A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, by amending section 605, to require that the special polling places located outside the Federated States of Micronesia to remain open for seven days including election day, to make certain other adjustments to the timing of election activities, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as enacted by Public Law No. 14-76, is hereby amended by amending section 605 of chapter 6 to read as follows:

"Section 605. Voting absentee ballot at a special Polling Place.

(1) Registered Voters who are absent from their State of registration on Election Day may cast their votes at a special Polling Place.

(2) Not less than 60 days prior to a general election, or 45 days prior to a special election, the National Election Director shall designate the locations of the special Polling Places, provided that, there shall be one special Polling Place in Guam and one special Polling Place in Honolulu and that these shall be the only special Polling Places located outside the Federated States of Micronesia.

(3) Requests to vote absentee ballot at a special Polling Place must be in writing, using the forms
required by the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this title, and received by the national election commissioner of the State of registration not less than 30 days prior to a general election or 20 days before a special election; provided however, no written request shall be required if in a previous National Election the absentee voter submitted a request in which he or she indicated his or her desire to vote at the same special Polling Place in future National Elections until such time as the voter provides written notification to the national election commissioner that he or she wishes to resume voting at his or her regular Polling Place. Provided, further, that a voter with a valid Voter Identification Card may vote at any special Polling Place designated for his her Congressional Election District without submitting a written request.

(4) The national election commissioner, or his or her designee, shall review all special Polling Place requests for a particular Congressional Election District, and shall request that the National Election Director place on a special Polling Place Signature List for that Congressional Election District all the information contained on the National Voter Register for those absentee voters who submitted valid and timely requests. No later than six days before a National
Election, the national election commissioners shall post
at the National Election Office in their State the
special Polling Place Signature List for each special
Polling Place in their State.

(5) The National Election Director, or his or her
designee, shall review all requests to vote at a special
Polling Place outside the Federated States of
Micronesia, and shall place on a special Polling Place
signature list for that special Polling Place all the
information contained on the National Voter Register for
those absentee voters who submitted valid and timely
requests. No later than [six] 14 days before a National
Election, the National Election Director, or his or her
designee, shall post the special Polling Place Signature
Lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible
place in each respective location to be set out in the
regulations promulgated pursuant to this title.

(6) The National Election Director, or his or her
designee, shall strike out or delete the entry of an
absentee voter included on a special Polling Place
Signature list from the Signature List for that voter's
regular Polling Place. The absentee voter shall not be
allowed to cast a ballot at his or her regular Polling
Place on Election Day.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title,
the special Polling Places located outside the Federated States of Micronesia shall remain open between 7.00 am and 5.00 p.m for seven days commencing on the sixth day before Election Day and ending on Election Day, except that, such special Polling Places shall be closed on any Sunday falling within the seven day period."

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: 9/25/06 Introduced by: /s/ Peter M. Christian

Peter M. Christian