A BILL FOR AN ACT

To further amend sections 202, 203, 205, 208, 210 and 228 of title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 11-26 and 17-03 and to create a new chapter 3 in order to create a body called the Federated States of Micronesia Telecommunication Regulation Authority, setting forth the powers, duties, and prerogatives of the Authority, establishing the standards and guidelines in enhancing access to and affordability of telecommunication services in the Federated States of Micronesia, using the principles of liberalization, free and open competition, and costumer-oriented approach, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Section 202 of title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 202. Establishment of Corporation. The Telecommunications Corporation of the Federated States of Micronesia is hereby established as a shareholding company (the "Corporation") with a paid-up share capital equal to the amount certified by the Public Auditor to be the amount by which the assets of the Corporation exceed its liabilities as at the end of the last financial year of the Corporation. Such share capital shall be divided into paid-up common shares of such denominations as shall be specified in a certificate issued by the
Secretary and shall be issued in equal numbers to the Secretary of Finance and Administration and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure. The shareholding Secretaries shall hold the shares for and on behalf of the Government.”

Section 2. Section 203 of title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 203. Powers and responsibilities of the Corporation. The Corporation has the following powers and responsibilities:

(1) to operate as the sole provider of all telecommunications services, except radio and television broadcasting, within the Federated States of Micronesia and between points in the Federated States of Micronesia and points outside thereof;

(2) to operate and manage such services on the basis of commercially accepted practices, treating all users of telecommunications services on equitable terms in accordance with its published tariffs, and requiring all users to pay for the services provided;

(3) to plan for the expansion and improvement of telecommunications facilities and services;

(4) to the extent practicable, to expand
telecommunications services to areas and communities in the Federated States of Micronesia that are presently not served or poorly served and to improve the quality, reliability, and variety of services available to all users in a manner consistent with commercial reasonableness and with promoting economic development, the advancement of education and health care, and the preservation of the cultural identity of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(5) to improve the telecommunications skills and promote the telecommunications training of Micronesian citizens who are employees of the Corporation;

(6) to establish, publish, and implement a structure of tariffs and rates for telecommunications services calculated to ensure that, to the extent practicable, adequate and equitable charges are imposed for services and that the tariff structure promotes the increased use of telecommunications services;

(7) to invest all surplus revenues of the Corporation in the expansion and improvement of telecommunications facilities and services;

(8) to incur indebtedness for the purpose of expanding and improving telecommunications facilities, to the extent and on such terms as are deemed commercially reasonable by the Corporation;
(9) to provide on a reimbursable basis emergency telecommunications services to governments, individuals, and entities in the Federated States of Micronesia; and
[(10) to represent the Federated States of Micronesia with regard to telecommunications matters in such international organizations and for a in which the Federated States of Micronesia is represented, subject to the policy guidance of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.]

Section 3. Section 205 of title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 205. Legal capacity of the Corporation. In performing the functions authorized under this chapter or other law of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Corporation shall have the capacity to exercise all powers normally exercised by a corporation, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) to adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal;

(2) to adopt and amend bylaws governing the conduct of its business and the exercise of its powers;

(3) to sue and be sued in its corporate name;

(4) to acquire, in any lawful manner, real, personal, or mixed property, either tangible or intangible; to hold, maintain, use, and operate such property; and to
sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property;

[(5) to acquire and take over in any lawful manner the
business, property, assets, and liabilities of any
entity, including the Government of the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands relating to communications;]

[-[6-]) (5) to borrow or raise any sum or sums of money
and to issue corporate bonds on such security and upon
such terms as may from time to time be deemed necessary
for the expansion and improvement of communications
facilities;

-[7)] (6) to retain and terminate the services of
employees, agents, attorneys, auditors, and independent
contractors upon such terms and conditions as it may
deem appropriate; and

-[8-]) (7) to do all such other things as may be deemed
incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the
responsibilities of the Corporation."

Section 4. Section 208 of title 21 of the Code of the
Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos.
11-26 and 17-03, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 5. Section 210 of title 21 of the Code of the
Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby amended to
read as follows:

"Section 210. Board of Directors - Composition.

(a) The Board shall be composed of five voting
members. One member shall be appointed by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia with the advice and consent of the Congress. [The Governor of each State of the Federated States of Micronesia shall appoint one member of the Board with the advice and consent of the respective State legislature. The chief executive officer of the Corporation shall serve ex officio as a member of the Board but he shall have no right to vote.]

(b) The directors of the Corporation shall be persons who in the opinion of the shareholding Secretaries shall be qualified to assist the Corporation to operate its business, and shall be appointed and removed by the shareholding Secretaries by resolution.

(c) Save as provided in this section, all decisions relating to the operation of the Corporation shall be made by or pursuant to the authority of the board of directors.

(d) The shareholding Secretaries may, after consulting with the board, by written notice to the board determine the amount of dividend payable by the Corporation in respect of any financial year and the board shall comply with the notice.

(e) The board shall supply to the shareholding Secretaries or to such persons or class of persons as
either of the Secretaries specifies such information
relating to the affairs of the Corporation as either of	hose Secretaries requests after consultation with the
board. Such information request shall not include any
information relating to an individual employee or
customer of the Corporation.

(f) A shareholding Secretary may at any time, by
written notice to the secretary of the Corporation,
authorize, on such terms and conditions as are specified
in the notice, such person as the Secretary thinks fit
to act as the Secretary’s representative at any or all
of the meetings of shareholders of the corporation. Such
representative may exercise the same powers on behalf of
the Secretary as the Secretary could exercise if present
in person at the meeting.”

Section 6. Section 228 of title 21 of the Code of the
Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby deleted in
its entirety.

Section 7. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 228 to read as follows:

“Section 232. Approval of Major Transactions:

(a) For the purpose of this section, a ‘major
transaction’ in relation to the Corporation means:

(1) The acquisition of, or an agreement to acquire,
whether contingent or not, assets the value of which is
more than half the value of the Corporation’s assets
before the acquisition; or

(2) The disposition of, or an agreement to dispose of,
whether contingent or not, assets of the Corporation the
value of which is more than half the value of the
Corporation’s assets before the disposition; or

(3) A transaction that has or is likely to have the
effect of the Corporation acquiring rights or interests
or incurring obligations or liabilities, including
contingent liabilities, the value of which is more than
half the value of the Corporation’s assets before the
transaction.

(b) In assessing the value of any contingent
liability for the purposes of paragraph c of subsection
(a), the directors must have regard to all circumstances
that the directors know, or ought to know, affect or may
affect the value of any contingent liability, may rely
on estimates of the contingent liability that are
reasonable in the circumstances, and may take account of
the likelihood of the contingency occurring and any
claim that the Corporation is entitled to make and can
reasonably expect to be met to reduce or extinguish the
contingent liability.

(c) The unanimous assent of the shareholders of
the Corporation shall be required to any major
transaction.”

Section 8. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by creating a
new chapter 3 entitled: “FSM Telecommunication Authority”.

Section 9. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 301 under chapter 3, to read as follows:

“Section 301. Short title. This Act may be cited as
the ‘FSM Telecommunications Act of 2013’.”

Section 10. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 302 under chapter 3, to read as follows:

“Section 302. Definition. In this Act, unless the
context otherwise requires:

(a) ‘access’ means the provision of access to a
bottleneck facility by one licensee to another for the
purpose of the second licensee providing communications
services;

(b) ‘Act’ means the FSM Telecommunications Act
2013, and where appropriate includes the rules and
regulation made pursuant to this Act;

(c) ‘affiliate’ means, in relation to any one
person, any other person directly or indirectly
controlling or controlled by or under the direct or
indirect common control with, such specified person;

(d) ‘appeals panel’ means the body constituted from time to time pursuant to section 328;

(e) ‘Authority’ means the Office of the Telecommunication Regulation Authority established under section 304;

(f) ‘bottleneck facility’ means a communications facility declared by the Authority to be essential for the production of communications services which, for technical reasons or due to economies of scope and scale and the presence of sunk costs, cannot practicably be duplicated by a potential competitor in a communications market;

(g) ‘communications’ means the conveyance from one device to another of any message by means of any wire, radio, optical, electric, magnetic, electromagnetic, or similar system;

(h) ‘communications facility’ means any infrastructure, building, or switching equipment; any submarine cable landing in the Federated States of Micronesia, submarine cable landing station, or satellite transmitting facility; any location, mast site, tower, pole, trunk line, access line, duct or other underground facility; or other passive equipment that is used or is capable of being used for
communications or for any operation directly connected
with communications, but excluding customer equipment;

(i) ‘communications market’ means a market
determined by the Authority for communications services
or access;

(j) ‘communications network’ means a system that
uses electricity or electromagnetic energy for providing
communications services between network termination
points;

(k) ‘communications service’ means a service for
the transmission of communications by means of a
communications network;

(l) ‘consumer’ means a customer who contracts for
a communications service that is offered on standard
conditions that are of general application and not
negotiated individually;

(m) ‘customer’ means a person who contracts for a
communications service;

(n) ‘customer equipment’ means equipment
(including cabling) that is on the customer side of the
network termination point and intended to be connected
to a communications network;

(o) ‘Department’ means the Department of
Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure of the
Government;
(p) ‘Dominant Service Provider’ means in respect of a communications market and licensee who, in the opinion of the Authority:

(i) Receives 40% or more of the total gross revenues of all service providers in that market; or

(ii) Has a position of economic strength or controls a bottleneck facility in that market that allows the licensee to behave independently of competitors or potential competitors, consumers, or customers;

(q) ‘equipment’ includes any appliance, apparatus, device or accessory used or intended to be used for communications purposes;

(r) ‘exempt network’ means a communications network:

(i) Not used to provide any communications service for which a charge is imposed;

(ii) Wholly within one property (including a ship or aircraft) or a number of properties which together comprise a campus;

(iii) Used only for a person’s private or internal requirements (including the requirements of an organisation’s staff, a related entity or a holding company, subsidiary company or associated company); or

(iv) Covered by an exemption under subsection
(s) ‘exempt service’ means a communications service:

(i) Provided only over an exempt network; or

(ii) Provided in circumstances covered by an exemption under section 330(1)(a);

(t) ‘Government’ means the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(u) ‘Inspector’ means a person appointed or designated by the Authority under section 376;

(v) ‘interconnection’ means the physical and logical linking of communications networks of different licensees in order to allow the customers of one licensee to communicate with customers of the same or another licensee, or to access the communications services of another licensee;

(w) ‘licence’ means an operating or spectrum licence issued to a person or class of persons under this Act;

(x) ‘licensee’ means a person who holds or is registered under a licence issued under this Act;

(y) ‘market’ means a market in the Federated States of Micronesia for goods and services that, as a matter of fact and commercial common sense, are substitutable for them;
(z) ‘message’ means any sign, signal, writing, image, sound, instruction, information, or intelligence of any nature;

(aa) ‘net revenue’ means, in respect of any service provider, the gross revenue received by the service provider from the provision of communications services and from interconnection and access, less the sum of:

(i) The interconnection and access charges paid by the service provider to another person in the Federated States of Micronesia; and

(ii) Payments made by the service provider to an unrelated person outside the Federated States of Micronesia for the carriage of telecommunications traffic originating in the Federated States of Micronesia to destinations outside of FSM;

(ab) ‘network termination point’ means the point determined by the technical rules for the purposes of this Act or, in the absence of such rules:

(i) The first equipment socket in a private residence;

(ii) The public network termination point on the main distribution frame in a building;

(iii) A point agreed between the customer and the owner of the communications facility to which that
customer is connected; or

(iv) The air side of the antenna at the customer equipment, where such equipment is connected to a network by means of radio communications;

(ac) ‘Open Access Entity’ means a corporation established pursuant to section 389;

(ad) ‘person’ includes a public authority and any association of persons, whether incorporated or not;

(ae) ‘publish’ means, where it relates to publication of a document by the Authority, to publish in accordance with section 322(2);

(af) ‘President’ means the President of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(aq) ‘radio communication’ has the meaning assigned to that term in the Federated States of Micronesia Radio Communication Act of 1991, codified as Chapter 1 Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(ah) ‘radio frequency spectrum’ means those radio frequencies comprising channels for specific radio transmission technologies usable in the Federated States of Micronesia;

(ai) ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure;
(aj) ‘sensitive information’ has the meaning given in section 322(5);

(ak) ‘service provider’ means a person who:

(i) Owns a communications network; or

(ii) Provides or is entitled to provide a communications service under a licence or exemption; or

(iii) Has applied for a licence or exemption under this Act;

(ll) ‘specified communications network’ means a communications network that includes a line or radio communications link, or a series of lines or radio communications links, between two fixed points, including:

(i) Radio communications transmission links;

(ii) Cable transmission links; and

(iii) Cable access networks;

(a) ‘universal access obligation’ means an obligation of a licensee to provide communications services under a universal access policy in an eligible geographic area under Section 361(1).

