## PUBLIC LAW NO. 13-56

## AN ACT

To further amend title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, by amending sections 102, 201, 601, 603, 605, 613, 617, 619, 621, 701, 702, 801, and 802 thereof and by enacting a new section 106 and a new Chapter 9 to incorporate the requirements imposed on FDIC-insured banks by the amendments to the Compact of Free Association, to enact laws governing treatment of dormant bank accounts, to make certain other necessary changes, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Section 102 of title 29 of the Code of the 1 2. Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 9-130 and 12-57, is hereby further amended to read as follows: 3 4 "Section 102. Definitions. As used in this title, 5 unless it is otherwise provided or the context requires 6 a different construction, application, or meaning: (1) 'Agency' means a place of business where 7 transactions are effected with customers on behalf of a 8 9 branch or main office of a bank, but the accounting records for such transactions are maintained at the 10 11 branch or main office; includes a remote service 12 facility. (2) 'Article XI' means Article XI of the Programs and 13 14 Services Agreement of the Compact of Free Association, 15 as amended, entitled 'Federal Deposit Insurance 16 Corporation Programs and Services Agreements'.

(3) 'Bank' means any person or body of persons or a

corporation authorized by law to engage in the banking
business, and to accept from the public deposits which
are withdrawable and transferable by check or other
means of payment transfer. 'Bank' includes a savings and
loan association but does not include a credit union.

- (4) 'Banking business' means the business of accepting deposits of money from the public, withdrawable or payable on demand or after a fixed period or after notice, or any similar operation through the frequent sale or placement of notes or other securities, and the use of such funds either in whole or part for loans, investments or any other operation either authorized by law or considered a generally accepted banking practice, for the account and at the risk of the person doing such business.
- (5) 'Banking Board' means the Board established pursuant to section 201 of this title.
- (6) 'Banking Commissioner' means the Banking Commissioner appointed pursuant to section 206 of this title.
- (7) 'Branch' means an office of a bank where banking business is transacted and at which accounting records are maintained.
- (8) 'Demand deposit' means any deposit which is repayable by its terms not more than three days after the time it is made.

1 (9) 'Deposits' means money or other property transferred or assigned to any person pursuant to 3 an agreement, expressed or implied, that the person 4 shall repay such moneys upon demand (whether in 5 person or by written order) or after a fixed or 6 determinable period of time. Money loaned to a 7 bank which is to be repaid not sooner than five years from the date of loan, and pursuant to a loan 8 9 agreement under which the obligation to repay is subordinate to the rights of depositors, shall not 10 11 be deemed to be a deposit. Money transferred to a 12 credit union as a purchase of its shares shall not 13 be deemed to be a deposit. (10) 'Domestic bank' means a bank organized under the 14 15 provisions of chapter 3 of this title. 16 (11) 'FDB' means a Domestic bank that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. 17 18 (12) 'FDI Act' means the United States' Federal Deposit 19 Insurance Act codified at 12 U.S.C. 1811-1831. 20 (13) 'Foreign bank' means a corporation or other 21 financial institution organized for the purpose of 22 engaging in the banking business under the laws of a 23 foreign country, operating a bank in its home territory, 24 State, or country.

(14) 'IAP' or 'institution-affiliated party' means:

(a) any director, officer, employee, or

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1 controlling stockholder of, or agent for, an FDB; 2 (b) any other person who has filed or is required 3 to file a change-in-control notice with the appropriate 4 U.S. Federal banking agency under section 7(j) of the 5 FDI Act; 6 (c) any shareholder (other than a bank holding 7 company), consultant, joint venture partner, and any other person as determined by the appropriate U.S. 8 9 Federal banking agency (by regulation or case-by-case) who participates in the conduct of the affairs of an 10 11 FDB; 12 (d) any independent contractor (including any 13 attorney, appraiser, or accountant) who knowingly or recklessly participates in (i) any violation of any law 14 15 or regulation; (ii) any breach of fiduciary duty; or 16 (iii) any unsafe or unsound practice, which caused or is likely to cause more than a minimal financial loss to, 17 18 or a significant adverse affect on, the FDB. 19 (15) 'Legal reserve' means the sum which every domestic 20 bank and foreign bank shall at all times have available 21 for the payment of their deposit liabilities pursuant to 22 the provisions of this title. 23 (16) 'Paid-in capital, surplus, and undistributed 24 profits' means, in the case of a foreign bank, the 25 aggregate paid-in capital, surplus, and undistributed

