A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Public Law No. 10-11 by amending section 5 for the purpose of specifying that the staff of the Secretariat of the Joint Committee on Compact Economic Negotiations (JCN) shall be exempt from the Public Service System, unless the JCN decides to and arranges for the secondment of existing Public Service System employees to serve in the Secretariat positions.

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

Section 1. Section 5 of Public Law No. 10-11 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. Establishment of the Secretariat. There is hereby created and established a full-time Secretariat for the Joint Committee on Compact Economic Negotiations. The Secretariat shall consist of an Executive Director, an Administrative Officer, a staff Counsel, and a secretary, all based in Pohnpei. These four positions shall be exempt from the Public Service System. However, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the Joint Committee from arranging for the secondment of existing Public Service System employees to perform the duties of any of the four positions. In addition to the Secretariat, the work of the Joint Committee shall be supported by existing Washington D.C. based legal counsel. The Secretariat shall have the following responsibilities.

(1) Provide all administrative and logistical support to the Joint Committee on Compact Economic Negotiations, and shall (a) prepare an annual budget for approval by the Joint Committee, (b) transmit an approved budget to the President to submit it, with comments, to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia for approval at least ten days in advance
of the first regular session of each fiscal year;

(2) Carry out research on relevant Compact of Free Association issues;

(3) Coordinate with the various departments, offices and agencies of the FSM and State Governments to collect all information and technical input necessary for satisfying its responsibilities and for establishing negotiating objectives as to provisions of the Compact of Free Association and the Related agreements that bear upon their respective areas of responsibilities; and

(4) As directed by the Joint Committee on Compact Economic Negotiations, hire professionals including an outside development economist and other consultants with expertise in security or defense, policy to assist the Joint Committee with any aspect of its responsibilities, particularly that provided under section 4(5) above."

Section 2. 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: 10/17/97

Introduced by: Joseph J. Urusemal
(by request)