(b) ‘universal access plan’ has the meaning given in section 367;

(c) ‘Universal Access Special Revolving Fund’ means the Universal Access Special Revolving Fund established under section 365;
(d) ‘user’ means any person using a communications service, regardless of whether such a person is contracted to acquire the service.

(g) ‘wholesale services’ means services required by a licensee in order to provide communications services where such services are supplied or provided by means of or by means that rely upon a bottleneck facility.”

Section 11. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 303 under chapter 3, to read as follows:

“Section 303. General objectives

(1) The objectives of this Act are:

(a) Providing transparent, technologically and competitively neutral regulation, which focuses on promoting the long-term interests of users;

(b) Providing regulation that is proportionate to the objectives set forth in this Act, non-discriminatory in nature, and promotes reliance on market forces to the greatest extent reasonable in the circumstances;

(c) Providing conditions for effective competition among service providers in the Federated States of Micronesia and encouraging efficient and sustainable investment in and use of communications networks and services;
(d) Providing a licensing regime which promotes entry of new licensees and which fosters investment and innovation in communications networks and the supply of communications services;

(e) Providing efficient use of communications facilities and providing for cost-based interconnection and access on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis for operators of communications networks, to promote end-to-end connectivity of separate communications networks;

(f) Protecting the interests of consumers and regulating prices;

(g) Promoting the development of communications in the Federated States of Micronesia, as far as practicable in accordance with recognised international standards and practices;

(h) Promoting the effective and efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum, numbers, rights of way, and other finite resources;

(i) Extending access to communications services to all persons in the Federated States of Micronesia, to the greatest extent reasonable in the circumstances; and Promoting the appropriate use of communications networks and communications services.”

Section 12. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 304 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 304. Establishment of the Authority.

(1) There is hereby established the ‘Office of the Telecommunication Regulation Authority’ with the functions and powers set out in this Act.

(2) The Authority shall consist of a Chief Executive and two members, all appointed by the President.

(3) Except as set out in section 317(3), the Authority shall act independently from the Government and the Secretary in performing its functions and duties and exercising its powers under this Act.”

Section 13. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 305 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 305. Functions and powers of the Authority.

For the purpose of achieving the objectives referred to in section 303, the Authority shall:

(a) Issue licences and supervise and enforce compliance with this Act and the conditions of licences;

(b) Regulate access to and the sharing of communications facilities and interconnection of certain communications networks of licensees where such matters are not agreed to by the licensees;

(c) Monitor and enforce compliance with
competition requirements and determine when industry consolidation is permissible;

(d) Regulate the protection of consumers, the charges levied by licensees for communications networks, and the communications services and attributes of communications services;

(e) Specify the technical standards and procedures for interconnection, the operation of communications networks, and the provision of communications services;

(f) Regulate types and characteristics of communications equipment which may be connected to a communications network;

(g) Manage the registration and allocation of country code top-level domains for the Federated States of Micronesia;

(h) Monitor and report on the development and performance of the communications sector in supplying services and the contribution of the communications sector to the overall development of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(i) Monitor the quality of services provided by licensees and ensure that licensees conform to standards specified by the Authority;

(j) Manage the radio frequency spectrum required
to provide communications services, including numbering and electronic addressing, and where practicable assist licensees in obtaining access to land for communications networks;

(k) Administer universal service arrangements for the supply of communications services throughout the Federated States of Micronesia;

(l) Give effect to policies approved by the Authority or the President;

(m) Where required by the Secretary, represent the Government in international conferences or international and other organisations concerned with communications;

(n) Advise the Government on policies and legislative measures in respect of communications;

(o) Undertake consultations on matters relating to communications;

(p) Take enforcement action under this Act;

(q) Make rules and regulations as provided for under this Act; and

(r) Perform such other functions as are consistent with this Act.”

Section 14. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 306 under chapter 3 to read as follows:
“Section 306. Appointment and removal of members.

(1) All the members of the Authority (including the Chief Executive who shall be appointed as such) shall be appointed by the President, from among persons appearing to him to be qualified for the office for a term of 4 years. The President may renew the term of appointment of a member for up to two additional terms of four years each.

(2) The terms of appointment of a member shall be issued by the President and shall include with appropriate modifications an obligation to comply with such ethics rules comparable to those applicable to employees of the Public Service System from time to time.

(3) The President shall not appoint a person as Chief Executive under subsection (1) unless in the opinion of the President the person:

  (a) Has demonstrated experience of not less than 10 years in the fields of economics, law, finance, business, engineering or public administration in relation to the communications sector; and

  (b) Is not disqualified for appointment under subsection (5).

(4) There shall be no requirement that the Chief Executive is a citizen of the Federated States of
Micronesia, but preference may be given in the evaluation of candidates for the position to citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia where such persons are otherwise qualified under subsection (2).

(5) The President shall not appoint a person as an additional member under subsection (1) unless in the opinion of the President the person:

(a) Has demonstrated experience in the fields of economics, law, finance, business, engineering or public administration in relation to the communications sector; and

(b) Is not disqualified for appointment under subsection (6).

(6) A person shall be disqualified from becoming or remaining a member of the Authority if that person:

(a) Is found or declared to suffer from mental or physical incapacity;

(b) Is or has been convicted of a criminal offense involving dishonesty or corruption, or where the penalty includes imprisonment for one year or longer;

(c) Is or has been declared bankrupt or insolvent;

(d) Holds an elected office in the Federated States of Micronesia national or state government;

(e) In the case of the Chief Executive, is a
staff member or officer of a department or agency of the
Government; or

(f) Holds a direct or indirect financial or other
interest in any service provider other than through a
fund over which the person has no control or influence.

(7) The President may remove a member who is
disqualified under subsection (6), or has committed a
serious breach of the terms of appointment as such
member.

(8) A member may resign from the Authority upon one
month’s written notice to the President, or such shorter
time as the President and the member may agree in
writing.

(9) If any member of the Authority dies or ceases to
hold office before the expiration of the term for which
he was appointed, the term of office of his successor
shall be so fixed as to expire at the end of the first-
mentioned term.

(10) The President may appoint a person as Acting Chief
Executive of the Authority on an interim basis for up to
no more than six months where the Chief Executive has
not yet been appointed, or has ceased to hold office and
a replacement has not been appointed, or during a period
of temporary absence or incapacity.

(11) Any Acting Chief Executive appointed under
subsection (10) shall during his period of appointment have and exercise all the powers of the Chief Executive.”

Section 15. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 307 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 307. Remuneration of members. The Authority shall pay to each of its members, in respect of his office as such, remuneration and/or allowances as prescribed by the terms of appointment of such member issued by the President, and in determining the remuneration and allowances to be paid under this section, different provisions may be made as regards the Chief Executive and the other members but not as between the other members.”

Section 16. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 308 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 308. Incorporation and legal capacity of the Authority.

(1) The Authority shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal.

(2) The Authority may sue and be sued in its corporate name, may enter into contracts, and may acquire, purchase, take, hold and enjoy property of every
description. The Authority may convey, assign, surrender, yield up, charge, mortgage, lease, demise, reassign, transfer or otherwise dispose of or deal with any property or any interest therein vested in the Authority upon such terms as it sees fit.

(3) The Authority may act notwithstanding a vacancy among its members other than the Chief Executive.”

Section 17. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 309 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 309. Procedure of the Authority.

(1) Where no additional members have been appointed, the Chief Executive shall exercise all the functions and powers of the Authority.

(2) Where additional members have been appointed, the functions and powers of the Authority shall, subject to section 311, be exercised by a quorum comprising the Chief Executive and one other member. Each member of the Authority including the Chief Executive shall have one vote and a simple majority of votes shall be required to dispose of any item of business. In the event of a tie, the Chief Executive shall cast an additional deciding vote.

(3) Except as provided in subsections (1) and (2), the Authority shall determine its own procedure as the
Authority shall consider is necessary for the equitable and transparent exercise of its powers or for the effective administration of the Authority.”

Section 18. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 310 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 310. Duty of members to disclose conflicts of interest.

(1) A member of the Authority who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a matter before the Authority shall, as soon as possible after the relevant circumstances have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest to the Authority. If the Chief Executive is the sole member, the Chief Executive shall disclose the nature of his interest to the President.

(2) Any disclosure made under subsection (1) shall be recorded:

(a) In the minutes of the next meeting of the Authority where there are additional members; and

(b) By the Chief Executive confirming in writing to the President the nature of his conflict of interest where the Chief Executive is the sole member.

(3) The disclosing member:

(a) Shall not take part after the disclosure in any deliberation or decision of the Authority with
respect to that matter; and

(b) Shall be disregarded for the purpose of
constituting a quorum of the Authority for any such
deliberation or decision."

Section 19. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby amended by inserting a new
section 311 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 311. Chief Executive. The Chief Executive
shall be:

(a) Primarily responsible for the execution of
the policies, and the implementation of the decisions,
of the Authority;

(b) Primarily responsible for the supervision and
day-to-day management of the affairs of the Authority
and its staff; and

(c) The head of the staff of the Authority."

Section 20. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 312 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 312. Delegation by Chief Executive.
The Chief Executive may, in writing, delegate any of his
powers and functions in his capacity as Chief Executive
to any of the staff of the Authority, except this power
of delegation."

Section 21. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 313 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 313. Employees of the Authority.

(1) The Authority may employ such persons necessary for the efficient performance of its functions and powers as the Chief Executive may determine.

(2) The terms of employment shall include an obligation to comply with ethics rules adopted by the Authority that shall be comparable with appropriate modifications to those applicable to employees of the Public Service System from time to time.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2), the employees of the Authority shall be exempt from the Public Service System.”

Section 22. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 314 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 314. Authentication of Authority’s seal.

The Chief Executive shall by signature authenticate the application of the seal of the Authority.”

Section 23. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 315 under chapter 3 to read as follows:
Section 315. Presumption of authenticity of documents issued by the Authority.

Any document purporting to be an instrument issued by the Authority and sealed as aforesaid or signed on behalf of the Authority or by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Authority shall be received in evidence and shall be deemed to be such an instrument without further proof unless the contrary is shown."

Section 24. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 316 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 316. Protection of members of the Authority. No personal liability shall attach to any member or staff of the Authority in respect of anything done or permitted in good faith under the provisions of this Act."

Section 25. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 317 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 317. Government policies and international conventions.

(1) The Secretary shall:

(a) Before recommending to the President any general policy in relation to communications, consult with the Authority, licensees and other interested
persons and allow a reasonable period for consultation;
and

(b) Upon the President making such a policy, notify the Authority in writing.

(2) The Authority shall publish policies notified to it under subsection (1).

(3) The Authority shall:

(a) Give effect to a Government policy notified under subsection (1) to the extent possible consistent with this Act; and

(b) Have regard to obligations under any convention to which the Federated States of Micronesia is a party.