profits of such bank and not merely that allocated to,

savings account for at least ten (10) years, the account shall be deemed a 'dormant account' and the bank in which such account is kept shall act to close the dormant account in accordance with the procedures set forth below in this section.

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- (2) In the event there has been no activity of deposits or withdrawals in a checking account and no contact has been made with the account holder of such checking account for at least two (2) years, the account shall be deemed a 'dormant account' and the bank in which such account is kept shall act to close the dormant account in accordance with the procedures set forth below in this section.
- (3) Bank actions in crediting interest payments to an account or assessing service charges against an account shall not count as activity for the purposes of determining dormancy.
- (4) Dormant accounts shall be identified annually by each bank during the month of June. Any dormant account with a balance of \$25.00 or less is not subject to the procedures required by this section.
- (5) Upon identification of a dormant account, the bank shall send written notice to the depositor at the depositor's last known address, informing the depositor that the depositor's account will be closed and the funds therein transferred to the Secretary of Finance if

the depositor does not claim the funds in the dormant account by December 31 of that calendar year. The notice shall be sent no later than October 1 of that calendar year.

- (6) Between November 1 and November 15 and between December 1 and December 15 of each year, each bank shall publish a "Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts", which shall contain:
  - (a) the names, in alphabetical order, and last known addresses of depositors of dormant accounts; and
- (b) a statement that, if not claimed, such funds shall be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January of the following year. The Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation or by other means as determined by the Banking Board.
- (7) During the month of January of the calendar year immediately following the notification and publication required by subsections (4) and (5) above, each bank shall transfer to the Secretary of Finance, for the account of the depositor, the full balance of each dormant account, provided however, that the bank may deduct costs of notice and publication in a manner to be determined by the Banking Board in regulations.
- (8) Except as provided for in this section, no bank shall assess any fee against any bank account for

1 reasons of inactivity.

- (9) In the event that a bank holds, for three (3) years or more, any funds for which the owner or payor cannot be determined by the bank or for which the owner or payor cannot be located by the bank, the bank shall transfer such funds to the Secretary of Finance for the account of the owner or payor, in the event such owner or payor is determined or located at a later date.
- (10) Upon receiving sums of money pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Finance shall furnish the transferring bank with a receipt for such transferred funds and shall deposit such sums into a custodial interest bearing account separate and apart from the General Fund of the FSM National Government. Interest earned on funds deposited with the Secretary of Finance pursuant to this section shall be deemed the property of the FSM National Government and shall not be paid to the owner of the funds.
- (11) The Secretary of Finance shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of funds received pursuant to this section in accordance with any regulations adopted by the Banking Board.
- (12) At any time within twenty (20) years of the date of transfer of funds to the Secretary of Finance pursuant to this section, such funds may be claimed by their rightful owner or owners by furnishing proof of

2 deemed satisfactory to the Secretary of Finance. 3 (13) All funds transferred to the Secretary of Finance 4 pursuant to this section shall escheat to the National 5 Government of the Federated States of Micronesia twenty 6 (20) years following the date of such transfer. 7 (14) Each bank shall hold the FSM National Government harmless for any liability incurred due to the handling 8 9 of an account by the bank. The FSM National Government shall not be liable for any transaction on an account 10 11 made by any bank, including the transfer of the balance 12 of the account to the Secretary of Finance pursuant to 13 this section. The FSM National Government shall not be liable for damages or penalties for any payment to a 14 15 claimant of funds deposited pursuant to this section. 16 (15) The bank shall not be liable for any mishandling of an account by the Secretary of Finance. 17 18 (16) The Banking Board may adopt such rules and 19 regulations as may be necessary to implement the 20 provisions of this section." Section 3. Section 201 of title 29 of the Code of the 21 2.2 Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law No. 23 9-130, is hereby further amended to read as follows: 24 "Section 201. Creation. 25 (1) There is hereby established a Banking Board which 26 shall be composed of three members appointed by the

