

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4510

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## 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”.

6       **SEC. 2. DELEGATE TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM**  
7                       **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARI-**  
8                       **ANA ISLANDS.**

9       The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
10      shall be represented in the United States Congress by the

1 Resident Representative to the United States authorized  
2 by section 901 of the Covenant to Establish a Common-  
3 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union  
4 with the United States of America (approved by Public  
5 Law 94–241 (48 U.S.C. 1801 note)). The Resident Rep-  
6 resentative shall be a nonvoting Delegate to the House of  
7 Representatives, elected as provided in this Act.

8 **SEC. 3. ELECTION OF DELEGATE.**

9 (a) ELECTORS AND TIME OF ELECTION.—The Dele-  
10 gate shall be elected—

11 (1) by the people qualified to vote for the popu-  
12 larly elected officials of the Commonwealth of the  
13 Northern Mariana Islands; and

14 (2) at a general election in the year 1998, on  
15 the day and month set by Article VIII, section 1, of  
16 the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the North-  
17 ern Mariana Islands, and at such general election  
18 every 2d year thereafter.

19 (b) MANNER OF ELECTION.—The Delegate shall be  
20 elected at large, by separate ballot, and by a majority of  
21 the votes cast for the office of Delegate. If no candidate  
22 receives such majority, on the 14th day following such  
23 election a runoff election shall be held between the can-  
24 didates receiving the highest and the 2d highest number  
25 of votes cast for the office of Delegate.

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

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

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

9       To be eligible for the office of Delegate a candidate  
10 shall—

11           (1) be at least 25 years of age on the date of  
12 the election;

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

15           (3) be an inhabitant of the Commonwealth of  
16 the Northern Mariana Islands; and

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

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

20       Acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance  
21 with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the North-  
22 ern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Common-  
23 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may determine  
24 the order of names on the ballot for election of Delegate,  
25 the method by which a special election to fill a vacancy

1 in the office of Delegate shall be conducted, the method  
2 by which ties between candidates for the office of Delegate  
3 shall be resolved, and all other matters of local application  
4 pertaining to the election and the office of Delegate not  
5 otherwise expressly provided for in this Act.

6 **SEC. 6. COMPENSATION, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES.**

7       Until the Rules of the House of Representatives are  
8 amended to provide otherwise, the Delegate from the Com-  
9 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall receive  
10 the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a  
11 Member of the House of Representatives, and shall be en-  
12 titled to whatever privileges and immunities are, or herein-  
13 after may be, granted to any other nonvoting Delegate to  
14 the House of Representatives.

15 **SEC. 7. LACK OF EFFECT ON COVENANT.**

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

19 **SEC. 8. DEFINITION.**

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

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