(4) The Secretary shall have no power to direct the Authority in respect of the performance of its functions and powers under this Act.”

Section 26. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 318 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 318. Exemption from income tax, customs duty and import levy.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, the income of the Authority shall be exempt from payment of income tax, and the Authority shall not be liable for the payment of customs duty and import levy, or any
other tax having a similar effect.”

Section 27. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 319 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 319. Annual reports, accounts and audit.

(1) The Authority shall be funded on an annual basis by licence fees and other fees it is entitled to charge under this Act, from grants and donations, and from moneys appropriated by Congress.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, charges and fees payable to the Authority pursuant to this Act shall be payable to the Authority’s nominated bank account.

(3) Charges and fees payable to the Authority under this Act constitute a debt, which may be recovered by the Authority in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) The Authority shall by:

(a) 30 September of each year, submit its annual budget for the following financial year and forecasts for the following two financial years to the President;

(b) 31 March of each year, cause its accounts for the previous financial year to be audited by the Public Auditor;

(c) 30 June of each year, submit to the President and publish the audited accounts and an annual report on
its activities for the previous financial year; and

(d) 30 June of each year, submit to the President

a report on all significant matters relating to the

performance and efficiency of the communications sector,

with particular reference to the:

(i) Adequacy and quality of services; and

(ii) Contribution of the communications

sector to economic development in the Federated States

of Micronesia.

(5) The annual report of the Authority shall include:

(a) A list of the licenses issued under this Act

and then in force;

(b) A list of the interconnection and access

agreements then in force;

(c) A summary of any material litigation

involving the Authority;

(d) A description of the activities carried out

during the year in respect of the universal access plan.

(6) The Authority shall transfer to the Universal

Access Special Revolving Fund any monies that it

receives under this Act in excess of its approved budget

and forecast funding needs, unless the Secretary directs

the Authority to retain such excess in anticipation of

future expenditure.”

Section 28. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 320 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 320. Efficiency audit.

(1) The President may at any time direct the Public Auditor to undertake an efficiency audit of the Authority.

(2) On being directed to undertake an efficiency audit, the Public Auditor shall within three months:

(a) Review the Authority’s annual budget for the current fiscal year and the Authority’s forecasts for the following two fiscal years;

(b) Assess whether the budget and forecasts are reasonable having regard to the Authority’s functions under this Act; and

(c) Provide a report to the Authority and the President outlining these findings and, if practicable, recommend changes to the Authority’s budget and forecasts.

(3) The Public Auditor may delegate its responsibility to undertake the efficiency audit to a suitably qualified auditing firm.

(4) The Authority shall fully cooperate in the conduct of the efficiency audit by providing assistance including giving access to and full disclosure of documents and financial records of the Authority to the
(5) If a report under subsection (2) concludes that the Authority’s budget or forecasts are not reasonable having regard to the functions of the Authority under this Act, the Authority shall provide views on that conclusion to the President within three months. The President shall, after considering the views of the Authority and the Public Auditor, either affirm the Authority’s budget and forecasts or direct the Authority to modify the budget or forecasts and the Authority shall promptly comply with such direction.”

Section 29. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 321 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 321. Consultation.

(1) The Authority shall carry out such consultations as are required by this Act. The Authority may also carry out such other consultations with interested persons as it deems appropriate in the circumstances.

(2) Where this Act requires the Authority to conduct a consultation, the Chief Executive shall publish a written notice specifying:

(a) The power which the Authority intends to exercise;

(b) The way in which the Authority intends to
exercise that power; and

(c) The reasons for the intended exercise of that power.

(3) Where this Act requires the Authority to conduct consultation with a particular person, the Chief Executive shall also provide the written notice specified in subsection (2) to that person.

(4) A person shall be entitled to provide a submission to the Authority in response to a notice published under subsection (2). The due date to lodge such a submission shall be 14 days from the date of the notice or such longer period as the Authority may specify in the notice.

(5) The Authority shall take into account any submission it receives under subsection (4) by the due date. The Authority is not prohibited from taking into account a submission it receives after the due date.

(6) Subject to section 322, the Authority shall make publicly available a copy of any submission it receives under subsection (4).

(7) The Authority shall, before making a final decision:

(a) Publish a draft decision; and

(b) Provide a copy of such draft decision to every person who has made a submission under subsection
(4), where required by this Act, or where the Authority otherwise considers it appropriate.

(8) If the Authority issues a draft decision, subsections (2) to (6) shall apply to the draft decision, as if references to the written notice provided under subsection (2) were references to the draft decision.

(9) After making a final decision, the Authority shall promptly:

(a) Publish that decision; and

(b) Provide a copy of such decision to every person who has made a submission under subsection (4).”

Section 30. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 322 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 322. Publication and use of information

(1) Subject to subsection (3), the Authority shall publish—

(a) All rules or other instruments made under this Act;

(b) All licences and exemptions issued under this Act; and

(c) Such other documents it is required to publish under this Act.

(2) Where the Authority is required to publish a
(a) Shall publish the document on its website;

and

(b) May publish the document in such other manner as the Authority considers appropriate.

(3) Subject to subsections (8) and (9), neither the Authority nor any agent of the Authority shall knowingly publish or disclose sensitive information to any person, knowingly allow sensitive information to be disclosed to any person, or use sensitive information for personal advantage. A breach of this prohibition by a member or employee of the Authority shall be a breach of the terms of appointment or employment of that person.

(4) Subsection (3) shall also apply to a person who publishes, discloses or uses sensitive information after ceasing to be a member, employee or agent of the Authority.

(5) Subject to subsection (8), ‘sensitive information’ means information:

(a) Submitted to the Authority by a person;

(b) Not already in the public domain;

(c) Designated as confidential or proprietary by that person because:

(i) The person has a legal obligation to keep the information confidential;
(ii) The information is commercially sensitive to the person;

(iii) Disclosure would compromise effective competition in a communications market; or

(iv) Disclosure would create a risk to a person’s safety or national security.

(6) The Authority may, by notice given to the person supplying information under subsection (5) within 7 days of the information being submitted, determine that the information and any data derived from that information is not confidential or proprietary and as of the date of such notice that information shall not be ‘sensitive information’.

(7) Where information is provided to the Authority voluntarily, upon receipt of a notice issued under subsection (6) the submitter may within 3 days of receipt by notice to the Authority withdraw the information, in which case:

(a) The Authority shall not have regard to the information; and

(b) Subsections (3) and (4) shall apply as if the information were sensitive information.

(8) Sensitive information does not include the terms of an interconnection and access agreement, including prices for interconnection and access services.
(9) The Authority may aggregate sensitive information in such a manner that the identity of the provider of the information is not readily apparent and:

(a) Publish such information in reports concerning the state of a communications market in the Federated States of Micronesia;

(b) Provide such information to other persons for the purposes of research or the preparation and publication of reports for non-commercial purposes concerning communications markets including such markets in the Federated States of Micronesia.

(10) The Authority may in the course of taking any action or making any decision in regard to an interconnection or access dispute supply any sensitive information provided by a party to that dispute to representatives of another party to the dispute where the Authority is satisfied that the confidentiality of the information is protected by legal privilege or that other steps have been taken to ensure that the use of that information is restricted to the proper conduct of the dispute.”

Section 31. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 323 under chapter 3 to read as follows:
“Section 323. Service of notices.

Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Act, any document required or authorised by this Act to be provided to or served on any person, may be provided or served on the person concerned by:

(1) Delivering it to the person or to some adult member or employee of that person’s family at the person’s last known residence;

(2) Leaving it at that person’s usual or last known residence or place of business in a cover addressed to the person;

(3) Attaching it to some conspicuous part of that person’s last known residence;

(4) Sending it by registered post addressed to that person at that person’s usual or last known residence or place of business;

(5) Where the person is a body corporate:

(a) Delivering it to the secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate at its registered or principal office; or

(b) Sending it by registered post addressed to the body corporate at its registered or principal office."

Section 32. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 324 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 324. Delegation of powers to other regulatory bodies.

(1) Where, in the opinion of the Secretary and after consultation with the Authority, a regional or sub-regional regulatory body has been established with the capacity to efficiently perform any of the functions of the Authority described in section 305(e), (f) or (h), the Secretary may by notice to the Authority authorize the Authority to delegate to that body on such terms as the Authority shall think fit all or any of those functions.

(2) Any decisions or actions of a regional or sub-regional regulatory body taken in accordance with a delegation under subsection (1) shall have full force and effect in the Federated States of Micronesia as a decision or action of the Authority.”

Section 33. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 325 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 325. Review options.

(1) Any person affected by a determination, decision or order of the Authority under this Act may apply:

(a) For reconsideration of the determination, decision or order under section 326;
(b) For a review by way of appeal under section 328; or

(c) To the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia on the basis of an error of law.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a person may not apply to the Supreme Court in respect of a determination, decision, or order of the Authority:

(a) If the person has not applied for reconsideration of the determination, decision or order under section 326;

(b) If the person has applied for reconsideration and the Authority has not yet made a decision as to whether to reconsider the determination, decision or order; or

(c) If the person has not applied for a review of a decision by the appeals panel; or

(d) If the person has applied for a review and the appeals panel has not yet made a decision on that application.

(3) Unless the Supreme Court otherwise orders, the filing of an application under subsection (1) (c) does not prevent the determination, decision or order from having full force and effect.”

Section 34. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 326 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 326. Reconsideration of determinations, decisions or orders.

(1) Any person directly affected by a determination, decision or order of the Authority may apply to the Authority for reconsideration within 14 days of the determination, decision, or order of which review is sought.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must specify:

(a) The determination, decision or order of the Authority to which the application relates;

(b) The reasons for which the reconsideration is sought; and

(c) The action sought on reconsideration.

(3) The Authority shall, within 20 days from receipt of an application under subsection (1), consider the application and notify the applicant as to whether the determination, decision or order will be reconsidered.

(4) If, 20 days after the filing of an application for reconsideration, the applicant has not received a response to the application, the Authority shall be deemed to have affirmed the determination, decision or order in respect of which the application for reconsideration was made.

(5) If the Authority determines to reconsider the
determination, decision or order, it shall comply with
the same procedures (such as consultation and
preparation of a draft decision) to be complied with
when the determination, decision or order was first
made.”

Section 35. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 327 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 327. Appointment of experts.

(1) The Secretary shall establish a register of
experts who shall be available to act as members of an
appeals panel constituted under section 328. In
establishing and maintaining the register, the Secretary
shall consult with the Authority and with all service
providers.

(2) The Authority or any service provider may from
time to time nominate additional persons for inclusion
in the register. Such additional person or persons shall
be added to the register unless there is an objection
either from the Authority or any service provider.

(3) The register of experts shall comprise at all
times at least three persons who collectively have
commercial, technical and legal expertise in the field
of communications.

(4) A person may be included in the register only if
the person:

(a) Meets the eligibility criteria to be appointed a member of the Authority; or

(b) Has at least 10 years international experience in the regulation of communications markets; and

(c) Is not a member, officer, employee, agent or consultant of the Authority and has not been such a person for at least 12 months.

(5) The Secretary shall remove a person from the register of experts if the person no longer meets the criteria for appointment under subsection (4).

(6) The Authority shall act as the secretariat for the appeals panel and shall publish the membership of the register of experts."

Section 36. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 328 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 328. Appeals.

(1) Any person may apply to the secretariat of the appeals panel for a review of a decision of the Authority where expressly permitted by this Act.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must:

(a) Specify the decision to which the application relates;
(b) Specify the reasons why the review is sought
and the outcome sought from the appeals panel; and

(c) Be submitted to the secretariat within 14
days of publication of the decision or after that period
with the consent of the secretariat.

