A BILL FOR AN ACT

To provide for the selection of delegates and procedures for the Constitutional Convention approved in the referendum of March 2019, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Constitutional Convention. There is hereby created a Constitutional Convention (the “Convention”) in and for the Federated States of Micronesia. The Convention shall be known as "The Fourth Constitutional Convention of the Federated States of Micronesia".

Section 2. Delegates. The Convention shall consist of four delegations composed of one delegation from each of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia.

   (1) Composition of Delegations. The delegates, all of whom shall be citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, shall be selected as follows:

   (a) There shall be five (5) delegates elected from existing congressional districts and one (1) delegate elected at-large from Chuuk State.

   (b) There shall be three (3) delegates elected from existing congressional districts and one (1) delegate elected at-large from Pohnpei State.

   (c) There shall be one (1) delegate elected from the congressional district and one (1) delegate elected at-large
from Yap State.

(d) There shall be one (1) delegate elected from the congressional district and one (1) delegate elected at-large from Kosrae State.

(2) Eligibility. Unless otherwise excluded by law, a person shall be eligible for election as a delegate from the representative state if he:

(a) is a citizen who is twenty-five (25) years of age or older; and

(b) has fulfilled the residency requirements set forth in title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia for registration as a voter in the representative state or in the case of district candidates, in the representative district; and

(c) is not currently under a judgment of mental incompetency or insanity, or under parole, probation, or a sentence for any felony for which he has been convicted by any court.

(3) All delegates shall be voting members.

Section 3. Elections.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, election of delegates shall be held in accordance with title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(2) The election of delegates shall be held simultaneously with the regular congressional election in March
(3) Each person voting for delegates shall be permitted to vote for one district delegate and one delegate at-large. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for a district or at-large seat shall be the delegate to the Convention from the representative district or state.

(4) The Convention shall be the sole judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its members; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that in case of a tie vote in the election, the winner shall be determined, if necessary, in a run-off election between the candidates so tied. Run-off elections shall occur no later than thirty days after the results of the general delegate election have been announced.

(5) In any state with only a single election district, all candidates shall run at-large.

Section 4. Vacancies. Vacancies in any state’s convention delegation shall be filled by the relevant candidate receiving the next highest number of votes in the state’s delegate election. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates for the next highest number of votes, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Governor from among the tied candidates. Any vacancy of a delegate who was unopposed in the delegate election shall be filled by appointment by the Governor. Any vacancy in a traditional leader seat must be filled by a traditional leader, if available.
Section 5. Pre-Convention Committee.

(1) There shall be a Pre-Convention Committee which shall consist of two members from each state’s convention delegation who are selected by a majority vote of that state’s convention delegation. Such selection shall be made no later than May 19, 2021, in writing by the state’s delegation to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(2) The Pre-Convention Committee shall be convened at the call of the Speaker of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, and shall choose its own officers and organize according to its own rules and procedures.

(3) The duties of the Pre-Convention Committee shall be as follows:

(a) to make arrangements for accommodations, equipment and facilities; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the Pre-Convention Committee shall, whenever possible, arrange to utilize National Government equipment and facilities;

(b) to make arrangements for staff;

(c) to prepare a budget for the Constitutional Convention to be submitted to Congress in the regular or special session of Congress next following;

(d) to confer with the various state delegations to identify those issues that each delegation wishes to raise at the Convention;

(e) to commission any research that it feels
should be performed on issues identified by the state delegations prior to the convening of the Convention;

(f) to specify a date for convening the Convention;

(g) to prepare proposed rules and procedures; and

(h) to perform other functions not otherwise reserved to the Convention which will assure a successful and orderly Convention.

(4) Members of the Pre-Constitutional Convention Committee shall be entitled to per diem and travel expenses at standard rates, as provided by the Financial Management Regulations of the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, while on the business of the Committee.

(5) Staff assistance for the Pre-Constitutional Convention Committee shall be provided as needed through the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(6) The Pre-Constitutional Convention Committee shall complete its work in no more than fifteen calendar days.

Section 6. Procedures.

(1) Once convened, the Constitutional Convention shall continue in session for no longer than thirty calendar days; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the Convention may:

(a) call recesses; and

(b) extend the session, if necessary, for up to a total of forty-five calendar days.
(2) The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, or his designee, shall act as President of the Convention until the Convention selects a President from among its membership.

(3) The Convention shall select, from among its membership, a President and such additional officers as it may deem necessary and appropriate.

(4) The Convention shall adopt its own rules and procedures not inconsistent with this act. All sessions of the Convention shall be open to the public.

(5) A quorum of the Convention shall consist of all of the four state delegations. For the purpose of determining a quorum, a state delegation is not present unless more than one-half of the delegates from that state are present.

Section 7. Powers of Convention.

(1) Subpoena Powers. The President of the Constitutional Convention, or the Chairman of any duly established committee thereof, shall have the power and authority to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses or the production of books, documents or other evidence, in any matter related to the purpose of the Constitutional Convention. Any subpoena or other process issued under the authority of the Convention shall be issued in the name of the Federated States of Micronesia and shall be addressed to any police officer of the Federated States of Micronesia.
Micronesia or of any state. Such subpoena or other process shall be signed by the President of the Convention, shall contain a reference to this section, and shall set forth in general terms the matter or questions with reference to which such testimony or other evidence is to be taken. Any officer to whom the process described in this subsection is directed, if within his jurisdiction, shall forthwith serve or execute the same, without charge or compensation; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that any officer serving or executing such subpoena or process shall be compensated for his actual expenses, if any, in connection therewith.

(2) Oaths and Affirmations. The President of the Convention, or the Chairman of any duly established committee thereof, may administer oaths to witnesses in any matter under the examination of the Convention. Every person who, summoned as a witness by the Convention to give testimony or to produce papers upon any matter under inquiry before the Convention, refuses to make oath or affirmation, or to answer any question or inquiry, shall be guilty of contempt of the Constitutional Convention and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. Whenever a person violates any of the provisions of this subsection, the President of the Convention shall certify a statement of such facts to the Secretary of the Department of Justice who shall prosecute the offender in the Supreme Court.
of the Federated States of Micronesia.

(3) The officers and employees of the Federated States of Micronesia shall cooperate with the Convention, furnishing such information as may be called for in connection with research activities of the Convention.

(4) No delegate to the Convention shall be held to answer before any tribunal, other than the Convention, for any speech or debate in the Convention, and the delegates shall in all cases, except treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest while on the business of or in attendance at the Convention, and in going to and from the same.

Section 8. Duties of the Convention.

(1) The Convention shall propose amendments to the Constitution to be placed on a ballot for a referendum to be held in March 2023, or during a special election called for that purpose on an earlier date; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that in the event that an amendment would effect the general election, the amendment or amendments shall be voted on in a special referendum called by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia for December of 2022.

(2) Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be in the format set forth in the Constitutional Amendment Procedure Act, title 1, section 703 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, and any regulations issued pursuant
(3) When said amendments have been proposed by the Convention, the Convention shall notify the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, who shall transmit a copy of the amendments to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, and shall call a referendum as provided by title 1, chapter 7 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended.

Section 9. Expenses of delegates and staff.

(1) All delegates and staff of the Convention shall be entitled to per diem and travel expenses at standard rates, as provided by the Financial Management Regulations of the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, while on the business of the Convention.

(2) Any delegate who is an official or employee of the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia shall be placed on administrative leave with pay and shall be entitled to receive his or her regular salary during their service as delegate.

Section 10. 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: 5/6/19

Introduced by: /s/ Wesley W. Simina

Wesley W. Simina