



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2006**

**PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-7**  
**H. B. No. 15-28**

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**AN ACT**

To amend Section 2 of Public Law 14-87; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds in comparing the accuracy  
2 of valid votes between the 2003 and 2005 general elections, valid votes increased  
3 substantially in the 2005 general election. In races where there are multiple candidates, the  
4 number of over votes were substantially higher in the 2003 general election. For the House  
5 of Representatives in the First Election District, 18% of the votes had invalid markings and  
6 thus were not counted. For the same election district, for the six seats in the 2005 general  
7 election, 99.17% of all the votes were correctly marked. In the race for the sole senate seat  
8 for the Third Senatorial District in the 2003 general election, 21% of votes were over votes  
9 and thus were not counted. In the 2005 general election, for two senate seats for the Third  
10 Senatorial District, 99.27% of all markings were valid. The race for Resident Representative  
11 to the United States presents an even more impressive 99.83% valid votes and the race for  
12 governor and lieutenant governor was 99.52% valid votes.

13           The Legislature further finds that it is in the best interest of the public to follow the  
14 ballot design used in the 2005 general election because it promotes less confusion and results  
15 in greater percentage of valid votes.

16           **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 2 of Public Law 14-87 is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18                           “§ 6004. Political Party: Rights.

19                           In addition to any other rights accorded in this part to a political party, a  
20 recognized political party shall have the right to a place on the ballot, in any election,

1           and to have the names of its candidates identified thereon with the party's name or  
2           other official designations. Any recognized political party which shall fail to poll on  
3           any general election, the percentage of total votes cast as required by Section  
4           6003(O)(3) shall lose its recognition as a recognized political party, and shall be  
5           denied a place upon the ballot unless it complies with the provisions of Section 6005.”

6           **Section 3. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
7           construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
8           repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
9           contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
10          The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
11          any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
12          becomes effective.

13           **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
14          Governor or becoming law without such approval.

**CERTIFIED BY:**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**OSCAR M. BABAUTA**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**ATTESTED TO BY:**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
HOUSE CLERK

**APPROVED on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2006**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**  
GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**