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PRESS RELEASE

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REDFIELD'S AMENDMENT TO GAMBLING BILL ADDRESSES CONCERNS OF MAJORITY APPROVAL AND DISTRICT VOTING

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REPUBLICAN SENATOR HOLLAND L. REDFIELD II TODAY INDICATED HE HAS PREPARED A SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENT TO BILL NO. 19-0247, WHICH CALLS FOR A SPECIAL REFERENDUM OF PUBLIC OPINION WHETHER LEGISLATION ALLOWING CASINO GAMBLING IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS SHOULD BE ADOPTED. THE BILL HAS BEEN CHAMPIONED BY SENS. LILLIANA BELARDO DE O'NEAL AND REDFIELD AS PRIME SPONSORS.

REDFIELD SAID HIS AMENDMENT "HITS AT THE VERY HEART" OF THE PRACTICABILITY OF THE USE OF SECTION 12 (B)(7) OF THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT, WHICH HAS A VERY STRICT GUIDELINE FOR APPROVAL OF REFERENDUM MEASURES. "THIS SECTION IS TOTALLY UNWORKABLE, BECAUSE IT CALLS FOR AN UNREALISTIC NUMBER OF VOTERS NECESSARY TO GET ANYTHING DONE," REDFIELD SAID. SECTION 12 (B)(7) CALLS FOR "A MAJORITY OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS" TO APPROVE ANY REFERENDUM, NOT THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS WHO CAST BALLOTS ON THE DAY OF ANY GIVEN REFERENDUM.

"THIS ORGANIC ACT PROVISION IS WHAT CAUSED THE DOWNFALL OF THE QUESTION ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT. HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US THAT THIS ORGANIC ACT PROVISION IS WHAT LED TO THE DEFEAT OF THE QUESTION, AND LED TO GREAT CONSTERNATION AMONG ST. CROIX VOTERS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM APPROVED IT," SAID REDFIELD.

REDFIELD'S AMENDMENT CLEARLY SETS FORTH, QUOTING: "FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS REFERENDUM, THE LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY REJECTS THE FORMULA OF SECTION 12 (B)(7) OF THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT OF 1954, AND HEREBY ADOPTS IN LIEU THEREOF, THE FORMULA FOUND IN SECTION

DRAFTED &
REVIEWED BY
LEGAL COUNSEL
5-28-92
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AMENDMENT TO BILL NO. 19-0247
OFFERED BY SENATOR HOLLAND L. REDFIELD II

Bill No. 19-0247 is amended by adding the following new sections, to read as follows:

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this referendum, the Legislature specifically rejects the formula found in Section 12(b)(7) of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, and hereby adopts in lieu thereof, the formula found in Section 3 of this Act for the purposes of this referendum.

SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section, the Legislature shall not be required to take any action toward the establishment of casino gambling in the Territory unless both: (1) a majority (fifty percent plus one) of the persons casting a ballot during the General Election on November 3, 1992, vote on the referendum issue set forth in Section 2 of this Act; and (2) a majority (fifty percent plus one) of those persons voting on the referendum issue vote in the affirmative.

(b) If the referendum issue set forth in Section 1 of this Act does not receive the requisite number of votes territory-wide to satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) of this Section, but those requirements are satisfied in one of the electoral districts, then the Legislature may enact legislation establishing legalized casino gambling in that electoral district.