his, her or their right to such funds, which proof is

1 President and with the advice and consent of the 2 Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. 3 (2) All appointments shall be for a term of four 4 years, provided however, that, unless otherwise provided 5 by the President, all rights and powers of a Banking 6 Board member shall be maintained by each member until the appointment of such member's successor. Banking 7 Board members shall be eligible for reappointment. 8 9 (3) The Chairman of the Banking Board shall be 10 appointed by the President from among the members appointed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section." 11 Section 4. Section 601 of title 29 of the Code of the 12 13 Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 9-130 and 12-57, is hereby further amended to read as follows: 14 15 "Section 601. Regulation and supervision of banks -16 General policies. (1) All domestic banks and, to the extent of and with 17 18 respect to business done at any branches established in 19 the Federated States of Micronesia, all foreign banks 20 doing business in the Federated States of Micronesia 21 shall be regulated and supervised by the Banking Board 22 in such manner as to secure the safe and sound conduct 23 of such business, to prevent unsound practices, and to 24 maintain the public confidence in such business and 25 protect the public interest and the interests of 26 depositors.

1	(2) In determining if a Bank is carrying on its
2	business in a prudent manner, the Banking Board will
3	have regard to the following:
4	(a) capital adequacy in relation to the size and
5	nature of the business;
6	(b) asset concentration and risk exposure;
7	(c) separation of Banking Business from other
8	business and from other interests of any person owning
9	or controlling the Bank;
10	(d) adequacy of liquidity in relation to
11	liabilities;
12	(e) asset quality and adequacy of provisions for
13	losses;
14	(f) internal controls, risk management and
15	accounting systems;
16	(g) adequacy of governance arrangements
17	(including Directors and senior management) in relation
18	to the nature and scale of the business; and
19	(h) such other matters as the Banking Board
20	considers relevant.
21	(3) Every foreign bank licensed pursuant to section
22	501 of this title shall, with the concurrence of the
23	Banking Commissioner, designate the branch in the
24	Federated States of Micronesia which may be used as the
25	channel of communication between the Banking Board and
26	the Bank with respect to the application of this title

1 to its business throughout the Federated States of Micronesia. Such branch shall be responsible for the 3 timely provision of reports and information by other 4 branches requested under this title. The head office of 5 a domestic bank shall be the channel of communication 6 between the Banking Board and its branches, and shall be 7 responsible for the timely provision of reports and information by other branches requested under this 8 9 title. (4) All FDBs shall comply with all existing and future 10 11 banking and banking-related laws, rules and regulations 12 of the United States relating to supervision, 13 regulatory, and resolution and receivership matters, except any portions of such laws, rules and regulations 14 15 that conflict with sections 4 or 5 of Article XIII of the FSM Constitution." 16 Section 5. Section 603 of title 29 of the Code of the 17 Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law No. 18 9-130, is hereby amended to read as follows: 19 20 "Section 603. Examination of banks - Authority; 21 Testimony; Document Production; Fees. 2.2 (1) The Banking Commissioner may examine, or cause to 23 be examined, every domestic or foreign bank for the 24 purpose of ascertaining whether it has complied with 25 this title and other applicable laws and for such other 26 purposes and such other matters as the Banking Board may