(3) On receipt of a valid and complete application for
review under subsection (1), the secretariat shall
select from the register not less than two persons whom
the secretariat considers are suitably qualified to form
the appeals panel. The secretariat shall notify the
parties to the decision appealed against, including the
Authority, of those names and invite the parties to
agree on the person or persons from amongst those names
to be chosen to form the appeals panel.

(4) Should the parties to the decision appealed
against be unable to agree within 5 working days of the
delivery of the list, the secretariat may either
nominate an additional name or names from the register,
in which case the parties shall have a further 5 working
days to agree on the composition of the appeals panel,
or may choose the members of the appeal panel from
amongst the persons nominated by the secretariat.

(5) If more than one member is appointed to the
appeals panel, the secretariat shall designate one
member of the panel as the Chair whose opinion shall
determine the appeal in the event of a tie.

(6) The appeals panel:

(a) Shall give a copy of the application for review to persons affected by the decision under review and any other person who made a submission to the Authority in a consultation relating to the decision under review, and invite such persons to make submissions;

(b) May determine an application on the papers or convene a hearing in person or by teleconference or other means that permits all those participating to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously; and

(c) In all other matters, may determine its own procedures as it sees fit, provided that such procedures do not give one person affected by the decision an advantage over any other person affected by the decision.

(7) An appeal shall be by way of rehearing on the evidence before the Authority. The appeals panel:

(a) Shall take into account information submitted by a party to the appeal that updates the information previously provided to the Authority; and

(b) May, in exceptional circumstances, take into account new information submitted by a party to the
appeal.

(8) The appeals panel may stay the operation of the decision while considering the application.

(9) The appeals panel shall:

(a) Affirm the decision under review;

(b) Vary the decision under review;

(c) Set aside the decision under review and make their own decision, which shall be treated as a decision of the Authority; or

(d) Refer the matter back to the Authority for reconsideration in such respects as the panel shall specify and the Authority shall comply with any such direction.

(10) The appeals panel shall give a copy of its decision and the reasons for the decision to each person affected by the decision and the Authority.

(11) The Authority shall publish a decision of the appeals panel given to it under subsection (9).

(12) The costs of the appeals panel in conducting the review shall be borne by the person making the application for review. That person shall on filing the application for review promptly pay to the secretariat such amount or amounts by way of pre-payment of such costs as the secretariat shall reasonably determine.

(13) The appeals panel may make a costs order in
exceptional circumstances where it considers that a
person other than the applicant for review has
materially contributed to an increase in the amount of
the costs of the review and if such order is made, costs
will be apportioned between that person and the
applicant.

(14) A decision of the appeals panel is final and
binding, subject to section 325(1)(c)."

Section 37. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 329 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 329. Licence for communications network or
service.

(1) Subject to subsections (5) and (6), no person may,
in the FSM or between any place in the FSM and any place
outside the FSM, except in accordance with an operating
licence issued under this Act:

(a) Own or operate a specified communications
network; or

(b) Provide a communications service.

(2) The Authority may issue the following types of
operating licences pursuant to the requirements of the
licensing rules:

(a) An individual licence, to authorize the
ownership or operation of any specified communications
network and the provision of any communications service; and

(b) A class licence, to authorise the provision of any communications service.

(3) The Authority shall issue an individual licence to a specified person for a specified period but not exceeding 20 years.

(4) A class licence shall:

(a) Be issued by the Authority setting out:

   (i) The terms and conditions of the licence; and

   (ii) Any applicable eligibility criteria; and

(b) Come into force with respect to any person upon registration by that person under section 331(1)(b).

(5) No licence shall be required under subsection (1) to own or operate an exempt network or to provide an exempt service, subject to compliance with any conditions set out in the licensing rules.

(6) No licence shall be required for the ownership of a specified communications network where the operator of that specified communications network has been issued with the required licence.

(7) Operating licences shall not specify or restrict the technology or network type to be used by the
licensee to provide communications services.”

Section 38. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 330 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 330. Licensing rules for communications networks or services.

(1) The Authority may make licensing rules specifying:

(a) Additional exempt services and exempt networks and conditions attaching to such exemption;

(b) The process for submitting an individual licence application or application for registration, including the intended timeframe for the Authority to process an application;

(c) The eligibility criteria for individual licences and registration under class licences;

(d) A fair and transparent method or methods of selecting applicants in circumstances where applications for licences may exceed the restrictions set out in subsection (2); and

(e) General licence conditions which apply to all operating licences.

(2) The licensing rules may set out restrictions or limitations on the issuance or scope of licences necessary to give effect to the objectives of this Act, including promoting competitive communications markets.”
Section 39. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 331 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 331. Obtaining a licence for communications networks or services.

(1) Any person may in accordance with the licensing rules apply to the Authority:

(a) For an individual licence; or

(b) For registration under a class licence.

(2) The Authority shall promptly issue an individual licence to an applicant provided that:

(a) The applicant’s application complies with the licensing rules;

(b) The applicant pays any applicable application fee to the Authority;

(c) The applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the licence; and

(d) The licence is not of a type that is restricted in number.

(3) An applicant for an individual licence may combine that application with an application for a radio frequency spectrum licence. In such case, the Authority shall progress the two applications in concert and issue the licences together or under such arrangement as the Authority and the applicant agree.
(4) The Authority must provide reasons for any refusal to issue an individual licence to an applicant.

(5) The Authority shall promptly register an applicant under a class licence provided that:

(a) The application for registration complies with the licensing rules; and

(b) The applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the licence.

(6) The Authority shall maintain and publish a register of licensees and licences. The entry in the register shall be the authoritative record of the status of any licence.

(7) Any restrictions under other laws concerning foreign investment in the Federated States of Micronesia shall not apply to carrying on the business of owning or operating a communications network or providing a communications service by a licensee.

(8) Except as set out in this section, an operating licence shall not discharge the licensee from any obligation to obtain any other licences, permits or approvals required by law.”

Section 40. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 332 under chapter 3, to read as follows:
“Section 332. Spectrum Licensing Authority.

(1) The Authority shall have sole responsibility in licensing the use and allocating and assigning the radio frequency spectrum for the provision of communications services in the Federated States of Micronesia.

(2) No person may use radio frequencies in a manner that is inconsistent with an allocation and assignment of radio frequencies by the Authority under this section.

(3) In performing its functions and duties and exercising its powers under this section, the Authority shall ensure that radio frequency spectrum is managed and used in a manner that:

(a) Is open, non-discriminatory, competitively neutral, objective and transparent;

(b) Is consistent with any applicable international treaties, commitments, recommendations or standards legally binding on the Federated States of Micronesia; and

(c) Is economically efficient and permits evolution to new technologies and services.”

Section 41. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 333 under chapter 3 to read as follows:
“Section 333. Spectrum licensing rules.

(1) The Authority may make spectrum licensing rules relating to the use of radio frequency spectrum for the provision of communications services specifying:

(a) The types of spectrum licences that may be issued in relation to spectrum blocks or particular frequencies;

(b) The technical requirements that apply to the use of parts of the radio frequency spectrum or particular spectrum licensees;

(c) The parts of the radio frequency spectrum for which a spectrum licence may only be issued following a request for applications published by the Authority;

(d) The process for submitting an application for a spectrum licence including the intended timeframe for the Authority to process an application;

(e) The eligibility criteria for a spectrum licence;

(f) A fair and transparent method or methods of selecting applicants in circumstances where applications for spectrum licences exceed the available spectrum, which may include a competitive tender;

(g) Procedures for a declaration that assigned spectrum is assigned on a non-exclusive basis and the making of further allocations of spectrum in the same
(h) Procedures for the vacation of spectrum that has been assigned to any person and the assignment of that spectrum to another person; and

(i) General licence conditions for spectrum licences.

(2) In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Authority shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulation governing the use of radio frequency spectrum.”

Section 42. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting section 334 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 334. Application for spectrum licence.

(1) Any person may apply to the Authority for a spectrum licence for the purpose of providing communications services.

(2) The Authority shall issue a spectrum licence to an applicant provided that:

(a) If required, the application has been made pursuant to and consistent with a request for applications published by the Authority;

(b) The applicant’s application complies with the spectrum licensing rules;

(c) The applicant pays any applicable application
fee to the Authority;

(d) The applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the licence;

(e) The application is consistent with the spectrum plan and any other spectrum planning instruments made by the Authority or the Department; and

(f) In circumstances where a method of selecting applicants is specified in the spectrum licensing rules and the applications for licences exceed the available spectrum, the applicant has been selected in accordance with those rules.

(3) The Authority shall publish all spectrum licences issued under this Act.”

Section 43. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 335 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 335. Licence conditions.

(1) It is a condition of an operating or spectrum licence that the licensee—

(a) Comply with this Act;

(b) Pay any applicable licence fees; and

(c) Comply with any applicable general conditions imposed under this Act and any special conditions imposed under subsection (2).

(2) The Authority may impose special operating licence
conditions that shall apply to an individual licensee.”

Section 44. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 336 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 336. Licence fees.

(1) The Authority shall make rules specifying the annual licence fees payable by a holder of either an operating or spectrum licence.

(2) Rules under subsection (1) shall determine annual fees for operating and spectrum licences in accordance with the following principles:

(a) The Authority shall endeavour to minimise the fees payable by licensees (having regard to section 319(1) and the funding required for the proper discharge of the functions of the Authority under this Act;

(b) The method of determining such fees shall be transparent;

(c) Operating licence fees should aim to reflect the relative value of the licensed communications networks or communications services to the licensees;

(d) Subject to subsections (e) and (f), licence fees shall be determined on the same basis for all licensees holding the same category of licence;

(e) Operating licence fees for individual licences shall be based on a percentage of the gross
revenues of the licensee; and

(f) Operating licence fees for class licences shall be a fixed sum.

(3) The total projected annual licence fees payable by all licensees in a year shall not exceed the lesser of:

(a) 5% of the gross revenues of all licensees from the provision of communications services and from interconnection and access in the Federated States of Micronesia in the prior financial year of the Authority;

or

(b) The Authority’s proposed annual budget and forecasts under section 319.

(4) Spectrum licence fees paid as a result of a competitive tender process shall be paid into the Universal Access Special Revolving Fund, after deduction of any costs reasonably incurred by the Authority in relation to the tender process.”

Section 45. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 337 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 337. Revocation, suspension, dealing or surrender of a licence.

(1) An operating or spectrum licence continues in effect until:

(a) It is revoked by the Authority; or
(b) The expiration of any term specified in the licence.

(2) The Authority may revoke or suspend an individual licence or registration of a person under a class licence for a communications network or service:

(a) With the consent of the licensee;

(b) If the licensee is in material breach of a licence condition;

(c) If the licensee has made false or misleading statements to the Authority in:

(i) Its licence application; or

(ii) Information submitted to the Authority under this Act; or

(d) If the licensee is insolvent, in receivership, bankrupt or being wound up.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Authority may revoke or suspend a spectrum licence:

(a) In the circumstances specified in subsections (2)(a) to (d); or

(b) If it is necessary to implement a variation to the spectrum plan or any other spectrum planning instrument made by the Authority or the Department and is consistent with international spectrum planning or the international obligations of the Federated States of Micronesia.
(4) The Authority may only revoke a licence under subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c) if it is satisfied that suspension is not appropriate in the circumstances, having regard to the seriousness of the breach of licence condition or the false or misleading statements.

(5) A licensee may surrender a licence (other than a class licence) by notice to the Authority.

(6) A licence is personal to the licensee and must not be assigned, transferred, sub-licensed or otherwise dealt with without the Authority’s written consent.”

Section 46. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 338 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 338. Commercial negotiation.
Subject to this Act, licensees may negotiate, agree and vary agreements with one another for interconnection of communications networks, access to and sharing of facilities and other services, and the provision of wholesale services, including the type and amount of charges, in such manner and on such conditions as are mutually acceptable to the licensees.”

