



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

01 NOV 2017

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

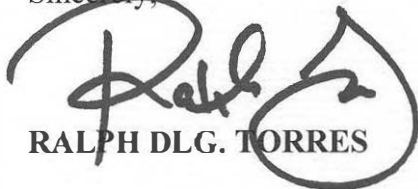
The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 20-15, SD1, entitled, "To establish a Regent Nominating Committee Process in the Selection and Appointment of Regents to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-26**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Northern Marianas College; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



THE SENATE  
Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

October 17, 2017

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Capital Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action Senate Bill No. 20-15, SD1, entitled: "To establish a Regent Nominating Committee Process in the Selection and Appointment of Regents to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachments



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 20-15, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To establish a Regent Nominating Committee Process in the Selection and Appointment of Regents to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Justo S. Quitugua

**Date:** February 10, 2017

**Referred to:** Committee on Education and Youth Affairs

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 20-09 adopted on May 10, 2017

**First and Final Reading:** May 10, 2017

***HOUSE ACTION***


**Referred to:** Education Committee

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 20-77 Adopted on 10/11/17

**First and Final Reading:** October 11, 2017

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**DOLORES S. BERMUDES**  
**SENATE CLERK**



THE SENATE  
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-15, SD1

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AN ACT

To establish a Regent Nominating Committee Process in the Selection and Appointment of Regents to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The CNMI Legislature finds that one of its top  
2 priorities is to ensure that the Northern Marianas College (NMC) continues to maintain  
3 accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

4           One way to protect NMC's accreditation is by strengthening the autonomy of the  
5 Board of Regents membership nomination process. The CNMI Legislature recognizes that  
6 the Board is the governing body, responsible for the quality and integrity of the institution  
7 and for ensuring that the institution's mission is being carried out.

8           Therefore, it is the intent of the CNMI Legislature to create an open and systematic  
9 nomination process for membership to the Board. This in turn would strengthen the  
10 autonomy and effectiveness of the Board to insulate NMC from undue government and  
11 legislative influence. Furthermore, the CNMI Legislature intends to make it abundantly  
12 clear to WASC that the People of the CNMI are determined to take the necessary measures  
13 to ensure that NMC maintains its accreditation.

14           **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 2 of the  
15 Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 1317 to read as follows:

16           **§ 1317. Regent Nominating Committee; Establishment.** There is established the  
17 Regent Nominating Committee with sole responsibility to identify, recruit, evaluate and

1 nominate all qualified candidates for non-student membership on the Board of Regents of  
2 the Northern Marianas College.

3 (a) Membership.

4 (1) The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members:

5 i. One (1) member of the NMC Board of Regents to be  
6 appointed by the NMC Board of Regents;

7 ii. one (1) Mayor-member to be appointed by the Mayor's  
8 Council – the Mayors of Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and Northern Islands shall  
9 serve on a rotational basis;

10 iii. one (1) member of the Associated Students of Northern  
11 Marianas College to be appointed by the Associated Students of Northern  
12 Marianas College;

13 iv. one (1) member of the NMC Faculty Senate to be appointed  
14 by the NMC Faculty Senate;

15 v. one (1) member of the NMC Staff Senate to be appointed by  
16 the NMC Staff Senate;

17 vi. one (1) member of the NMC College Council to be  
18 appointed by the NMC College Council;

19 vii. one (1) member of the NMC Alumni Association to be  
20 appointed by the NMC Alumni Association;

21 (2) Committee members shall serve a one year term.

22 (3) The NMC Board of Regents member shall serve as chairperson, and  
23 shall convene the meetings of the Committee. At its first meeting the Committee  
24 shall elect from among its members a vice-chairperson. The chairperson shall  
25 preside at all meetings of the Committee, shall act as the spokesperson of the  
26 Committee, and perform such other duties as the Committee shall direct.

27 (4) The vice-chairperson shall succeed to the duties of the chairperson in the  
28 absence or inability of the chairperson to serve. From among its members, the  
29 Committee shall select a secretary and any other officers that the Committee may

1 deem necessary.

2 (b) Duties.

3 (1) The Committee shall develop a statement of the selection criteria to be  
4 applied and a description of the responsibilities and duties of a regent, and shall  
5 distribute this to potential candidates.

6 (2) In making its nominations, the Committee shall consider 3 CMC § ~~1311~~  
7 1312(b): Board of Regents Establishment: Terms and Qualifications and the needs  
8 of the College; locate potential candidates; maintain a list of their names and  
9 contact information; match potential candidates with projected vacancies; review  
10 candidates' qualifications and references; conduct interviews; and carry out other  
11 recruitment and screening activities as necessary.

12 (3) The Committee shall be responsible for submitting a list of at least one  
13 (1) and no more than three (3) qualified candidates for every vacancy on the Board  
14 to the Governor.

15 (4) Nominations shall be made thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of a  
16 term, or within thirty (30) days following an unforeseen vacancy. ~~The CNMI~~  
17 ~~Legislature finds that it is critical that a vacancy on the Board be filled promptly.~~  
18 Therefore, the Governor shall make the appointment of the qualified candidate  
19 from a list of candidates provided by the Committee, which list shall contain at  
20 least one (1) and no more than three (3) qualified candidates submitted by the  
21 Committee within forty-five (45) days of a vacancy, subject to the ~~advice and~~  
22 ~~consent of Senate~~ requirements of 3 CMC §§ 1311 and 1312. ~~Provided that the~~  
23 The Governor may reject the candidates on the list provided by the Committee. If  
24 the Governor rejects the candidates on the list provided by the Committee, the  
25 Governor shall inform the Committee of said rejection and the Committee shall  
26 submit new candidates for consideration within 30 days. ~~The Committee shall~~  
27 ~~provide candidates for consideration within 30 days of the rejection of the list(s)~~  
28 ~~until the Governor appoints a candidate from the list generated by the Committee.~~

29 (5) The Committee shall make an annual report to the Governor and the

1 CNMI Legislature at the termination of each fiscal year setting forth a summation  
2 of its activities and any recommendations.

3 (c) Committee Meetings. The Committee shall hold at least one (1) meeting  
4 quarterly and as often as necessary. The Committee shall conduct its first meeting within  
5 thirty (30) days after approval of this Act. A majority of the Committee members shall  
6 constitute a quorum. The vote of five (5) Committee members shall be required for any  
7 action of the Committee. The Committee may adopt rules to govern its procedures.

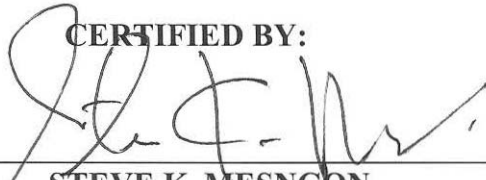
8 (d) Support Services. The President of NMC shall provide administrative and  
9 support services for the Committee and shall serve as ex-officio member on the  
10 committee.”

11 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
12 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
13 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
14 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

15 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not  
16 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under  
17 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.  
18 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant  
19 to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any  
20 way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the  
21 date this Act becomes effective.

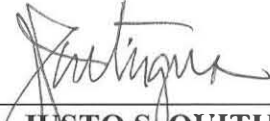
22 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
23 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE K. MESNGON  
ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:



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JUSTO S. QUITUGUA  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2017



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RALPH DLG. TORRES  
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands