



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

Public Law No. 16-23  
**H. B. No. 16-144**

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AN ACT

To amend 1 CMC § 1604 reorganizing the composition of the CNMI Youth Congress, and moving the election date in order to allow ample time for student registration and other necessities; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as "The CNMI Youth Congress  
2 Reorganization Act of 2008."

3           **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Youth Congress finds that:

4                   (a) Pursuant to P.L. 8-27 the Youth Congress shall have, in addition to others,  
5 three senators each from Precinct No. 1, Precinct No. 3, and the Northern Marianas  
6 College;

7                   (b) Only two of three positions given to the Northern Marianas College were  
8 filled during the 10<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress;

9                   (c) Precincts in the election for the 10<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress continued its  
10 trend and registered a low turnout of twelve percent;

11                   (d) Public high schools on Saipan each have over seven hundred students, yet  
12 are represented by only one youth senator;

13                   (e) Precincts No. 1 and No. 3 are allotted three seats regardless of the  
14 population of their constituents and registered voters;

15                   (f) The Youth Congress aims to maximize efficiency regarding the  
16 representation and participation of their constituents.

1           Additionally, the Youth Congress election date needs to be deferred to a later date in  
2 order to accommodate new incoming students and to allow ample time for registration, to  
3 collect signatures on petitions, and other organizing obligations.

4           Therefore, it is the purpose of this Act to ensure better representation to the Youth of  
5 the CNMI by allocating seats to schools with larger enrollment and population and taking  
6 from the precincts which have shown modest constituents and registered voters and moving  
7 the election date to a more appropriate date that is fair and reasonable.

8           **Section 3. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 1604 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9           **“§ 1604. Composition.**

10           The youth congress shall be composed of members to be known as senators, to  
11 be elected from the following areas as follows:

12           (a) Saipan:

- 13                   (1) Election precinct 1, one senator;  
14                   (2) Election precinct 2, one senator;  
15                   (3) Election precinct 3, one senator;  
16                   (4) Election precinct 4, one senator; and  
17                   (5) Election precinct 5, one senator.

18           (b) Tinian:

- 19                   (1) Election precinct 6, one senator.

20           (c) Rota:

- 21                   (1) Election precinct 7, one senator.

22           (d) School representation:

- 23                   (1) Each private and public high school, with a student population of  
24                   20 or more and want to participate, shall have one senator;  
25                   (2) Each participating private and public high school with more than  
26                   300 students shall have one additional senator for every 300 students over  
27                   300; and

28           (e) Three senators from the Northern Marianas College.”

1           **Section 4. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 1607 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2           **“§ 1607. Elections.**

3                   (a) The general election for the youth congress shall be held on the third  
4 Monday in October, and each year thereafter. The elections for precincts one, two,  
5 three, four, five, six, and seven shall be conducted by the members of the House of  
6 Representatives from those election precincts. The election for school senators shall  
7 be conducted by the school principals and by the President of the Northern Marianas  
8 College at the schools the eligible voters attend, and at which the voters are officially  
9 enrolled. Each voter shall be entitled to vote for the number of candidates authorized  
10 for his school election precinct as provided in 1 CMC § 1604. A voter may vote only  
11 once, either in his/her respective school, or election precinct, but not in both.”

12           **Section 5. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 1611(a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

13           **“§ 1611. Sessions.**

14                   (a) Regular sessions of the youth congress shall be held every three months on  
15 the third Saturday of the month, exclusive of holidays, for one day, commencing the  
16 third Saturday in November. Additional session days, but not more than three days,  
17 are permitted from June 1 to August 15 of each year.”


18           **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
19 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
20 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
21 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

22           **Section 7. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
23 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
24 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
25 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
26 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
27 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
28 becomes effective.

1           Section 8. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
2 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

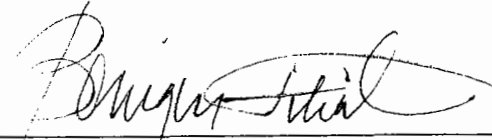
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

  
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ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EVELYN C. FLEMING  
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008

  
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BENIGNO R. FITIAL  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS