
AN ACT

To reprogram and reallocate a portion of the money appropriated for the Legislative Branch for the operations of the House and Senate, to amend P.L. 5-1, to amend 4 CMC Section 1708(b) and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Short Title. This act may be cited as the Reprogramming
2 of Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 1986.

3 Section 2. Purpose. This act will reprogram \$200,000 of the money
4 appropriated to the Legislative Bureau for the operations and activities
5 of the House and Senate. The Legislature finds recent court decisions
6 will create a financial hardship for the continued operations of the
7 House and Senate. Therefore, since the Bureau has a surplus of funds
8 due to the fact that it has only been in existence for three fiscal
9 quarters, the Legislature must reprogram \$200,000 of those funds to be
10 divided equally between the House and Senate.

11 Section 3. Amendment. Public Law 5-1, Section 4(a), is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 "Section 4. Appropriations. The Legislature hereby
14 appropriates the following sums from the General Fund for the
15 operating costs of the Legislature and the Commonwealth Trial
16 Court of the Northern Mariana Islands for Fiscal Year 1986:

- 17 (a) Legislature
- 18 1. Senate Operations and Personnel
- 19 (40 FTE) \$ 724,109.50
- 20 2. House of Representatives Operations
- 21 and Personnel (40 FTE) \$ 724,109.50

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 3. Legislative Bureau (40 FTE) |
| 2 | A. Personnel and |
| 3 | Operations \$ 600,000 |
| 4 | Total \$2,048,219" |

5 Section 4. Amendment. Section 5(b) of Public Law 5-1 is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 "(b) Expenditure Authority. The expenditure authority
8 for the funds appropriated in Section 4(a)(1) and (2) shall be
9 vested in the Senate President and the Speaker of the House,
10 respectively; Provided that the Senate President shall divide
11 and distribute the sums appropriated in Section 4(a)(1) among
12 the nine Senators, not necessarily in equal division and in
13 separate accounts, to be established within the Department of
14 Finance, for each individual Senator, who shall have sole
15 expenditure authority for such funds. The expenditure authority
16 for the funds appropriated in Section 4(a)(3) shall be vested
17 in the Executive Director of the Legislative Bureau, or his
18 authorized designee; Provided, that the Director shall maintain
19 a separate account for the amounts which are expended for the
20 support of functions and activities of each house of the
21 Legislature. Neither of these accounts shall exceed 50% of the
22 total amount allocated by the Director for the support of the
23 operations of both houses, without the express written
24 permission of the presiding officer of the house whose account
25 the Director intends to debit for the expenses of the other

1 house. The expenditure authority of the funds appropriated
2 in Section 4(b) shall be vested in the Chief Judge of the
3 Commonwealth Trial Court."

4 Section 5. Amendment. 4 CMC, Section 1708(b), as enacted by
5 Public Law 4-24 is amended to read as follows:

6 "(b) Rebate Percentage. The rebate percentage shall
7 be 95% of the first \$7,500,000 of tax paid under this chapter
8 and 50% of and tax paid in excess of such amount up to
9 \$20,000,000 and 25% of any tax paid in excess of \$20,000,000."

10 Section 6. Administrative Provision.

11 (a) The reprogramming of funding from the Legislative
12 Bureau to the House of Representatives and the Senate is
13 conditioned upon the compliance of the Legislature with the
14 provisions of this subsection. Prior to the expenditure of
15 the additional funding provided to the House and Senate in
16 Section 3 of this act, each house must establish a plan
17 whereby the operations of both houses will be continued until
18 September 30, 1986. The legislature shall have the option of
19 reducing the number of hours that employees work per bi-weekly
20 pay period or reducing the salaries of House or Senate
21 employees and establishing a parity with the salaries of
22 Legislative Bureau employees. If the second alternative is
23 utilized the salaries of comparable Bureau employees may be
24 increased in order to avoid drastic reductions in the salaries
25 of House or Senate personal staff.

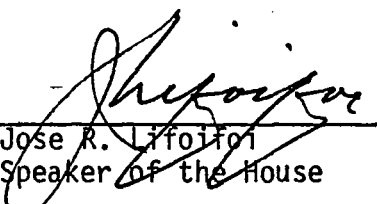
1 (b) The presiding officer of either house may delegate
2 to the Director, in writing, the temporary responsibility to
3 act as the Chief Administrative Officer of either or both
4 houses until the end of the fiscal year.

5 (c) Until September 30, 1986 there is hereby imposed a
6 hiring freeze on all employees of the Legislative Branch of
7 the Commonwealth Government; Provided, however, that in the
8 Senate the majority members shall have at least a maximum of 5
9 personal staff, and the minority members shall have a maximum
10 of 2 personal staff; in the House of Representatives, the
11 minority members shall also have a maximum of 2 personal
12 staff, and the majority members shall distribute the remaining
13 allowable FTE ceiling among their members. The number of
14 employees shall be frozen at the total number for the Senate,
15 the House of Representatives and the Legislative Bureau on the
16 effective date of this act and shall be that number, provided
17 further, that the members of the Legislature may continue to
18 hire personal staff up to the maximum number authorized by this
19 subsection and contingent upon the availability of Funds.

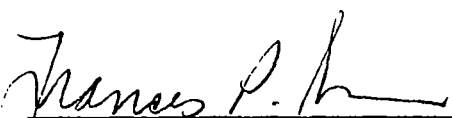
20 Section 7. Effective Date. This act shall become effective upon
21 its approval by the Governor, or upon its becoming law without such
22 approval, except that, notwithstanding any language in Section 7 of

1 Public Law 5-1 to the contrary, Section 3 shall be deemed effective as
2 of January 7, 1986 and Section 5 shall be effective as of January 1,
3 1986.

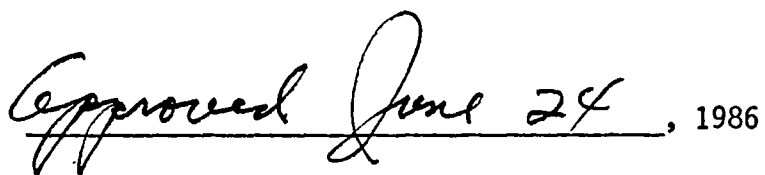
ATTEST:

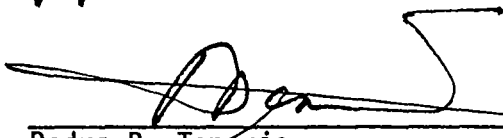


Jose R. Lifoifon
Speaker of the House



Frances P. Sablan
House Clerk


_____, 1986



Pedro P. Tenorio
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands