Northern Mariana Islands Constitution and Legislation

1. Constitution (N.M.I. Const.)

Additional Resources

NOTE—Following a period of U.S. administration of the Northern Mariana Islands as a post-World War II trust territory [see, e.g., E.O. 11021 (May 7, 1962)], in 1976 Congress approved the mutually negotiated “Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States.” The commonwealth government adopted its own constitution in 1977, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978. The covenant was fully implemented on November 3, 1986, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 5564, which conferred U.S. citizenship on legally qualified commonwealth residents. Under the covenant, in general, U.S. federal law applies to the commonwealth, with certain exceptions. (1) The commonwealth is not within the customs territory of the United States. (2) Federal minimum wage provisions do not apply. (3) Federal immigration laws do not apply. (4) The commonwealth can determine its own tax structure.

¶ Presidential Proclamations … [National Archives & Records Administration] — These are proclamations concerning the commonwealth.

- No. 4534 (Oct. 24, 1977) — Approval of the constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands
- No. 4568 (May 9, 1978) — Application of certain U.S. laws
- No. 4726 (Feb. 21, 1980) — Application of certain U.S. laws
- No. 4938 (May 3, 1982) — Application of certain U.S. laws
- No. 5207 (June 7, 1984) — Application of certain U.S. laws
- No. 5564 (Nov. 3, 1986) — Full force and effect of the covenant to establish the commonwealth

¶ Executive Order 12572 (Nov. 3, 1986) — Relations with the Northern Mariana Islands
8. Bills

9. Public and Local Laws

16th Legislature (2008) [Pub. L. No. 16-1 et seq.]


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Northern Mariana Islands Rules of Procedure and Practice

1. Rules of Procedure
   - Commonwealth Court Rules
   - U.S. District Court Rules (D.N.M.I. R.)

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Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Law Sources

See also a page of links to sources of rules, maintained by the Administrative Codes and Registers Section of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

1. Commonwealth Register (C.M. Reg.)

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Northern Mariana Islands Ordinances and Home-Rule Charters

Ordinances are local laws, commonly organized into codes, that have been enacted by municipalities — cities, towns, etc. — and counties. Charters are organic laws (similar in function to a constitution) of those local government entities for which “home rule” is authorized by state law.

1. Charters
   Note that a charter could be included in a collection of ordinances (see below) instead of being separately accessible.

2. County Ordinances
   Click on the button keyed to the name of the county. NOTE: On some web sites, selecting the state is necessary for access to the ordinances link.

3. Municipal Ordinances
   Click on the button keyed to the name of the municipality. NOTE: On some web sites, selecting the state is necessary for access to the ordinances link.
Northern Mariana Islands Law-Related Periodicals

Periodicals providing on-line articles are linked here. See also links to web sites of all U.S.-published law reviews and periodicals.

Other Northern Mariana Islands Commentary

Northern Mariana Islands Law-Related Topical Web Sites

Northern Mariana Islands Court Information

See also links to state court web sites, maintained by the National Center for State Courts. Additionally, see Judgepedia, a Wikipedia-style web site, self-described as “an encyclopedia about judges and courts,” which is maintained by the Sam Adams Alliance (Illinois).

1. Web Sites
   • Judicial Branch

3. Addresses ♦ Names ♦ Numbers

Northern Mariana Islands Forms

Other Northern Mariana Islands Resources

1. Government-Related Web Sites
   Law Revision Commission ▼ Browse
   See also the Piper Resources list of sites.

Additional Resources
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Legal Research and Assistance

"The essence of legal research in two words . . . see ALSO!"

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