1 prescribe. (2) The Banking Commissioner and every examiner 3 appointed by him may administer an oath to any person 4 whose testimony may be required on the examination of 5 any bank and summon and compel the appearance and 6 attendance of any person for the purpose of the 7 examination. (3) As part of any examination, the Banking 8 9 Commissioner may also require the production of books, records or other documents in whatever form. 10 11 (4) As an examination fee, each bank so examined shall 12 pay the total cost of such examination, and the sum so 13 paid shall be deposited into the General Fund of the 14 Federated States of Micronesia." 15 Section 6. Section 605 of title 29 of the Code of the 16 Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 9-130 and 12-57, is hereby further amended to read as follows: 17 18 "Section 605. Special reports. 19 (1) The Banking Commissioner may request from the 20 banks special reports. 21 (2) The Banking Commissioner may, from time to time, 22 by notice in writing, require any domestic or foreign 23 bank to submit such reports and returns as he may 24 require for the purposes of the administration and 25 enforcement of the provisions of this title and any

regulations made thereunder.

(3) Any bank notified in writing under subsection (2)	
of this section shall comply with accurate and timely	
submissions or be subject to a penalty imposed by the	
Banking Board in an amount not to exceed \$100 per day	
until the correct information has been provided to the	
satisfaction of the Banking Commissioner.	
(4) During the first five years of operations in the	
Federated States of Micronesia by any domestic bank, the	ì
Banking Commissioner shall call for special reports of	
its condition not less frequently than each calendar	
quarter."	
Section 7. Section 613 of title 29 of the Code of the	
Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law No.	
12-57, is hereby further amended to read as follows:	
"Section 613. <u>Limitations on loans - Related persons</u> .	
(1) Except as herein provided, no domestic bank shall	
make any extension of credit to any of its officers,	
directors, agents, employees, or holders of more than	
ten percent (10%) of the outstanding stock of the bank,	,
or to any related person, either directly or	
indirectly, except upon the written application of such	1
person or related person stating the line of credit	
applied for, terms and security, if any, offered	
therefor to the board of directors or to the loan or	
	of this section shall comply with accurate and timely submissions or be subject to a penalty imposed by the Banking Board in an amount not to exceed \$100 per day until the correct information has been provided to the satisfaction of the Banking Commissioner.  (4) During the first five years of operations in the Federated States of Micronesia by any domestic bank, the Banking Commissioner shall call for special reports of its condition not less frequently than each calendar quarter."  Section 7. Section 613 of title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law No.  12-57, is hereby further amended to read as follows:  "Section 613. Limitations on loans — Related persons.  (1) Except as herein provided, no domestic bank shall make any extension of credit to any of its officers, directors, agents, employees, or holders of more than ten percent (10%) of the outstanding stock of the bank, or to any related person, either directly or indirectly, except upon the written application of such person or related person stating the line of credit applied for, terms and security, if any, offered

the written approval of a majority of the board or a

1 majority of the loan or executive committee of the 2 board (excluding the person seeking the credit) before 3 the loan is made; and the approval of the loan as 4 allowed by the board or the loan or executive committee 5 of the board shall be made a part of the minutes of the 6 next directors' meeting of the bank. 7 (2) Loans may be made to any officer, director, agent, employee, or shareholder of any domestic bank or any 8 9 related person, without such application and approval, in amounts not in excess of \$5,000 in aggregate 10 11 principal owing by any such individual and related 12 person at any one time. 13 (3) Extensions of credit may only be made pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section if they are made 14 15 on substantially the same terms, including interest 16 rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions by the bank with members of 17 18 the general public; PROVIDED however, that a bank may 19 offer preferential terms to employees under an 20 internally established employee benefit program." Section 8. Section 617 of title 29 of the Code of the 21 Federated States of Micronesia is hereby amended to read as 22 23 follows: 24 "Section 617. Applications for credit - denials and 25 records. Each bank must provide an applicant with a

written explanation of the basis on which a decision is

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              made to deny a written application for a loan, a credit
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              card, or other request for extension of credit within
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              thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of such
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              application by the bank. Each bank shall keep records
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              of all applications for credit received and denials and
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              written explanations given in the manner determined by
              the Banking Commissioner."
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        Section 9. Section 619 of title 29 of the Code of the
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   Federated States of Micronesia is hereby amended to read as
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   follows:
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              "Section 619.
                             Acceptance of deposits - Minimum capital
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              requirements. No domestic bank may accept deposits at
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              any time that its paid-in capital, surplus, and
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              undivided profits are less than $1,000,000 in the
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              aggregate."
        Section 10. Section 621 of title 29 of the Code of the
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   Federated States of Micronesia is hereby amended to read as
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   follows:
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              "Section 621.
                             Bank stock - Ownership limitations.
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              person or group of related persons (including entities
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              that are affiliated as parent or subsidiary companies or
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              are otherwise under common control) may acquire ten
             percent or more of the stock of a domestic bank without
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              the prior approval of the Banking Board."
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         Section 11. Section 701 of title 29 of the Code of the
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   Federated States of Micronesia, as enacted by Public Law No.
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2 "Section 701. Unsafe or unsound practices. 3 (1) This section shall apply when the Banking Board 4 has determined that a Bank licensed under this title: 5 (a) is following unsafe or unsound practices in 6 the conduct of its business that if continued may 7 jeopardize its obligations to its depositors, or adversely affect the operation or stability of the 8 9 banking system of the FSM; or (b) has contravened or failed to comply with the 10 11 terms and conditions of its license or the provisions of 12 this title. 13 (2) When a bank is engaged in practices described in subsection (1) of this section, the Banking Board: 14 15 (a) shall issue a directive to such Bank to cease 16 and desist from such practice, contravention or noncompliance or to take such other action as the Banking 17 18 Board determines is necessary; 19 (b) shall issue a directive to such Bank to take 20 such action (including action to replace or strengthen 21 officers or directors) as may be specified in such 22 directive in order to correct the conditions resulting 23 from such practices, contravention or non-compliance; 24 and 25 (c) may appoint a qualified person to advise the 26 bank on the proper conduct of its business and measures

12-57, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 to be taken to rectify its situation; the remuneration 2 to be paid to such advisor shall be fixed by the Banking 3 Board and paid by the Bank." 4 Section 12. Section 702 of title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as enacted by Public Law No. 12-57, is hereby amended to read as follows: "Section 702. Enforcement of directives. 7 8 (1) The Banking Commissioner shall promptly and fully 9 enforce all FDIC directives and orders against or involving any FDB or any IAP, except to the extent that 10 11 such directives or orders conflict with the Constitution 12 of the FSM. (2) If a Bank to which section 701 of this title has 13 been applied fails to comply promptly with any 14 15 directive or order of the FDIC or Banking Commissioner, 16 such failure shall constitute grounds for an application under section 801 of this title." 17 18 Section 13. Section 801 of title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law No. 19 20 9-130, is hereby further amended to read as follows: "Section 801. 21 Receivership - Application by Banking 2.2 Commissioner. If, in consequence of an examination or 23 report made by an examiner, or otherwise, the Banking 24 Board should have reason to believe that a domestic bank 25 or foreign bank is in an unsafe or unsound condition or 26 is engaging in unsafe or unsound practices; or that its

1	affairs are being conducted in such a manner that the
2	public or the persons or entities having securities or
3	funds under its custody are in danger of being
4	defrauded; or if any such bank shall violate its charter
5	or any law relative thereto, or this title in any
6	material respect; or if it becomes insolvent, then,
7	subject to Chapter 9 of this title, the Banking
8	Commissioner may apply to the Trial Division of the
9	Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia for
10	the appointment of a receiver to take charge of and wind
11	up the affairs of such bank."
12	Section 14. Section 802 of title 29 of the Code of the
13	Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law No.
14	9-130, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
15	"Section 802. Receivership - Appointment and duties of
16	<u>receiver</u> .
17	(1) If the Court, after hearing all parties concerned,
18	determines that the facts alleged by the Banking
19	Commissioner are supported by the evidence, except in
20	the event that the FDIC has appointed itself receiver
21	pursuant to Chapter 9, the Court shall appoint a
22	receiver.
23	(2) Upon his appointment the receiver shall, under the
24	direction of the Banking Commissioner, take possession
25	of the assets and liabilities, books, records, papers,
26	and files of every description belonging to the bank;

