



*Eighteenth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 8, 2014

H. L. I. 18-12

A HOUSE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

**TO AMEND ARTICLE XV, SECTION 1 (E) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO
INCREASE GUARANTEED FUNDING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SYSTEM FROM FIFTEEN PERCENT TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT.**

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 The Legislature finds that the guaranteed funding level of fifteen percent for the
3 Public School System was established in 1985. The level of funding public education in
4 other jurisdictions of the United States is closer to twenty-five percent of their annual budget.
5 Increasing the guaranteed portion of the annual budget to twenty-five percent is reasonable
6 and necessary to address the importance of education in the Commonwealth.

1 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE.**

2 The Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, by the affirmative
3 vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting, hereby proposes the
4 following amendment to Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth
5 of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6 **"A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

7 **ARTICLE XV: EDUCATION**

8 **Section 1: Elementary and Secondary Education.**

9 **(e) The public elementary and secondary education system shall be**
10 **guaranteed an annual budget of not less than ~~fifteen~~ twenty-five percent of the**
11 **general revenues of the Commonwealth through an annual appropriation. The**
12 **budgetary appropriation may not be reprogrammed for other purposes, and any**
13 **unencumbered fund balance at the end of a fiscal year shall be available for**
14 **reappropriation."**

15 **SECTION 3. ADOPTION AND TRANSMITTAL.**

16 The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate shall certify, and the Clerks
17 of the House and Senate shall attest to the adoption of this Legislative Initiative. The House
18 Clerk shall then cause the Initiative to be transmitted to the Governor and the Board of
19 Elections. Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 5 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE 18-12

1 Board shall place this Legislative Initiative, with the Findings and Purpose section herein,
2 before the people of the Commonwealth for ratification vote at the earlier of the next regular
3 general election or the next special election established by law.

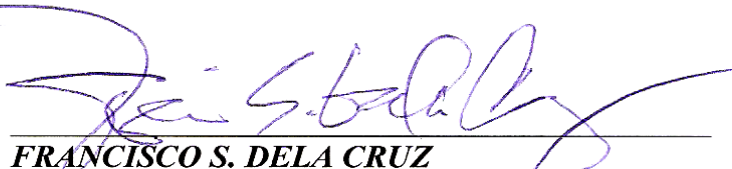
**PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JULY 8, 2014 BY THE AFFIRMATIVE
VOTE OF THREE-FOURTHS OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING**

Attested to by:



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ
Acting Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

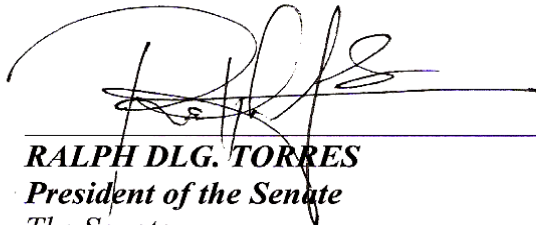
**PASSED BY THE SENATE ON JULY 10, 2014 BY THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THREE-
FOURTHS OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING**

Attested to by:



JOVITA M. TAIMANAO
Senate Legislative Secretary
18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Certified by:



RALPH DLG. TORRES
President of the Senate
The Senate
18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature