A BILL FOR AN ACT

To temporarily suspend voting at special Polling Places for the March 2021 national election due to the prevalent Coronavirus-19 pandemic by amending further section 605 of title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as enacted by Public Law No. 14-76, and as amended by Public Laws Nos. 14-98 and 15-2, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as enacted by Public Law No. 14-76, and as amended by Public Laws Nos. 14-98 and 15-2, is hereby amended by amending section 605 to read as follows:

"Section 605. Voting absentee ballot at a special Polling Place.

(1) Registered Voters who are absent from their State of registration on Election Day may cast their votes at a special Polling Place.

(2) Not less than 60 days prior to a general election, or 45 days prior to a special election, the National Election Director shall designate the locations of the special Polling Places, provided that, there shall be one special Polling Place in Guam and one special Polling Place in Honolulu and that these shall be the only special Polling Places located outside the Federated States of Micronesia."
(3) Requests to vote absentee ballot at a special Polling Place must be in writing, using the forms required by the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this title, and received by the national election commissioner of the State of registration not less than 30 days prior to a general election or 20 days before a special election; provided however, no written request shall be required if in a previous National Election the absentee voter submitted a request in which he or she indicated his or her desire to vote at the same special Polling Place in future National Elections until such time as the voter provides written notification to the national election commissioner that he or she wishes to resume voting at his or her regular Polling Place. Provided, further, that a voter with a valid Voter Identification Card may vote at any special Polling Place designated for his or her Congressional Election District without submitting a written request.

(4) The national election commissioner, or his or her designee, shall review all special Polling Place requests for a particular Congressional Election District, and shall request that the National Election Director place on a special Polling Place Signature List for that Congressional Election District all the information contained on the National Voter Register for
those absentee voters who submitted valid and timely requests. No later than six days before a National Election, the national election commissioners shall post at the National Election Office in their State the special Polling Place Signature List for each special Polling Place in their State.

(5) The National Election Director, or his or her designee, shall review all requests to vote at a special Polling Place outside the Federated States of Micronesia, and shall place on a special Polling Place signature list for that special Polling Place all the information contained on the National Voter Register for those absentee voters who submitted valid and timely requests. No later than 14 days before a National Election, the National Election Director, or his or her designee, shall post the special Polling Place Signature Lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible place in each respective location to be set out in the regulations promulgated pursuant to this title.

(6) The National Election Director, or his or her designee, shall strike out or delete the entry of an absentee voter included on a special Polling Place Signature list from the Signature List for that voter's regular Polling Place. The absentee voter shall not be allowed to cast a ballot at his or her regular Polling
(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the special Polling Places located outside the Federated States of Micronesia shall remain open between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on election day.

(8) Notwithstanding the provision of this section or another section anywhere in the Code, in view of the prevalent Coronavirus-19 pandemic, and for the sake of the safety and health of citizens in particular those residing in Honolulu and in Guam voting at special Polling Places is temporarily suspended for the March 2021 national election. The Election Director shall issue appropriate guidelines, in consultation with the President, to ensure that eligible voters abroad are able to cast their ballots using alternative means of absentee voting."

Section 2. 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: 10/28/20

Introduced by: /s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio S. Harper (by request)