

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-214

RE: C.A. NO. 19-150 (P.C. NO. 19-561)/W&M

SUBJECT: VETO OVERRIDE OF C.A. NO. 19-150

MARCH 27, 2017

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Eighth Special Session, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways & Means, to which was referred Presidential Communication 19-561, regarding the veto of Congressional Act 19-150, entitled:

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 219 OF TITLE 55 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (ANNOTATED) TO ALLOW SUB-ALLOTTEES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT DESCRIBING THE AMOUNT AND NATURE OF AN EXPENDITURE, AS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A LEGAL OBLIGATION IN THE CASE OF REPRESENTATION EXPENSES AND OFFICIAL EXPENSE ALLOWANCE EXPENSES, WITHOUT REQUIRING SUCH SUB-ALLOTTEES TO PROVIDE OTHER FORMAL APPROVAL SUCH AS A CERTIFICATION BY THE SPEAKER OF CONGRESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this act is expressed in its title.

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Your Committee has reviewed Congressional Act 19-150 and the accompanying veto message (P.C. No. 19-561). Your Committee did not find any legal impediments or drafting

errors in the Act. Your Committee has determined that the veto is purely based on policy.

Your Committee wishes to note that it recommended passage of this Act only after your Committee made repeated efforts to address the issue of the Speaker of Congress being required to personally sign-off on individual uses of the Representation Fund by the Members of Congress, through alternative channels, including informal conversations with the Executive and substantial discussion at Public Hearings. Efforts to resolve the issue without legislation were unsuccessful, leading to your Committee's decision to support the Congressional passage of this Act.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee has reviewed the veto of Congressional Act 19-150 and the veto message. Your Committee finds that the decision made by the Executive was made based on policy and not on a violation of the law. Your Committee disagrees with this policy decision and recommends overriding the veto of Congressional Act No. 19-150.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland
Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, member