Section 47. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 339 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 339. Interconnection and access and supply of
wholesale services by all licensees.

1. A licensee must, on written request from another licensee, promptly negotiate an interconnection and access agreement providing for the following, as the case may be:

(a) Interconnection of the licensees’ communications networks at any economically and technically feasible point of the first licensee’s network where interconnection would not affect the security, performance or efficiency of the first licensee’s network;

(b) Conditions that maintain end-to-end operability to facilitate the provision of communications services by the second licensee to a customer notwithstanding that the customer is directly connected to the first licensee’s communications network;

(c) The provision of wholesale services on terms that are comparable to those on which the first licensee provides such services for use in its own retail operations or those of its affiliates;

(d) The standard terms contained in the interconnection and access rules;

(e) Subject to subsection (d), otherwise reasonable conditions, including with respect to the
timing, quality, technical, operational and fault handling terms;

(f) Conditions that do not unfairly discriminate between licensees and are no less favourable to the second licensee than those the first licensee provides for its own communications services or those of its affiliates;

(g) Access to communications facilities, networks, software and services, in a manner that is sufficiently unbundled, including co-location, to enable the second licensee to access the facilities and wholesale services that it reasonably requires in order to provide communications services to its customers;

(h) The provision on a timely basis by each licensee of information, including technical specifications and commercially relevant information reasonably required for interconnection and the operation of communications services for each licensee’s customers; and

(i) A commitment from each licensee not to disclose or use information received from the other licensee in connection with the interconnection and access agreement for any purpose other than that for which it was supplied.

(2) Licensees in negotiations for an interconnection
and access agreement must:

(a) Act at all times in good faith;
(b) Promptly provide information reasonably requested by the other party;
(c) Avoid obstructing or delaying negotiations;
(d) Comply with any direction given by the Authority as to the conduct of the negotiations;
(e) Not seek to cause the other party to withhold from the Authority information concerning the negotiations.

(3) A licensee who enters an interconnection and access agreement with another licensee must promptly lodge a copy of the interconnection and access agreement with the Authority.”

Section 48. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 340 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 340. Disputes between licensees.

(1) If an interconnection and access agreement has not been reached within 30 days of a request under section 339(1), the Authority may, on written request by either licensee:

(a) Determine the terms of the interconnection and access agreement including the terms contemplated by section 339(1); or
(b) Direct the licensees to take specified action to reach agreement (such as to engage a mediator or arbitrator), by written notice to both licensees. The licensees shall comply with such a direction.

(2) An interconnection and access agreement determined by the Authority must:

(a) Include the provisions referred to in section 339(1);

(b) Apply the interconnection and access terms specified in the interconnection and access rules;

(c) Not provide for interconnection or access to communications facilities or the provision of wholesale services where interconnection or access or the provision of wholesale services is not technically, economically or legally feasible or would materially adversely affect the security, performance or efficiency of the first licensee’s network;

(d) Have regard to the best interests of consumers, aim to have a positive impact on competition between licensees, and encourage efficient and sustainable investment in communications networks and services in the Federated States of Micronesia.

(3) The Authority must consult with both licensees and provide both licensees with a draft interconnection and access agreement or a draft direction before determining
the terms of the interconnection and access agreement or making the direction.

(4) A licensee may apply for reconsideration under section 326 or for a review under section 328 of the terms of any interconnection and access agreement determined by the Authority that applies to it.

(5) The Authority shall publish copies of all interconnection and access agreements.”

Section 49. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 341 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 341. Interconnection and access rules.

(1) The Authority may make interconnection and access rules specifying standard terms to apply to all interconnection and access agreements, including wholesale prices or pricing principles.

(2) The interconnection and access rules made under subsection (1) may designate mandatory services, including roaming services, which licensees must provide between interconnected communications networks and which must be included in interconnection and access agreements.

(3) In specifying interconnection and access prices or pricing principles for interconnection and access rules made under subsection (1), the Authority shall take into
account internationally accepted principles for
determining regulated prices, including methodologies
designed to reflect actual costs.

(4) The Authority may determine interim
interconnection and access prices, based on benchmarking
against cost-based prices set by regulators in
comparable countries, to apply to all interconnection
and access agreements, including agreements that have
been agreed between the parties or have been determined
by the Authority or the appeals panel. Such interim
prices shall apply until:

(a) Interconnection and access prices or pricing
principles are made under subsection (1); or

(b) Different prices are set by the appeals panel
on a rehearing of the Authority’s decision as to interim
prices.

(5) A licensee may apply for a review under section
328 of any interconnection and access rules made by the
Authority under subsection (1).”

Section 50. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 342 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 342. New infrastructure.

(1) A licensee who proposes to construct a new
communications facility to expand its communications
network shall at least 30 days before it plans to finalise the design of the communications facility:

(a) Publish details of its proposal on its website together with an invitation for expressions of interest in sharing the communications facility; and

(b) On the same day, provide a copy of the details and invitation to the Authority (which shall promptly publish the details and invitation).

(2) A person may, within 7 days of a proposal being published by the licensee, provide an expression of interest in sharing the communications facility to the Authority. The Authority shall promptly provide any expressions of interest to the licensee who proposes to construct the communications facility.

(3) After the expiry of the period in subsection (2), the licensee who proposes to construct the communications facility shall promptly provide each person who has provided an expression of interest with a list of the other persons who have provided an expression of interest.

(4) The licensee who proposes to construct the communications facility and each person who has provided an expression of interest shall promptly negotiate in good faith the:

(a) Design characteristics of the communications
facility so that, to the extent practical, each such
person shall be able to use the communications facility
for their reasonably anticipated requirements; and

(b) Commercial terms for the construction,
maintenance, ownership and on-going use of the
communications facility by the licensee and each such
person.

(5) If the design characteristics and commercial terms
described in subsection (4) have not been agreed within
14 days of the negotiations commencing, the Authority
may, on written request by any party to the
negotiations, and by written notice to each party,
direct the parties to take specified action to reach
agreement (such as to engage a mediator or arbitrator).
The parties shall comply with such a direction.”

Section 343. Prohibition of anti-competitive conduct.

(1) A licensee shall not engage in conduct having the
purpose or effect, or likely to have the effect, of
substantially lessening competition in a communications
market, and no provision of a contract or agreement
having such purpose or effect, or likely to have such
effect, will be enforceable.
(2) Without limiting subsection (1), conduct has the purpose, effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition in a communications market if it directly or indirectly involves:

(a) Supplying a communications service at a price below cost for a substantial period of time for the purpose or with the effect or likely effect of limiting competition in a communications market;

(b) Cross-subsidising a service in a competitive communications market from a service that is supplied in a communications market that is not competitive;

(c) Bundling a communications service that is supplied in a competitive market with a service that is not supplied in a competitive market, in circumstances where more favourable terms are applied to the competitive service sold as part of the bundle;

(d) Imposing restrictions on whom another person may deal with in a communications market or otherwise hindering the willingness of a supplier to provide goods or services to another licensee, without legitimate commercial justification;

(e) Reducing the margin of profit available to a competing licensee in a retail communications market by engaging in a margin squeeze at the wholesale or retail level in circumstances where the wholesale service or
access service:

(i) Is not supplied in a competitive communications market;

(ii) Is necessary as a matter of commercial necessity for the competitor to provide the retail service; and

(iii) Cannot for economic, technical or legal reasons be duplicated by the competitor;

(f) Pre-emptively acquiring scarce facilities or resources, including land, that are required or likely to be required by another licensee for the operation of its business, for the purpose of restricting the use of the facilities or resources by the other licensee; or

(g) Designing or installing a communications facility or communications network with the purpose of preventing or hindering another licensee from acquiring interconnection or access.

(3) Without limiting subsection (1), an arrangement between two or more licensees has the effect or likely effect of reducing competition in a communications market if it directly or indirectly:

(a) Fixes the prices or other conditions for the supply of a communications service or access service; Apportions, shares or allocates a communications market or markets among themselves or other licensees; or
(b) Prevents, restricts or limits the supply or acquisition of a communications service or access service to or from a person or class of persons.

(4) The Authority may exempt conduct from the prohibition in subsection (1) if the Authority is satisfied that the conduct:

(a) Will or is likely to create efficiencies for the supply of communications services which are greater than any potential detriments; and

(b) Will not eliminate competition in respect of a substantial part of such communications services."

Section 52. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 344 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 344. Contravention of competition provisions.

(1) If the Authority considers that a licensee is engaging in anti-competitive conduct, it may serve a notice of contravention on the licensee specifying the conduct that the Authority deems to be in contravention of this Act and requiring the licensee to cease or modify that conduct.

(2) A licensee specified in the notice under subsection (1) shall comply with the notice within such time period and on such conditions as is specified in the notice."
(3) A licensee specified in a notice issued under subsection (1) may apply for reconsideration under section 326 seeking relief including setting the notice aside or varying any conditions specified in the notice.

(4) If a licensee complies with subsection (2) in relation to a notice served under subsection (1), the Authority shall not take enforcement action under sections 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386 or 387 of this Act in respect of the conduct specified in that notice.”

Section 53. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 345 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 345. Industry consolidation.

(1) A licensee shall not acquire or obtain an interest in shares or assets related to communications facilities or the provision of communications services of another licensee without the prior written consent of the Authority.

(2) A licensee obtains an interest in shares or assets if the licensee becomes the legal or beneficial owner of the shares or assets or it or its affiliate is in a position to control the shares or assets.

(3) A licensee who wishes to acquire, directly or indirectly, shares in or assets of another licensee
shall:

(a) Apply to the Authority for consent to the acquisition;

(b) Disclose to the Authority such information as the Authority may require concerning any affiliate of the licensee; and

(c) Provide the Authority with such additional information as the Authority may request for the purposes of determining the effect or likely effect of the proposed acquisition on competition in a communications market.

(4) The Authority may make rules specifying the form and information required for an application under subsection (3).

(5) The Authority shall consent to an application lodged under subsection (3) unless it is satisfied, after consultation with the licensee proposing to make the acquisition, that the proposed acquisition would have the effect or likely effect of reducing competition in a communications market.

(6) A licensee may apply for reconsideration under section 326 of a decision of the Authority not to consent to an application it has provided under subsection (3).”
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 346 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 346. Publication of terms and conditions.

(1) Before offering a communications service to the public, or altering the terms of any such service, a Dominant Service Provider shall:

(a) Publish on its website and make available for inspection at its offices, the terms and conditions (including the price) for that service in clear and simple terms; and

(b) Provide a copy to the Authority and obtain the approval of the Authority to the proposed tariff.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sections 343, 344 and 345, the requirements of subsection (1)(b) as to approval of the Authority shall not apply to:

(a) Any proposed reduction in a retail tariff;

(b) The inclusion in an offer of a price discount either on a time-bound basis or to an objectively identifiable group of consumers.

(3) The Authority shall publish information provided to it under this section.

(4) The Authority may by notice to a Dominant Service Provider dispense with the requirements of subsection (1) in respect of any service or market if in the opinion of the Authority the state of competition in the
relevant market is such that tariff changes are unlikely
to harm competition or to be substantially detrimental
to consumers."

Section 55. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 347 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 347. Pricing rules.

(1) The Authority may make pricing rules applicable to
a Dominant Service Provider in a communications market
specifying;

(a) Communications services to which this section
applies; and

(b) A pricing model or pricing models to be
applied in assessing the retail prices charged by that
licensee for those communications services.

(2) Before making pricing rules under subsection (1),
the Authority must be satisfied that the prices for the
communications services in question exceed the price set
on the basis of economically efficient costs.

(3) A Dominant Service Provider affected by pricing
rules made under subsection (1) may apply for
reconsideration under section 326 of the designation of
the licensee as a Dominant Service Provider or the
pricing model specified by the Authority.

