A BILL FOR AN ACT

To propose an amendment to article IX, sections 8 and 10 of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia; to further amend title 3 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, by further amending section 101, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 5-53, 5-98, and 7-89, by amending section 104, and by further amending section 107, as established by Public Law No. 5-98; and to further amend title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, by amending section 104; all for the purpose of improving the operations of Congress by eliminating at-large seats, by providing that each member of Congress shall serve a four-year term, by specifying that Congress shall consist of ten members, by providing for a parliamentarian; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

Section 1. Proposed amendment. It is hereby proposed that section 8 of article IX of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia be amended to read as follows:

"Section 8. The Congress consists of the ninety members elected at large from the states and congressional districts in each state apportioned by population. Members serve for a 4-year term, for all others terms 2 years. Each member has one vote, except on the final reading of bills. Congressional elections are held as provided by statute."

Section 2. Proposed amendment. It is hereby proposed that section 10 of article IX of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia be amended to read as follows:

"Section 10. At least every 10 years Congress shall reapportion itself. A state is entitled to at least one member of Congress by the method of proportional apportionment in the manner provided by law. A state shall apportion itself by law into single member congressional districts. Each district shall be approximately equal in population after giving due regard to language, cultural, and geographic differences."

Section 3. Single amendment. Sections 1 and 2 of
1 this act shall be submitted to the people for approval as
2 one amendment to the Constitution.
3
4 Section 4. Section 101 of title 3 of the Code of the
5 Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos.
6 5-53, 5-98, and 7-89, is hereby further amended to read as
7 follows:
8
9 "Section 101. Membership.
10
11 (1) The Congress of the Federated States of
12 Micronesia shall be a unicameral National legislature.
13 Unless the Congress is reapportioned, it shall consist
14 of ten Members to be known as Senators as
15 follows:
16
17 (a) each of the States of Pohnpei, Yap, and
18 Chuuk shall elect four Members to be known as
19 Senators to serve for a term of four years and elected on the basis of population as
20 follows:
21
22 (i) one Member elected from Kosrae as
23 a single-member congressional district;
24
25 (ii) one Member elected from Yap as a
26 single-member congressional district;
27
28 (iii) three Members elected from Pohnpei,
29 one of whom representing each single-member
congressional district; and

(iv) five Members elected from Chuuk,

one of whom representing each single-member

congressional district.

(2) Single-member congressional districts shall

be reapportioned at least every ten years. The first

such reapportionment shall be made in 1983."

Section 5. Section 104 of title 3 of the Code of the

Federated States of Micronesia is hereby amended to read as

follows:

"Section 104. Offices.

There shall be the following offices which shall be

responsible to the Presiding Officer:

(1) Administrative Office; and within that the

following functional activities:

(a) finance,

(b) administration and personnel,

(c) State delegation administrative support,

(d) secretaries, and

(e) sergeant at Arms;

(2) Office of the Legislative Counsel, and within

that the Library and research, and the

Parliamentarian; and

(3) Budget Office."

Section 6. Section 107 of title 3 of the Code of the
1 Federated States of Micronesia, as established by Public Law
2 No. 5-98, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
3  "Section 107. Terms of office.
4 Each Senator elected at large shall hold office for
5 a term of four years. The terms of office of all
6 Members of the Congress of the Federated States of
7 Micronesia shall commence at noon of the eleventh day
8 of May following their election and upon taking the
9 oath of office, except as otherwise provided by law.
10 Any Member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy may
11 assume office upon acceptance of his credentials by
12 the Congress and taking of the oath of office, and
13 shall serve only for the unexpired term of the person
14 he succeeds."
15
16 Section 7. Section 104 of title 9 of the Code of the
17 Federated States of Micronesia is hereby amended to read as
18 follows:
19  "Section 104. General elections -- When held.
20 All General elections for Members of the
21 Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia shall
22 be held in the month of March in
23 1999 and every four years thereafter on the first
24 Tuesday following the first Monday in March;
provided, that in the event of a natural disaster or other act of God, the effect of which precludes holding the election on the foregoing date, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia may proclaim a later election in the affected State or congressional district or districts."

Section 8. **Effective Date.** Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this act shall become effective upon the passage of the Constitutional amendment proposed in sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act.

Section 9. This act shall become law upon approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: **7/09/97**

Introduced by: **Peter M. Christian**