

MINA' BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 24(EC)

Introduced by:

Mark Forbes, 

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 17301. AND SECTION
17309. OF TITLE 3, GCA TO REDUCE THE
SIGNATURE THRESHHOLDS FOR PLACING A
REFERENDUM BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF GUAM
AND TO EXTEND THE PERIOD DURING WHICH
SIGNATURES MAY BE COLLECTED.

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Findings.** Under Guam law, a petition signed by ten percent
3 (10%) of registered voters is required to place an initiative measure before the
4 voters of Guam. Furthermore, sponsors of a proposed initiative have one
5 hundred and twenty (120) days to collect such signatures. However, Guam
6 law requires that sponsors of a referendum must collect valid signatures
7 totaling twenty percent (20%) of the number of people who voted for all
8 gubernatorial candidates in the last general election in which a governor was
9 elected, and have but ninety (90) days to accomplish this. This variance in
10 requirements makes no sense, and this act is intended to make the
11 requirements for placing a referendum before the voters the same as those
12 that apply to initiatives.

13 **Section 2.** Section 17301. 3GCA is amended to read:

14 **"Section 17301. Referendum: Proposal of.** A referendum
15 measure may be proposed by presenting to the Election Commission

1 petitions, as set forth in this Chapter, ~~signed by voters with bona fide~~
2 ~~signatures of voters equal in number to twenty percent of all votes counted for~~
3 ~~all candidates for Governor at the last preceding election at which a Governor~~
4 ~~was elected~~ ten percent (10%) of all registered voters at the time the proposed
5 referendum measure is submitted to the Election Commission prior to
6 circulation.”

7 **Section 3.** Section 17309. 3GCA is amended to read:

8 **“Section 17309. Official Summary Date for Proposed**
9 **Referendum Measure; Time for Circulation and Filing of Petitions.** The
10 date a summary of a proposed referendum measure is delivered or mailed by
11 the Election Commission to the proponents is designated as the ‘official
12 summary date’ for the proposed referendum measure.

13 No petitions for a proposed referendum measure shall be circulated for
14 signature prior to the official summary date. Petitions with signatures on a
15 proposed referendum measure shall be filed with the Election Commission
16 not later than ~~ninety (90)~~ one hundred and twenty (120) days after the official
17 summary date, and the Election Commission shall not accept petitions on the
18 proposed referendum measure after that period.”