(4) Any pricing model referred to in subsection (1)
(a) Ensure the prices reasonably reflect economically efficient costs;
(b) Promote efficient and sustainable investment in communications networks and services in the Federated States of Micronesia; and
(c) Reasonably protect the interests of consumers and other licensees.

(5) The Authority may;
(a) Assess the prices charged for communications services by a licensee to whom a pricing model under subsection (1) applies against the relevant pricing model; and
(b) By written notice to the licensee, determine any adjustment to the prices charged by the licensee.

(6) The Authority shall consult with the licensee and provide the licensee with a draft of the adjustment prior to making any determination under subsection (5)(b).

(7) If the Authority makes a determination to adjust the prices of a licensee’s communications services under subsection (5);
(a) The Authority shall notify the licensee of the adjustment and publish its determination; and
(b) The licensee shall not charge an amount
greater than the adjusted price.

The licensee may apply for reconsideration under section 326 of the adjusted prices.”

Section 56. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 348 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 348. Fair dealing.

(1) A licensee shall only charge a customer for the specific communications services or equipment that the customer has ordered, and a customer shall have no liability to pay for any communications services or equipment that it has not ordered.

(2) A Dominant Service Provider shall provide all its customers the same terms and conditions for each service offering, unless:

(a) More favourable terms are offered to an objectively identifiable group of customers; or

(b) Differences are otherwise objectively justifiable, to the satisfaction of the Authority; or

(c) The Authority gives prior approval to the terms of the service offering, including the differences.

(3) In the case of a customer who has;

(a) Contracted for communications services for which they will pay after usage, a licensee shall
provide the customer with invoices;

(i) In writing, which may be transmitted electronically if the customer consents;

(ii) On a regular basis;

(iii) In a plain and simple format;

(iv) With accurate and itemised information about the services provided and the corresponding amounts due; and

(v) That clearly indicate the method of calculation of prices for any service for which invoices are based on the length of calls or other measure or usage; and

(b) Paid in advance for communications services, the licensee shall permit the customer on request to review the amount of the prepayment that has been consumed and the amount remaining.

(4) A licensee shall not make or cause to be made any claim or representation about the availability, price or quality of its communications services or equipment or those of a competing licensee if the licensee knows or reasonably ought to know that the statement or claim is false or misleading in any material respect.

(5) The Authority may make consumer protection rules regulating or prohibiting the use of a communications network or communications services to provide
Section 57. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 349 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 349. Confidentiality of customer information.

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a licensee;

(a) Shall not, without a customer’s consent, collect, use, maintain or disclose information about a customer for any purpose; and

(b) Shall apply appropriate security safeguards to prevent the collection, use, maintenance or disclosure of such information without the customer’s consent.

(2) A licensee may disclose a customer’s name, address and telephone number in a printed or electronic directory or as provided for in the consumer protection rules, provided that a licensee shall permit customers on request to have their name omitted from such directory.

(3) A licensee shall ensure that information it discloses or retains concerning a customer is accurate and complete for the purposes for which it is to be used.

(4) A licensee shall permit a customer to inspect its records regarding a communications service provided to
that customer and shall promptly correct or remove
information that is shown to be incorrect.

(5) A licensee shall retain accurate records of all
customer invoices for six months from their billing date
and shall make them available to the Authority on
request made in writing.

(6) A licensee shall on request disclose to a customer
the purpose of requesting or collecting any information
about that customer, and shall not use or maintain
information about customers for undisclosed purposes.

(7) The Authority may make consumer protection rules
requiring a class of licensees to retain or not retain
specified information relating to customers, including
information about billing, beyond a specified period.”

Section 58. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 350 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 350. Confidentiality of customer
communications.
A licensee shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the
confidentiality of its customers’ communications except
as permitted by law and shall not, without the prior
consent of the customer, divulge any information
concerning the customer’s communications unless required
by law or authorized by the Authority.”
Section 59. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 351 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 351. Access by government authorities.

Nothing in sections 349 to 350 shall be interpreted to prohibit or infringe upon the rights of government authorities under the laws of the Federated States of Micronesia to exercise such rights to access otherwise confidential information or communications in a lawful manner.”

Section 60. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 352 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 352. Terms of service, complaints and disputes.

(1) The Authority may make consumer protection rules requiring licensees to take any of the following steps in a communications market:

(a) Establish fair and reasonable standard conditions for the provision of communications services to consumers, including procedures for dealing with complaints from and disputes with consumers, and provision for consumers’ remedies (including refunds and compensation) where circumstances warrant;

(b) Submit such conditions, procedures and
remedies, or proposed amendments to the Authority for
its approval;

(c) Make such changes to such conditions, procedures and remedies as may be reasonably required by the Authority;

(d) Publish such conditions, procedures and remedies on its website and circulate them to points of sale for publication in a manner that ensures that prospective consumers are able to be clearly informed of them;

(e) Comply with such conditions, implement such procedures and provide such remedies in accordance with their terms as approved by the Authority;

(f) Report to the Authority on the types and volumes of consumer complaints and disputes, the application of complaints procedures and manner in which complaints have been resolved; and

(g) Take such other measures as the Authority considers appropriate to ensure that consumers’ complaints and disputes are satisfactorily addressed.

(2) If a licensee fails to establish, submit or make changes to conditions, procedures or remedies if so required under subsection (1), the Authority may do so and the licensee shall comply with such conditions, implement such procedures and provide such remedies.
(3) A consumer whose complaint or dispute has not been
     treated by a licensee in accordance with its procedures
     for dealing with complaints may apply to the Authority
     for a determination;

     (a) Requiring the licensee to comply with those
     procedures; or

     (b) Addressing the complaint or dispute and
     providing for a remedy, if such remedy is not
     inconsistent with any reasonable conditions and
     procedures established by the licensee pursuant to this
     section.

(4) Before making a determination under subsection
     (3), the Authority shall consult with the licensee and
     the affected consumer.”

Section 61.  Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 353 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 353.  Directory assistance.

(1) The Authority may make consumer protection rules
requiring a licensee or class of licensees to establish
and provide customers with directory assistance services
on conditions prescribed in those rules, requiring
licensees to co-operate for the provision of directory
assistance services, and providing for the costs of
providing directory assistance services to be shared
between licensees whose customers may access the service.

(2) In this section, ‘directory assistance services’ means such services to provide access to a customer’s name, telephone number and such other information about a customer as is set out in the consumer protection rules.”

Section 62. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further mended by inserting a new section 354 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 354. Quality of service.

(1) The Authority may make consumer protection rules requiring a Dominant Service Provider to;

(a) Establish key performance indicators for the quality of its service to users, which may be required to comply with minimum standards set out in the consumer protection rules;

(b) Submit the indicators (and any subsequent amendments) to the Authority for approval;

(c) Make such changes to such indicators as may be required by the Authority; and

(d) Ensure that its services comply with such indicators.

(2) If a licensee fails to make performance indicators as required by consumer protection rules made under
subsection (1), the Authority may issue performance indicators and the licensee shall comply with such indicators.”

Section 63. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 355 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 355. Technical standards.

(1) The Authority may make technical rules specifying technical standards for;

(a) Interconnection of licensees’ communications networks; and

(b) Customer equipment permitted to be attached to licensees’ communications networks.

(2) In making the technical rules the Authority may apply, adopt, or incorporate, with or without modification, any standard as it exists at a particular time or from time to time.”

Section 64. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 356 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 356. Customer equipment standards.

(1) A person shall not sell, or offer for sale, equipment, and a person other than the owner or operator of a communications network shall not attach equipment to a communications network, if the equipment;
(a) Does not conform to a relevant equipment standard in the technical rules made under section 355(1); 
(b) Does not conform with a relevant international standard; or 
(c) Would adversely affect the operation, reliability or integrity of the communications network or cause a health or safety risk to a person.

(2) A licensee may:
(a) Disconnect from its communications networks any customer equipment; and 
(b) Cease or refuse to supply a communications service to a customer who has connected customer equipment to its communications network, if that customer equipment does not comply with the standards referred to in subsection (1).”

Section 65. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 357 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 357. Numbering plan.
(1) The Authority shall make numbering rules specifying matters that include:
(a) A numbering plan for communications services; 
(b) Annual fees for the right to use allocated numbers in order to recover the costs of the
administration of the numbering plan;

(c) Rules regarding the assignment and use of numbers;

(d) Provision for any service provider using numbering ranges as at the date of this Act to retain such numbering ranges, subject to the amendment of those ranges by the addition of further digits where the Authority considers that to be necessary in order to ensure an adequate supply of numbers;

(e) The assignment of numbers for emergency services; and

(f) Requirements for the allocation of priority, quality and capacity for calls to emergency services.

(2) The Authority may make numbering rules specifying provisions for number portability if the Authority:

(a) Has conducted a public consultation about the inclusion of the provisions;

(b) Determines that there is a reasonable likelihood of demand for number portability; and

(c) Determines that the benefit outweighs the costs of introducing number portability.

(3) The Authority may invite individual licensees to develop a number portability scheme in accordance with any directions given by the Authority as to the content of such a scheme and to submit the scheme to the
(4) Should the Authority approve a number portability scheme submitted under subsection (3), such scheme shall have effect as a decision of the Authority.”

Section 66. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 358 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 358. National emergency numbers.
A licensee that provides voice communications services shall provide its subscribers with access to the numbers specified in the numbering rules as being assigned for emergency services free of charge.”

Section 67. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 359 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 359. Domain names.
(1) Subject to subsection (4), the Authority shall assume responsibility and thereafter be responsible for the registration and allocation of all country code top-level domains for the Federated States of Micronesia.
(2) The Authority may make orders, determinations or directions relating to the registration and allocation of domains.
(3) The Authority:
(a) May make rules, guidelines and procedures for
the registration and allocation of domains under its responsibility including without limitation in relation to applications, transfers, complaints and dispute resolution;

(b) Shall ensure that its rules, guidelines and procedures are transparent and non-discriminatory; and

(c) May charge reasonable fees to cover its costs for the provision of its services.

(4) The assumption of responsibility for the registration and allocation of domains by the Authority shall be subject to the requisite approvals and consents of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

(5) The Authority shall comply with the procedures and conditions of and agreements with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.”

Section 68. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 360 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 360. Universal access policy.

(1) The Secretary shall develop a policy for improving access to communications services of the nature described in subsection (3) for areas of the Federated States of Micronesia that are not adequately served by existing services.
(2) The policy referred to in subsection (1) shall be promulgated pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, and shall be implemented by the Authority.

(3) The communications services to be considered for the purposes of the universal access policy shall be:

(a) A voice calling service, either fixed or mobile;

(b) Data services which permit access to the Internet with a minimum peak download speed of 256 Kbps;

(c) Emergency services with priority routing enabling contact with police, fire services, ambulance and marine rescue services;

(d) Disaster relief services;

(e) Operator assistance for call set-up and faults reporting; and

(f) Such other communications services designated by the Secretary."

Section 69. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 361 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 361. Universal access eligibility.

(1) The Secretary shall identify, publish and update annually a list of geographic areas that are eligible under the universal access policy for the application of universal access obligations and funding under the
universal access policy.

(2) The Secretary shall invite proposals from licensees or prospective licensees to introduce or improve communications services described in section 360(3), and shall take into account such proposals in identifying eligible universal access areas under subsection (1).”

Section 70. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 362 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 362. Universal access obligations.

(1) A licensee shall become subject to a universal access obligation if:

(a) The provision of those universal access services is a requirement of the license; or

(b) The licensee has assumed that obligation under section 369.

(2) The Authority may enforce a universal access obligation by giving notice to the licensee concerned requiring that licensee to take any action or meet any timetable described in that notice and in the reasonable opinion of the Authority required to comply with that obligation.

(3) The Authority may defer the commencement of a universal access obligation for such period and to such
an extent as the Authority deems fit where the Authority
is satisfied that the licensee concerned is building
network facilities at its cost in an area subject to the
universal access policy or the licensee has voluntarily
undertaken to provide additional communications services
or to construct additional network facilities at its
cost in such an area.”

Section 71. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 363 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 363. Eligibility for universal access funding.
(1) Subject to subsection (2), a licensee subject to a
universal access obligation as a result of a successful
tender under section 369 is entitled to receive funding
from the universal access special revolving fund.
(2) No licensee is entitled to funding from the
universal access special revolving fund for the
provision of services in a geographic area, and any
entitlement previously established shall cease, where a
substantial level of access to comparable communications
services is, in the opinion of the Authority, available
in that area from another licensee.”

Section 72. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 364 under chapter 3 to read as follows:
“Section 364. Administration of universal access 
obligations.
The Authority shall ensure that universal access
obligations are administered in an open, transparent, 
non-discriminatory, objective, and competitively neutral 
manner, and are not more burdensome than necessary to
achieve the objectives of the universal access plan.”

Section 73. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of 
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a 
new section 365 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 365. Universal access special revolving fund.

(1) A universal access special revolving fund is
established and will be administered by the Authority.

(2) The fund shall be used for the purposes in
accordance with the universal access plan.

(3) The following shall be deposited in the fund:

(a) Any amounts transferred under section 319(6);

(b) Any amounts available under section by way of
spectrum license fees paid as a result of a competitive
tender process;

(c) Any grants or donations made to or for the
benefit of the fund;

(d) Appropriations made by Congress for the
purposes of the fund.

(4) The Authority shall cause to be maintained books
of account and records in accordance with general accounting principles for funds administered by the Government in respect of the fund and any monies paid into or out of the fund.

(5) The Authority may pay monies out of the fund only to provide subsidies or concessional loans in accordance with a contract under section 369.

(6) The fund and any transactions from the fund are not subject to any tax, rate, charge or impost under any other law.”

Section 74. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 366 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 366. Universal access rules.

(1) The Authority shall make universal access rules consistent with this Act and prescribing the:

(a) Operation of the universal access special revolving fund; and

(b) Provision of services pursuant to a universal access plan and project plans.

(2) In addition to the matters set out under subsection (1), the universal access rules may also prescribe the:

(a) Rules for a competitive tender or the method of selecting a person under section 369;
(b) Requirements for persons entering a contract with the Authority under section 369, including conditions to coordinate development of communications facilities with development of other infrastructure; and

(c) Such other matters necessary to give effect to this section and the objectives of this Act.

(3) The universal access rules shall provide that a tender process conducted by the Authority under section 369 shall require that the Authority select the compliant tender that in the opinion of the Authority best serves the purposes of the universal access plan and provides the lowest cost solution commensurate with the outcomes to be achieved.”

Section 75. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 367 under chapter 3 to read as follows:


The Authority shall, upon receipt from the Secretary of a list of geographic areas that are eligible under the universal access policy for the application of universal access obligations and funding under the universal access policy, prepare and publish a universal access plan.”

Section 76. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 368 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 368. Universal Access Projects.

The Authority shall prepare and publish one or more project plans to address a universal access plan. A project plan shall specify:

(a) The timing by which deployment of such services (or communications facilities to enable such services) in particular areas or segments of society of the Federated States of Micronesia should take place; and

(b) Any general requirements or specifications for the provision of such communications services or communications facilities.”

Section 77. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 369 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 369. Provision of universal access services.

(1) The Authority may contract with a person to provide a subsidy or concessional loan for the provision of communications services or communications facilities in accordance with a project plan.

(2) The Authority shall, before entering a contract under subsection (1):

(a) Consider whether there is likely to be competition for the subsidy or concessional loan offered
under subsection (1) for the provision of communications
services or communications facilities in accordance with
the project plan; and

(b) If the Authority believes there would be such
competition, conduct a competitive tender for the
provision of those services or facilities in accordance
with the universal access rules.

(3) If the Authority considers that there is not
likely to be competition for the provision of the
communications services or communications facilities for
the maximum subsidy or concessional loan the Authority
could offer in fulfilment of the relevant project plan,
the Authority shall negotiate with any person the
Authority considers has the capability of providing
those services or facilities and may enter into a
contract for the provision of those services or
facilities in accordance with the project plan.

(4) If after attempting to negotiate under subsection
(3) the Authority considers agreement cannot be reached,
the Authority may by written notice require a licensee
to enter into a specified contract with the Authority
for the provision of the relevant communications
services or communications facilities for a subsidy or
concessional loan.

(5) The Authority shall be guided by the following
principles in requiring a licensee to enter into a
contract and specifying the terms of the contract under
subsection (4):

(a) The licensee shall be chosen based on the
Authority’s assessment of its capability to provide the
communications services or communications facilities;

(b) The obligation to provide the relevant
communications services or communications facilities
shall not unfairly discriminate between licensees;

(c) The licensee shall receive reasonable
compensation having regard to the costs of providing the
communications services or communications facilities and
the revenues likely to be achieved from those services
or facilities; and

(d) The obligation to provide the relevant
communications services or communications facilities
shall not be more burdensome than is reasonably
necessary to achieve the objectives of the relevant
universal access plan.

(6) The Authority shall endeavor to ensure that any
contract entered into under this section does not
diminish the incentives of licensees to maximize the
availability of communications services.”

Section 78. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 370 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 370. Existing facilities.

(1) Should any provider of communications services as at the date of this Act (‘existing provider’) enjoy any rights to lease or otherwise use land for the purpose of erecting or installing telecommunications facilities or equipment, any service provider may, by notice to that provider, the land owner, and any lessee of the land (‘parties with land rights’), elect to share the use of that land with the existing provider.

(2) On receipt of a notice under subsection (1), the existing provider and the parties with land rights shall enter into good faith negotiations with the service provider to agree on terms for the sharing of use rights that will preserve competitive neutrality as between the existing provider and the service provider.

(3) Should agreement be unable to be reached to the reasonable satisfaction of the service provider, the service provider may apply to the Authority for assistance.

(4) Upon receipt of an application for assistance under subsection (3), the Authority shall consult with the existing provider and parties with land rights and attempt to find a solution acceptable to all parties.

(5) Should the actions of the Authority under
subsection (4) fail to produce an agreement between the parties within such time as the Authority considers reasonable, the Authority may determine the terms for the sharing by the existing provider and the service provider of use rights and may direct the parties with land rights to take such action as the Authority deems fit in order to implement that determination.

(6) A determination under subsection (5) may include provision for defined amounts by way of compensation to any of the parties with land rights or may provide for compensation to be determined by the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia under section 373.

(7) The existing provider, the service provider or any party with land rights may apply for reconsideration under section 326 of a determination under subsection (5).”

Section 78. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 371 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 371. New facilities.

(1) Should an agreement be reached under section 342 to share a new communications facility (a ‘sharing agreement’), a party to the sharing agreement may, by notice to the other parties to that agreement and to the owner or occupier of third party land, require that the
owner or occupier of the third party land provide access
to and use of that land to the extent required to give
effect to the sharing agreement and on the same terms
and conditions as those enjoyed by other parties to that
agreement.

(2) Should the owner or occupier of the third party
land fail without reasonable excuse to provide access to
and use of the land under subsection (1), the Authority
may direct the owner or occupier to take such action as
the Authority deems fit in order to implement the
requirements of subsection (1) and the owner or occupier
shall comply with any such direction. A direction under
this subsection may include provision for defined
amounts by way of compensation to any of the parties
with land rights or may provide for compensation to be
determined by the Supreme Court of the Federated States
of Micronesia under section 373.

(3) It shall be a reasonable excuse under subsection
(2) that:

(a) The land concerned is residential land and
the access and use rights sought by a party to the
sharing agreement would be unreasonably intrusive on the
residential occupants of the land; or

(b) The land concerned is not residential land
and the provision of the access and use rights sought
would not be technically feasible.

(4) Any party to the sharing agreement or the owner or occupier of the third party land may apply for reconsideration under section 326 of a direction under subsection (2)."

Section 79. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 372 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 372. Land access charges.

(1) Charges proposed by land owners or land occupiers may include:

(a) Actual or average administrative costs as a result of a service provider being granted permission to use land, and maintaining land to the extent costs result from the use of the land by service providers;

(b) For each service provider, a pro rata share (based on the percentage of total capacity used or occupied) of capital improvements such as ducts, fixtures and other permanent improvements to lands, based on historic cost of the improvements.

(2) The Authority may make rules governing a fair and reasonable allocation of charges under sections 370 and 371."

Section 80. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 373 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 373. Supreme Court may determine compensation.

(1) Should a determination of the Authority under sections 370(6) and 371 (2) provide for compensation to be determined by the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Supreme Court shall, on application by any of the service provider concerned or a party with land rights, determine the amounts and manner of payment of compensation on such terms as it considers reasonable."
(2) A copy of a document submitted to the Authority and appearing to be certified as a true copy by the Authority shall be evidence of the original, of its submission to the Authority, of the date of its submission, and of the signature of any person appearing to have signed it.

(3) A certificate appearing to be signed by the Authority and bearing the Authority’s seal shall be evidence of its contents without proof of the signature.”

Section 83. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 376 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 376. Appointment of Inspectors.

(1) The Authority may appoint or designate Inspectors for the purposes of verifying compliance with this Act and with decisions or instruments of the Authority made under this Act.

(2) An Inspector shall be provided with a certificate of identity, which shall be presented at the request of
any person appearing to be in charge of any place entered by the Inspector.”

Section 84. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 377 under chapter 3 to read as follows:


(1) Subject to subsection (2), an Inspector may:

(a) Enter and inspect, at any reasonable time, any place owned by or under the control of a service provider or a person operating a device under a licence, in which the Inspector believes on reasonable grounds there is any document, information, equipment, or thing relevant to the enforcement of this Act, and examine the document, information, equipment, or thing or remove it for examination or reproduction, as the case may be;

(b) Enter any place on which the Inspector believes on reasonable grounds there is any radio transmitting device or interference-causing equipment, and examine any radio transmitting device or interference-causing equipment, logs, books, reports, data, records, documents, or other papers, and remove such information, document, device, equipment, or thing for examination or reproduction, as the case may be;

(c) Make use of or cause to be made use of, any data processing network or computer at the place, to
examine any data contained in or available to the network or computer;

(d) Retain, remove, or reproduce or cause to be reproduced any such data whether in electronic or hard copy form; and

(e) Make use of any copying equipment or means of communication located at the place.

(2) Where a place referred to in subsection (1) is a residence, an Inspector shall not enter that residence without the consent of the occupier, except:

(a) Under the authority of a warrant issued under section 378; or

(b) Where, by reason of special circumstances, it would not be practical for the Inspector to obtain a warrant.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b), special circumstances include circumstances in which the delay arising from obtaining a warrant would result in danger to human life or safety or the loss or destruction of evidence.

(4) The owner or person in charge of a place entered by an Inspector shall give the Inspector all reasonable assistance and shall give the Inspector any information that the Inspector reasonably requests.

(5) Every person who is required to hold a licence
under this Act shall exhibit the licence for inspection on demand by the Authority or an Inspector.

(6) Any person who obstructs an Inspector in the exercise of the powers under this Act commits an offence.

(7) The Authority shall pay reasonable compensation to a person for property used or damaged by an Inspector exercising powers under this section.”

Section 85. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 378 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 378. Search warrant.

(1) A judge may issue a warrant authorizing the Inspector named in it to enter a residence, subject to any conditions specified in the warrant, if the judge is satisfied by information on oath that:

(a) Entry to a residence is necessary for the purpose of performing any duty of an Inspector under this Act; and

(b) Entry to the residence has been refused, or there are reasonable grounds for believing that entry will be refused.

(2) In executing a warrant issued under this section, an Inspector shall not use force unless the Inspector is accompanied by a police officer and the use of force is
specifically authorised in the warrant."

Section 86. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 379 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 379. Requirement to supply information or documents or give evidence.

(1) Where the Authority considers it necessary or desirable for the purposes of carrying out its functions and exercising its powers under this Act, the Authority may, by notice in writing served on any person, require that person:

(a) To furnish to the Authority, by writing signed by that person or, in the case of a corporation or other entity, by a director or competent representative of the corporation or other entity, within the time and in the manner specified in the notice, any information or class of information specified in the notice; or

(b) To produce to the Authority, or to a person specified in the notice acting on its behalf in accordance with the notice, any document or class of documents specified in the notice; or

(c) To appear before the Authority at a time and place specified in the notice to give evidence, either orally or in writing, and produce any document or class
of documents specified in the notice.

(2) Any person who either fails to comply with a
notice issued under this section, provides false or
misleading information to the Authority, or having been
required to appear before the Authority shall fail to do
so without reasonable excuse or shall fail to give
evidence, answer any question, or produce any document
or class of documents, commits an offence under this
Act.”

Section 87. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 380 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 380. Interception and interference.

(1) A licensee and any person engaged in the operation
or provision of a communications network or service
shall intercept or disclose a message, communication or
customer information only pursuant to a warrant under
the hand of a judge in connection with the investigation
of any criminal offence or for the purposes of any
criminal proceedings where the maximum penalty that may
be imposed by a court is at least three years in prison.

(2) A licensee and any person engaged in the operation
or provision of a communications network or service
shall ensure its communications networks and services
are capable of interception under subsection (1) and
shall facilitate such interception as reasonably directed by the police or other services directly employed by the Government for national security.

(3) A licensee and any person engaged in the operation or provision of a communications network or service shall disclose the contents of any statement of account specifying the communications services provided, or any details about the customer, if requested by the police or other services directly employed by the Government for national security, in connection with the investigation of any criminal offence or for the purposes of any criminal proceedings. Such requests must be in writing and authorized and signed by a judge.

(4) A licensee shall not intercept, interfere with or obstruct radio communications other than in terms of a written interception order issued by a judge.

(5) If the Authority believes that a person is in possession of data stored in a computer system or retrievable from a data storage medium, which data is necessary to investigate a breach of this Act, the Authority may by written notice to that person, require that person to allow the Authority to:

(a) Access the computer system or retrieve data from the data storage medium;

(b) Seize or similarly secure the computer system
or data storage medium;

(c) Maintain the integrity of the relevant stored data; and

(d) Render inaccessible or remove that data from the computer system or data storage medium.”

Section 88. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting section 381 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 381. Real-time collection of data.

(1) If the Authority believes on reasonable grounds that a person is engaged in conduct that may contravene this Act, then for the purposes of enforcing this Act, the Authority may:

(a) Collect or record through the application of technical means; and

(b) Compel a licensee, by written notice to that person, within its existing technical capability:

(i) To collect or record through the application of technical means; or

(ii) To assist the Authority in the collection or recording of, traffic and content data, in real-time, associated with specified communications.

(2) The Authority may, in a notice issued under subsection (1), oblige the licensee or person to keep confidential the fact of the execution of the power
provided for in this section and any information
relating to it.”

Section 89. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 382 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 382. Specific offences.
Any person commits an offence if the person:

(1) Fraudulently, maliciously, or with dishonest or
otherwise wrongful intent, obtains any communications
service without payment of a lawful price for that
service;

(2) Intentionally, without right or with dishonest
intent or otherwise wrongful, accesses the whole or any
part of any communications facility by infringing
security measures;

(3) Intentionally, without right or with dishonest or
otherwise wrongful intent, intercepts by technical means
a transmission not intended for that person or for
public reception except in accordance with section
384(3);

(4) Intentionally, without right and with dishonest or
otherwise wrongful intent, damages, deletes,
deteriorates, alters or suppresses data carried by a
communications network without right, where this results
in serious harm;
(5) Intentionally, without right and with dishonest or otherwise wrongful intent, seriously hinders the functioning of any communications facility by inputting, transmitting, damaging, deleting, deteriorating, altering or suppressing data;

(6) Intentionally, without right and with dishonest or otherwise wrongful intent, possesses, produces, sells, procures for use, imports, distributes or otherwise makes available a device designed or adapted primarily for the purpose of committing any of the offences established in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e), or a password, access code, or similar data by which the whole or any part of any communications facility is capable of being accessed with intent that it be used for the purpose of committing any of the offences established in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e);

(7) Intentionally and without right, uses, or causes or suffers to be used, any communications facility for the purpose of harassing any person, including by means of a call with or without speech or other sounds, data or video images;

(8) Deliberately damages any communications facility;

or

(9) Knowingly makes any false statement of a material fact (or knowingly omits to state a material fact
necessary in order to make the statements made, in the
light of the circumstances under which they were made,
not misleading) to the Authority, an Inspector or an
appeals panel.”

Section 90. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 383 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 383. General offence.
Save in respect of an offence under section 386, any
person who contravenes or fails to comply with any
provision or requirement of this Act, any rules made
under this Act, a licence issued under this Act, or any
direction, order or decision of the Authority or the
appeals panel, commits a general offence.”

Section 91. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a
new section 384 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 384. Penalties.
Any person who is convicted of an offence under section
382 or 383 is liable:

(a) In the case of a natural person, to a fine
not exceeding $50,000 and to imprisonment for a term not
exceeding one year, and in the case of a continuing
offence, to a further fine not exceeding $10,000 for
each day during which the offence continues;
(b) In the case of a corporation or other entity, to a fine not exceeding five per cent (5%) of the gross revenues of the corporation or entity in its previous financial year, and in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $100,000 for each day during which the offence continues.”

Section 92. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 385 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 385. Corporations or other entities. Where a corporation or other entity commits an offense under this Act, any director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or entity who directed, authorized, assented to, acquiesced to or participated in the conduct of the offence shall be a party to and guilty of the offence, and shall be liable to the punishment provided for that offence in respect of a natural person. A corporation or other entity contravenes a provision of this Act if an employee, agent or officer of the corporation or entity engages in the offending conduct and that person is acting within the actual or apparent scope of his actual or apparent authority.”

Section 93. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 386 under chapter 3, to read as follows:
“Section 386. Forfeiture of device.

In the case of a conviction for an offense under this Act or any rules made under this Act, any device in relation to which or by means of which the offence was committed may be:

(a) Forfeited to the Authority by order of the Court which tried the offense; and

(b) Disposed of as the Authority may direct.”

Section 94. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 387 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 387. Prosecution.

The Attorney General may appoint Special Assistant Attorneys General, to prosecute offences under this Act subject to any conditions or restrictions imposed.”

Section 95. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 388 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 388. Exclusion of liability.

(1) The Federated States of Micronesia, the Secretary, the Authority, an Inspector, or any other person exercising or performing powers or functions under this Act shall not:

(a) Be liable in respect of any action, claim, or demand that may be brought or made by any person in
respect of any bodily injury or damage to property or
any other circumstances arising from any act permitted
by a licence issued under this Act; and
(b) Be subject to any action or claim, other than
by way of judicial review, arising from the good faith
exercise or intended exercise of any functions or powers
under this Act.

(2) No licensee or person engaging in conduct licensed
under this Act, or an employee or agent of such a
person, shall be liable in any criminal proceedings or
in any suit for damages by reason of his having in the
course of his employment transmitted or conveyed by any
communications, or taken any part in transmitting or
conveying by any communications, any defamatory libel.”

Section 96. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of
Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting
section 389 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 389. Establishment of Open Access Entity and
authority to acquire assets and assume liabilities and
obligations.

(1) Should the Secretary certify that it is in the
interests of the Federated States of Micronesia for a
corporation owned by the Government to be established
under this section in order to own and operate submarine
and terrestrial cable assets within the Federated States
of Micronesia or serving the Federated States of Micronesia (the Open Access Entity), the corporation shall be deemed to be established as at the vesting date, and with such assets and liabilities, specified in such certificate.

(2) The certificate issued under subsection (1) may specify the terms on which ownership or the benefits thereof of any submarine or terrestrial cable assets owned or controlled by the Federated States of Micronesia Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) or any shareholding held by FSMTC or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates in any company that shall own any such cable assets shall be vested in the Open Access Entity together with such liabilities or other obligations or the burden thereof in respect of such assets.

(3) The Open Access Entity shall provide international and domestic connectivity for the transmission of data for communications services as a wholesaler but not at retail. Such connectivity shall be provided on non-discriminatory and cost-based terms.

(4) The assets, liabilities and obligations referred to in a certificate issued under subsection (1) or any amending or supplementary certificate issued by the Secretary may be described specifically or by class, and no objection shall be taken in any court to the accuracy
(5) Nothing in this section shall restrict or prevent the Open Access Entity from acquiring other assets or undertaking other activities that in the opinion of the board of the Open access Entity are required in order to provide the services referred to in subsection (3)."

Section 97. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 390 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

"Section 390. Open Access Entity.

(1) The Open access Entity shall be a shareholding company with a paid-up share capital equal to the amount certified by the Public Auditor to be the amount by which the assets of the Open Access Entity as at the vesting date exceed its liabilities. Such share capital shall be divided into paid-up common shares of such denominations as shall be specified in the certificate issued under subsection (1) and shall be issued in equal numbers to the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure. The shareholding Secretaries shall hold the shares for and on behalf of the Government.

(2) The directors of the Open Access Entity shall be persons who in the opinion of the shareholding Secretaries shall be qualified to assist the corporation
to operate its business, and shall be appointed and removed by the shareholding Secretaries by resolution. Save as provided in this section, all decisions relating to the operation of the corporation shall be made by or pursuant to the authority of the board of directors.

(3) The shareholding Secretaries may, after consulting with the board, by written notice to the board determine the amount of dividend payable by the corporation in respect of any financial year and the board shall comply with the notice.

(4) The board shall supply to the shareholding Secretaries or to such persons or class of persons as either of the Secretaries specifies such information relating to the affairs of the corporation as either of those Secretaries requests after consultation with the board. Such information request shall not include any information relating to an individual employee or customer of the corporation.

(5) A shareholding Secretary may at any time, by written notice to the secretary of the corporation, authorise, on such terms and conditions as are specified in the notice, such person as the Secretary thinks fit to act as the Secretary’s representative at any or all of the meetings of shareholders of the corporation. Such representative may exercise the same powers on behalf of
the Secretary as the Secretary could exercise if present in person at the meeting.

(6) A ‘major transaction’ in relation to the corporation means:

(a) The acquisition of, or an agreement to acquire, whether contingent or not, assets the value of which is more than half the value of the corporation’s assets before the acquisition; or

(b) The disposition of, or an agreement to dispose of, whether contingent or not, assets of the corporation the value of which is more than half the value of the corporation’s assets before the disposition; or

(c) A transaction that has or is likely to have the effect of the corporation acquiring rights or interests or incurring obligations or liabilities, including contingent liabilities, the value of which is more than half the value of the corporation’s assets before the transaction.

(7) In assessing the value of any contingent liability for the purposes of paragraph c of subsection (a), the directors must have regard to all circumstances that the directors know, or ought to know, affect or may affect the value of any contingent liability, may rely on estimates of the contingent liability that are
reasonable in the circumstances, and may take account of the likelihood of the contingency occurring and any claim that the corporation is entitled to make and can reasonably expect to be met to reduce or extinguish the contingent liability.

(8) The unanimous assent of the shareholders of the corporation shall be required to any major transaction.”

Section 98. Title 21 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 391 under chapter 3 to read as follows:

“Section 391. Rules and regulations.

(1) In addition to the matters which are specifically prescribed, the Authority may make such rules and regulations as are contemplated by or necessary for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.”

Section 99. This act shall become law upon approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming law without such approval.