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CH. 7 YOUTH CONGRESS**

**CHAPTER 7
YOUTH CONGRESS**

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§ 7101. Youth Congress.

There is within the Legislative Branch of the government of Guam, a Youth Congress.

SOURCE: GC § 1700, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218.

§ 7102. Functions.

The Youth Congress shall act as a legislative body with the power to make its own rules, establish committees, hold hearings, pass resolutions and to prepare and pass bills, which will be forwarded to the Rules Committee of the Guam Legislature for action as with a legislative bill.

The Youth Congress will represent the Youth of Guam, their desires and aspirations, and will serve as a training and action area for Guam's future leaders.

SOURCE: GC § 1701, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218.

§ 7103. Membership.

The Congress shall be composed of not to exceed fifty-one (51) members, to be known as Representatives, to be elected from the areas listed below:

1. Village Representation:

- a. One (1) representative from each organized village with a

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population below 5,000.

b. Two (2) representatives from each village with a population between 5,000 and 10,000.

c. Three (3) representatives from each village over 10,000 population.

2. School Representation:

a. One (1) representative from each private and public junior high school.

b. One (1) representative from each private and public senior high school with a student body below 1,000.

c. Two (2) representatives from each private and public senior high school with a student body above 1,000.

d. Three (3) representatives from the University of Guam.

e. Three (3) post-secondary representatives from the Guam Community College.

SOURCE: GC § 1702, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218. Subparagraph (2)(e) added by P.L. 29-011:1 (Sept. 7, 2007).

§ 7104. Eligibility of Representatives and Electorate.

No person shall be eligible to vote for a Representative, or sit in the Congress who has not attained the age of fourteen (14) years, or who will be twenty-five (25) prior to the expiration of the term for which he seeks to qualify as a voter or as a member, or who has been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude and has not received a pardon restoring his civil rights.

SOURCE: GC § 1703, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218. Amended by P.L. 29-113:VI:83 (Sept. 30, 2008).

§ 7105. Vacancies.

In case of a vacancy occurring one (1) year prior to the next general election because a member can no longer qualify to represent the entity from which the member is elected, the school principal of the public or private junior or senior high schools or the President of the University of Guam at which the student member attends, or the municipal mayor of the municipality in which the member resides, shall call for a special election to

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be held on the third Monday in October preceding the next general election for Youth Congress

SOURCE: GC § 1704, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218. Repealed/reenacted by P.L. 22-140:3(a).

§ 7106. Sessions.

Regular sessions of the Congress shall be held each third Saturday of the year exclusive of holidays, commencing the third Saturday in November, and shall continue for Two (2) calendar years. Sessions shall be held in the legislative chamber of the Guam Legislature.

SOURCE: GC § 1705, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218; amended by P.L. 21-135:IV:33(a), P.L. 21-136:IV:33(a) and P.L. 22-67:2 (1/16/94) and P.L. 22-140:3(b).

§ 7107. Elections.

General election to the Youth Congress shall be held on the third Monday in October commencing October, 1994 and every two (2) years thereafter. The election for school representatives will be conducted by the school principal of the public or private junior or senior high schools and by the President of the University of Guam at the school which the eligible electorate attends, and at which the electorate are officially enrolled, and each voter shall be entitled to vote by private ballot for the number of candidates allotted their school as is provided in § 7103 of this Code. The election for village representatives will be conducted by the village mayor for the eligible electorate residing within the village boundaries, and each voter shall be entitled to vote for the number of candidates allotted his village as is provided in § 7103 of this Code. The eligible electorate may vote in both, the school and village elections.

Candidates for election may run as members of a political party or as independents, all such candidates to have received by petition from the eligible youth electorate at least fifty (50) signatures. Names of candidates on ballots shall appear as provided in § 7105 of Title 3, Guam Code Annotated.

