FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2007

C.B. NO. 15-49

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To approve the admission of the State of Mortlocks as the fifth state of the Federated States of Micronesia, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: 1 Section 1. <u>Admission</u>. Subject to all procedural 2 requirements set out in chapter 9 of title 1 of the Code of the 3 Federated States of Micronesia hereby approves the admission of 4 the State of Mortlocks as the fifth state of the Federated States 5 of Micronesia upon that date.

6 Section 2. Territory. The territory of the State of Mortlocks shall consist of the islands or municipalities of Nama, 7 Losap, Pis Emwar, Namoluk, Ettal, Moch, Kuttu, Ta, Satowan, 8 Lekinioch and Oneop, including reefs, shoals, banks, sands, oceans 9 10 and other natural landmarks bearing the names of identifies known in any of the dialects of the State and any other territory of 11 water belonging to the State by historic right, custom or legal 12 13 title. Unless limited by law, this territory shall also include a marine space of 200 nautical miles measured outward from 14 15 appropriate baselines, as well as the related seabed, subsoil, 16 water column, insular and continental shelves and airspace over 17 land and water. Each municipality shall be comprised of the island or islands with reefs, shoals, banks, sands, oceans and 18 19 other natural landmarks bearing the names or identities known in 20 any of the local dialects of each municipality as established by 21 traditional boundaries. The Mortlocks State Government shall be

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1 authorized to settle the boundary line with the Chuuk State 2 Government in the event of a dispute arising in accordance with applicable law. Existing traditional landmarks, well known and 3 4 agreed upon the adjacent municipalities shall determine the boundaries between municipalities. In the event of a dispute over 5 municipal boundaries, the traditional leaders of the relevant 6 7 municipalities shall settle the dispute by peaceful and traditional means. The Mortlocks State Supreme Court shall 8 9 adjudicate disputes over municipal boundaries in the event that 10 traditional means are unsuccessful.

11 Section 3. <u>Transition</u>. If, on January 1, 2010, all 12 procedural requirements set out in chapter 9 of title 1 of the 13 Code of the Federated States of Micronesia have been met, the 14 State of Mortlocks shall become the fifth State of the Federated 15 States of Micronesia. The Mortlocks Commission for Statehood 16 shall then appoint, by election, the officials of an interim 17 government.

18 Section 4. <u>First General Election</u>. The first general 19 election for the State of Mortlocks will be held on the first 20 Tuesday following the first Monday in the month of March three 21 years following the grant of statehood, or earlier if directed by 22 the Mortlocks Commission for Statehood. The Governor, Lieutenant 23 Governor and members of the First Legislature shall be elected in 24 the first general election. Each shall serve a full term. The 25 term of the members of the First Legislature shall begin on the 1 first Monday in May following the general election and the 2 Legislature shall convene at 10:00 a.m. on the day. The first 3 municipal elections shall be held on the same day as the first 4 general election.

5 Section 6. <u>Appointments</u>. The elected office holders shall
6 make such appointments or confirmations as are necessary,
7 consistent with any statutes adopted pursuant thereto.

8 Section 7. <u>Adoption of the laws of the State of Chuuk</u>. Any 9 applicable statute in the State of Chuuk shall remain in effect in 10 the State of Mortlocks until it is superseded by other laws.

11 Section 8. <u>Survival of actions and other matters</u>. Any 12 current or pending writ, suit, proceeding, civil or criminal 13 liability, prosecution, judgment, sentence, order, decree, appeal, 14 cause of action, defense, contract, claim, title of right shall 15 remain live and shall remain the responsibility of the State of 16 Chuuk until concurrent statutes are established by the Mortlocks 17 State Government.

18 Section 9. This act shall become law upon approval by the 19 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon it 20 becoming law without such approval.

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22 Date: <u>8/23/07</u> 23 Introduced by: <u>/s/ Peter Sitan</u> Peter Sitan 24

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