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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To further amend title 53 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 5-120, 6-111, 7-118, 7-119 and 7-120, by adding new sections 811 and 812 to limit the amount of time the Social Security Administration may take to complete claimants' files and determine benefits claims, and to require spoken and written information to be given to claimants on their rights and responsibilities, and for other purposes.

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

1       Section 1. Title 53 of the Code of the Federated States of Micro-  
2 nesia is hereby further amended by adding a new section 811 of chapter  
3 8 to read as follows:

4           "Section 811. Time limits.

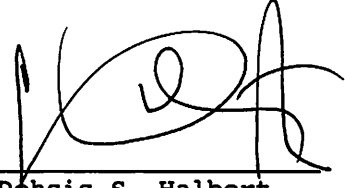
5               (1) For any disability, retirement or survivors'  
6               benefits claims, a file must be completed within 45 days of  
7               a claimant's application for Social Security benefits at any  
8               Social Security office within the Federated States of  
9               Micronesia. It is the responsibility of the claimant to  
10              cooperate with the Social Security Administration by  
11              providing information and documentation whenever possible.  
12              It is the responsibility of the Social Security Administra-  
13              tion to obtain the required documents from other sources,  
14              and to conduct any investigation needed to complete the file  
15              within this 45-day time limit. In extraordinary  
16              circumstances such as natural disasters, a 30-day extension  
17              of time to complete a file may be granted to the Adminis-  
18              trator or the Administrator's designee by the Board, but in  
19              no case may a pending file take longer than 75 days to  
20              complete. After the 45-day time limit, or 75 days if an  
21              extension was properly granted, any missing documents or  
22              evidence from the file shall be construed in favor of the  
23              claimant, unless the claimant has unjustifiably refused to  
24              provide information to the Social Security Administration,  
25              or when an unreasonable delay is primarily caused by the

1 make its procedures as convenient for claimants as possible."

2 Section 3. This act shall take effect 30 days after becoming  
3 law.

4 Section 4. This act shall become law upon approval by the  
5 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming  
6 law without such approval.

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8 Date: 10-15-93

Introduced by:   
Dohsis S. Halbert

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