It shall be the responsibility of the school principal, the President of the University of Guam, or the village Mayor, to provide forms for petitions, ballots and tally sheets, the necessary ballot boxes and personnel to supervise the election, count and tally the ballots.

Results of the election will be certified by the Mayor, school principal, or the President of the University of Guam, as appropriate, within three (3)

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days after the election to the Secretary of the Guam Legislature, who shall verify the election results, and certify election of members to the Youth Congress.

Any disputes resulting from the election shall be resolved by the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Guam Legislature.

SOURCE: GC § 1706, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218; amended by P.L. 21-135:IV:33(b) and P.L. 21-136:IV:33(b). Repealed/reenacted by P.L. 22-140:3(c)

§ 7107.1 Term of Office.

Members of the Youth Congress shall be elected for a term of two (2) years with the exception of a member who is elected on special election, the term of which will expire on the next general election for the Youth Congress.

SOURCE: Added by P.L. 22-140:3(d) (9/29/94).

§ 7108. Duties.

The Congress shall be the judge of the selection and qualification of its own members. It shall choose from its members its own officers, its rules and procedure, not inconsistent with this Chapter or the Rules of the Guam Legislature. The quorum of the Congress shall equal one-half of its elective membership plus one.

No bill shall be considered passed unless a majority of its members present and voting indicate by an affirmative vote their desire to do pass.

SOURCE: GC § 1707, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218.

§ 7109. Operations.

The Congress is authorized to employ on a part-time basis under contract a basic staff consisting of an Administrative Officer, a legal secretary, attaches including a Legal Counsel, a recording secretary and a sergeant-at-arms. Additional logistic support, clerical and technical assistance, will be provided by the Guam Legislature and the legislative staff.

SOURCE: GC § 1708, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218.

§ 7110. Compensation.

Representatives of Congress shall be compensated at the rate of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25) for each regularly monthly or special session they attend.

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SOURCE: GC § 1709, repealed and added by P.L. 12-218. Amended by P.L. 20-231:1.

§ 7111. Excellence in Youth Leadership Award.

The Guam Youth Congress *shall* have the authority, on a quarterly basis, to present the “Excellence in Youth Leadership” Award.

The Speaker of the Guam Youth Congress, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of the Youth Congress, the Executive Director of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, and the Administrative Officer of the Youth Congress, *shall* solicit proposals for the design of the award and *shall* follow the normal government procurement process. Upon preliminary selection of the design by the Youth Congress Speaker, Youth Congress Rules Committee Chair, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*’s Executive Director, and the Administrative Officer of the Youth Congress, the Youth Congress as a whole will then vote on whether to accept the design.

SOURCE: Added by P.L. 30-081:2 (Feb. 8, 2010).

§ 7112. Process and Regulations.

The criteria for selecting awardees to receive the “Excellence in Youth Leadership” award *shall* be: residents of Guam under the age of twenty-seven (27) years and over the age of fourteen (14) years, who have shown exceptional leadership qualities, and who have made substantial contributions to the Youth of Guam. Such a nominee must have resided in Guam for a period of five (5) *or* more years. A person may be nominated either by having a youth community organization submit a nomination letter, accompanied by a history of the nominee’s community contributions; or by a representative of the Guam Youth Congress, who *shall* submit a nomination letter to the Youth Speaker, accompanied by a history of the nominee’s community contributions. Should the Youth Speaker himself wish to nominate an individual, he *shall* submit his nomination letter to the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of the Youth Congress.

The Youth Congress *shall* then vote at a special *or* regular session, with a simple majority necessary, to issue the “Excellence in Youth Leadership” award.

The Secretary of the Legislature of the Guam Youth Congress *shall* be responsible for creating and maintaining a list of persons who have been given the award. *No* recipient *may* be awarded *more than* once. The Youth Congress *shall* award *no more than* three (3) awards per quarter and *no*

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more than twelve (12) awards per year.

SOURCE: Added by P.L. 30-081:2 (Feb. 8, 2010).
