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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:

1           Section 1. Purpose. In 1986 the Governments of the  
2 Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America  
3 entered into a treaty of cooperation styled as the Compact of Free  
4 Association. The treaty acknowledged and declared the terms of  
5 financial, economic, and defense exchanged between the Parties for  
6 the mutual benefit of the two governments. In 2023 the economic  
7 and financial terms of the Compact of Free Association between the  
8 Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the  
9 Government of the United States of America will expire. Certain  
10 terms, including defense and immigration provisions continue  
11 indefinitely until one or both parties to the treaty decide to end  
12 such terms as well. It is now incumbent on the Government of the  
13 Federated States of Micronesia to prepare for the eventual  
14 expiration of the economic and financial assistance from the  
15 United States of America. In anticipation of the termination of  
16 the financial provisions of the Amended Compact of Free  
17 Association in 2023, there is hereby established a joint committee  
18 of the Executive and Legislative branches.

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1           Section 2. Establishment of the Joint Committee on Compact  
2 Review and Planning. There is hereby created and established a  
3 joint committee to be known as the Joint Committee on Compact  
4 Review and Planning ("JCRP"), comprising nine members as  
5 follows: one representative from each of the four States, as  
6 appointed by the President in consultation with the leadership  
7 of each State, and four representatives from the Congress of the  
8 Federated States of Micronesia, one from each congressional  
9 delegation. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall be a member  
10 ex officio. He shall chair the Joint Committee's first meeting,  
11 and organize the election of its Chairman and Vice Chairman.  
12 Six of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
13 of business. Decisions shall be made within the Committee by at  
14 least five concurring votes, with each participating member  
15 casting a single vote.

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

21           Section 4. Mandate. The JCRP shall carry out the following  
22 responsibilities and obligations:

23                   (1) In consultation with the Congress, set goals and  
24 objectives in anticipation of the termination of the Amended  
25 Compact of Free Association;

1           (2) Conduct a thorough analysis of all factors  
2 relating the future of the Nation;

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

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

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

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

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

25           (8) Use funds for each separate category of expense

1 only up to the aggregate amount of the line-items of the  
2 corresponding expense category set out in the associated  
3 appropriations bill or bills approved by Congress, and select and  
4 hire the personnel needed to staff the Secretariat, as specified  
5 in section 5 below.

6       Section 5. Financing of the JCRP.

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

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

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

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

21              (1) Provide all administrative and logistical support  
22 to the JCRP, and shall (a) prepare an annual budget for approval  
23 by the Joint Committee, (b) transmit an approved budget to the  
24 President to submit, with comments, to the Congress of the  
25 Federated States of Micronesia;

1           (2) Coordinate with the various departments, offices  
2 and agencies of the FSM and State Governments to collect all  
3 information and technical input necessary for satisfying its  
4 responsibilities; and

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

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

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14 Date: 5/22/15

Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir

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