1 and collect all loans, fees, and claims of the bank; and 2 see to the payment of its obligations and debts, and to 3 the necessary expenses of receivership. 4 (3) The receiver shall proceed to liquidate the 5 affairs of the bank as soon as possible, and to this end 6 may sell the personal and real property and other assets 7 of the bank, but subject to the approval of the Banking Commissioner. The receiver shall continue to perform 8 9 his duties in the manner prescribed herein until the bank or foreign bank is fully liquidated." 10 Section 15. Title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of 11 12 Micronesia is hereby amended by enacting a new Chapter 9 entitled 13 "FDIC Proceedings and FDBs". 14 Section 16. Title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of 15 Micronesia is hereby amended by enacting a new section 901 of 16 chapter 9 to read as follows: 17 "Section 901. Authority, Scope. This Chapter is 18 enacted in accordance with Article XI in order to set 19 forth the rights and obligations between FDBs, the FDIC and the government and courts of the FSM." 20 Section 17. Title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of 21 Micronesia is hereby amended by enacting a new section 902 of 2.2 23 chapter 9 to read as follows: 24 "Section 902. Administrative Enforcement Actions. 25 Any proceeding involving administrative enforcement 26 actions against the FDB or any IAP of the FDB shall be

1	in accordance with the FDI Act and FDIC Regulations.
2	Any proceeding against the FDB or an IAP shall be held
3	in the State of Pohnpei, unless the parties agree to
4	hold a hearing in another location, or unless an
5	Administrative Law Judge finds good cause to hold a
6	hearing in a different location.
7	(1) The FDB or an affected IAP may appeal
8	administrative orders pursuant to Article XI.
9	(2) The FDIC may sue to enforce administrative orders
10	or directives pursuant to Article XI.
11	(3) The government and courts of the FSM shall
12	recognize orders and directives of the FDIC and other
13	orders pursuant to Article XI."
14	Section 18. Title 29 of the Code of the Federated States of
15	Micronesia is hereby amended by enacting a new section 903 to read
16	as follows:
17	"Section 903. <u>Receivership</u> . If the FDB becomes
18	'critically undercapitalized' as that term is used in
19	Article XI, the Banking Commissioner shall act to close
20	the FDB.
21	(1) The FDIC has the authority to appoint itself
22	receiver of the FDB under the circumstances provided in
23	Article XI and to exercise all powers conferred by the
24	FDIC Act.
25	(2) Upon closure of a FDB for any reason, the FDIC
26	shall become the receiver of the FDB on the date of the

1 closing unless the FDIC notifies the Banking
2 Commissioner in writing that it will not serve as
3 receiver.

- (3) A closed FDB shall pay the receiver's administrative expenses prior to the payment of any other claims of unsecured creditors. The subrogated claim of the FDIC as insurer of deposits shall have priority over the payment of any claims of general unsecured creditors of the FDB, other than the receiver's administrative expenses.
- (4) No person alleging a claim against a FDB in receivership shall be permitted to bring an action in a court of law or other body (including any action that existed against the FDB prior to its failure) until such person has permitted the receiver a reasonable period to review such claim.
- (5) No claim against a receiver arising prior to the failure of the FDB shall be valid unless it appears in the FDB's records.
- (6) No claim against the receiver for its actions in liquidating the FDB shall prevail unless the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that the receiver acted in willful disregard of the law.
- (7) No court or administrative agency shall enjoin the operations of the receivership.
  - (8) Officers, directors and other professionals shall

by section 19 of the FDI Act, including any conviction

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1	and/or diversion that takes place in the FSM or in any
2	other nation or jurisdiction."
3	Section 20. This act shall become law upon approval by the
4	President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
5	becoming law without such approval.
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9	December 8, 2004
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14	<u>/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal</u> Joseph J. Urusemal
15	President Federated States of Micronesia
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