither of
19 these accounts shall exceed 50% of the amount appropriated
20 in Section 4(a)(3)B without the express written permission
21 of the presiding officer of the house whose account the
22 Director intends to debit for the expenses of the other
23 house; permission of the presiding officer of the house
24 whose account the Director intends to debit for the
25 expenses of the other house; Provided further, that any

1 expenditure from the amount appropriated in Section 4(a)(3)A
2 is concurred by the President of the Senate or the Speaker
3 of the House of Representatives, as to the amount of the
4 expenditure. The expenditure authority of the funds
5 appropriated in Section 4(b) shall be vested in the Chief
6 Judge of the Commonwealth Trial Court.

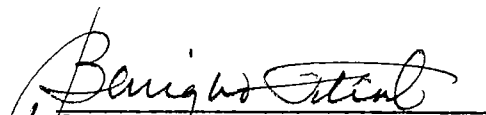
7 (c) Fiscal Management. The Director of Finance shall
8 insure through the allotment process that no branch expends
9 or obligates more funds than are available under this act.

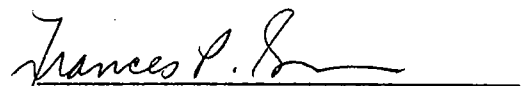
10 (d) Contract Requirements. Notwithstanding any other
11 requirements of the law, the contracts of the Legislative
12 Branch, including the Legislative Bureau, which obligate or
13 expend the funds appropriated in this act, shall no longer
14 be processed through the Office of the Attorney General.
15 All legislative contracts will be reviewed for legal
16 sufficiency by the Legislative Legal Counsels.

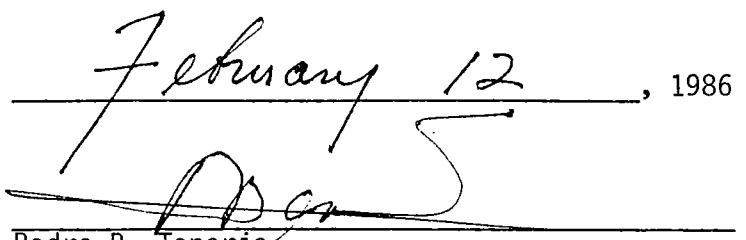
17 Section 6. Repealer. Public Law 3-97 is hereby repealed in its
18 entirety.

19 Section 7. Effective Date. Upon its approval by the Governor, or
20 upon its becoming law without such approval, this act shall be deemed to
21 have taken effect on October 1, 1985.

ATTEST:


Jose R. Lifoifoi
Speaker of the House


Frances P. Sablan
House Clerk


February 12, 1986
Pedro P. Tenorio
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands