A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning and its Secretariat, for the purpose of coordinating the Nation’s preparation efforts towards effective and smooth post Compact government upon expiration of the Compact in 2023, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Purpose. In 1986 the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America entered into a treaty of cooperation styled as the Compact of Free Association. The treaty acknowledged and declared the terms of financial, economic, and defense exchanged between the Parties for the mutual benefit of the two governments. In 2023 the economic and financial terms of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Government of the United States of America will expire. Certain terms, including defense and immigration provisions continue indefinitely until one or both parties to the treaty decide to end such terms as well. It is now incumbent on the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to prepare for the eventual expiration of the economic and financial assistance from the United States of America. In anticipation of the termination of the financial provisions of the Amended Compact of Free Association in 2023, there is hereby established a joint committee of the Executive and Legislative branches.
Section 2. Establishment of the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning. There is hereby created and established a joint committee to be known as the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning ("JCRC"), comprising nine members as follows: one representative from each of the four States, as appointed by the President in consultation with the leadership of each State, and four representatives from the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, one from each congressional delegation. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall be a member ex officio. He shall chair the Joint Committee's first meeting, and organize the election of its Chairman and Vice Chairman. Six of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Decisions shall be made within the Committee by at least five concurring votes, with each participating member casting a single vote.

Section 3. Meetings. The JCRC shall hold its first meeting at the call of the acting Chairman. Subsequent meetings shall be held in accordance with a schedule set by the JCRC covering the entire period between the first meeting and the termination of the Amended Compact in 2023.

Section 4. Mandate. The JCRC shall carry out the following responsibilities and obligations:

(1) In consultation with the Congress, set goals and objectives in anticipation of the termination of the Amended Compact of Free Association;
(2) Conduct a thorough analysis of all factors relating the future of the Nation;

(3) Develop all necessary strategies and approaches to enable the Federated States of Micronesia to explore alternatives for the future of the Nation;

(4) Direct its Secretariat in preparing the documentation necessary to accomplish its responsibilities hereunder;

(5) Analyze all economic information available on the Federated States of Micronesia, with the aim of identifying the FSM's continuing requirement for reasonable, fair, and effective financial assistance from all sources from the year 2023 onward;

(6) Provide reports periodically to the Congress at each regular session, and to the Office of the President, on all developments, actual or potential, positive or negative, that may be related to the future of the Nation, including but not limited to new information, actions, communications, domestic and foreign policies, bilateral and multilateral plans, as well as periodic surveys exploring the value of net benefits to a foreign nation from an exclusive security prerogative; and

(7) Collaborate with the State Governments, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Congress, and the Office of the President in identifying the nominees for the JCRP whose selection will be subject to Congress's expressed approval; and

(8) Use funds for each separate category of expense
only up to the aggregate amount of the line-items of the corresponding expense category set out in the associated appropriations bill or bills approved by Congress, and select and hire the personnel needed to staff the Secretariat, as specified in section 5 below.

Section 5. Financing of the JCRP.

(1) The President shall include the JCRP operations budget in his annual budget to Congress;

(2) The departments and agencies of the Executive Branch shall cooperate in providing information and other logistical support to the JCRP upon request; and

(3) The expenses of experts and consultants for the governments (state and national) traveling with JCRP shall be borne by their agencies of origin.

Section 6. Establishment of the Secretariat. There is hereby created and established a full-time Secretariat for the JCRP. The Secretariat shall consist of an Executive Director, an Administrative Officer, a staff counsel, and a secretary, all based in Pohnpei. The Secretariat shall have the following responsibilities.

(1) Provide all administrative and logistical support to the JCRP, and shall (a) prepare an annual budget for approval by the Joint Committee, (b) transmit an approved budget to the President to submit, with comments, to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia;
(2) Coordinate with the various departments, offices
and agencies of the FSM and State Governments to collect all
information and technical input necessary for satisfying its
responsibilities; and

(3) As directed by the JCRP, hire professionals
including an outside developmental economist and other consultants
with expertise in security or defense policy to assist the Joint
Committee with any aspect of its responsibilities, particularly
that are provided under section 4(5) above.

Section 7. This act shall become law upon approval by the
President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
becoming law without such approval.

Date: 5/22/15

Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir
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