A BILL FOR AN ACT

To further amend section 402 of title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as enacted by Public Law No. 14-76, to allow for same day voting registration, and by inserting a new section 607, to allow for early voting by citizens who reside in a location without a polling place, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Section 402 of title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as enacted by Public Law 14-76, is hereby amended, to read as follows:

"Section 402. Registration required; Re-registration prohibited.

(1) No person shall be entitled to vote in any National Election, or to be listed upon the National Voter Register, or upon any Signature List, who fails to register to vote with the National Election Office or State Election Office at least 30 days prior to Election Day; provided however that any person who meets the eligibility requirements of sections 103 and 403, and the registration requirements of section 404, shall be able to register to vote on Election Day. The National Election Director shall make whatever modifications are necessary to the rules and regulations that have been promulgated to facilitate same day voter registration without lessening the eligibility or registration requirements."
(2) A person having once been registered with the National Election Office or State Election Office shall not re-register, or be required to re-register, in a National Election, except:

(a) in case of change of name or residence, as specified in section 405 of this chapter; or

(b) in the event voting records are lost or destroyed, the National Election Director may require the re-registration of those voters whose records are lost or destroyed."

Section 2. Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding a new section 607 of chapter 6, to read as follows:

"Section 607. Voting absentee ballot in-person prior to election day by citizens residing where there is no polling place.

(1) Registered Voters who reside in a location that does not have a Polling Place may vote at any other Polling Place up to seven (7) days before Election Day if they meet the following conditions:

(a) the voter is lawfully registered to vote; and

(b) the voter submits a written request to cast a ballot, using the forms required by the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this
(2) Upon meeting the conditions specified in subsection (1) of this section, the National Election Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall issue the traveler absentee voter the same voting materials that are issued to absentee voters by mail as specified in subsection 602(3) of this chapter. The same procedures for marking, returning, and disposition of absentee ballots by mail specified in subsection 602(3) and 602(4) of this chapter shall apply to the marking, returning and disposition of traveler absentee ballots.

(3) The National Election Director, or his or her designee, shall strike out or delete the entry of the absentee voter on the Signature List any other Polling Place. The traveler absentee voter shall not be allowed
to cast a ballot at another Polling Place on or prior to Election Day, nor by absentee ballot by mail.”

Section 3. 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: 9/15/14

Introduced by: /s/ Peter M. Christian

Peter M. Christian