

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2876

To provide for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD (for himself, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FRAZER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Ms. PELOSI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Marianas
5 Delegate Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DELEGATE TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM**
2 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARI-**
3 **ANA ISLANDS.**

4 The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
5 shall be represented in the United States Congress by the
6 Resident Representative to the United States authorized
7 by section 901 of the Covenant to Establish a Common-
8 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union
9 with the United States of America (approved by Public
10 Law 94-241 (48 U.S.C. 1681 note)). The Resident Rep-
11 resentative shall be a nonvoting Delegate to the House of
12 Representatives, elected as provided in this Act.

13 **SEC. 3. ELECTION OF DELEGATE.**

14 (a) **ELECTORS AND TIME OF ELECTION.**—The Dele-
15 gate shall be elected—

16 (1) by the people qualified to vote for the popu-
17 larly elected officials of the Commonwealth of the
18 Northern Mariana Islands; and

19 (2) at the general election of 1996, on the day
20 and month set by Article VIII, section 1, of the Con-
21 stitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
22 iana Islands, and at such general election every 2d
23 year thereafter.

24 (b) **MANNER OF ELECTION.**—The Delegate shall be
25 elected at large, by separate ballot, and by a majority of
26 the votes cast for the office of Delegate. If no candidate

1 receives such majority, on the 14th day following such
2 election a runoff election shall be held between the can-
3 didates receiving the highest and the 2d highest number
4 of votes cast for the office of Delegate.

5 (c) VACANCY.—In case of a permanent vacancy in the
6 office of Delegate, by reason of death, resignation, or per-
7 manent disability, the office of Delegate shall remain va-
8 cant until a successor is elected and qualified.

9 (d) COMMENCEMENT OF TERM.—The term of the
10 Delegate shall commence on the 3d day of January follow-
11 ing the date of the election.

12 **SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DELEGATE.**

13 To be eligible for the office of Delegate a candidate
14 shall—

15 (1) be at least 25 years of age on the date of
16 the election;

17 (2) have been a citizen of the United States for
18 at least 7 years prior to the date of the election;

19 (3) be an inhabitant of the Commonwealth of
20 the Northern Mariana Islands; and

21 (4) not be, on the date of the election, a can-
22 didate for any other office.

23 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION PROCEDURE.**

24 Acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance
25 with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the North-

ern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may determine the order of names on the ballot for election of Delegate, the method by which a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate shall be conducted, the method by which ties between candidates for the office of Delegate shall be resolved, and all other matters of local application pertaining to the election and the office of Delegate not otherwise expressly provided for in this Act.

SEC. 6. COMPENSATION, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES.

Until the Rules of the House of Representatives are amended to provide otherwise, the Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a Member of the House of Representatives, and shall be entitled to whatever privileges and immunities are, or hereinafter may be, granted to any other nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representatives.

SEC. 7. LACK OF EFFECT ON COVENANT.

No provision of this Act shall be construed to alter, amend, or abrogate any provision of the covenant referred to in section 2 except section 901 of the covenant.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITION.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the term “Delegate” means
3 the Resident Representative referred to in section 2.

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