A BILL FOR AN ACT

To further amend Public Law No. 11-53, as amended by Public Law No. 11-66, by amending section 6 to change the definition of quorum; by further amending section 8, as amended by Public Law No. 11-66, to allow the Convention to decide the date for a special referendum; by amending section 9 to change the provision for the expenses of delegates and staff; and by adding a new section 10 to establish a Post-Convention Committee and define its duties; and for other purposes.

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

1 Section 1. Section 6 of Public Law No. 11-53 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"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
Constitution shall be open to the public.

(5) A quorum of the Convention shall consist of a majority of all the delegates to the Convention, PROVIDED all [of the] four state delegations are present. For the purpose of determining a quorum, a state delegation is [not] present [unless more than] when at least one-half of the delegates from that state are present."

Section 2. Section 8 of Public Law No. 11-53, as amended by Public Law No. 11-66, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 8. Duties of the Convention.

(1) The Convention shall propose amendments to the Constitution. Unless the Convention, by resolution, selects an earlier date, proposed amendments will [to be] placed on a ballot for a referendum to be held in March 2003[,] or [during a special election called for that purpose or an earlier date; PROVIDED, however, that] in the event that an amendment would affect 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 2002.

(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 thereto.
(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 3. Section 9 of Public Law No. 11-53 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"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.

(3) [Delegates who are not employed by a government and are not entitled to necessary travel expenses and per diem pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, shall be given a $50.00 per day stipend while on the business of the Convention.] Delegates not receiving administrative leave
with pay from their usual employment, if any, shall be entitled to a stipend while on the business of the Convention. The daily stipend shall be the greater of three-fourths (3/4) of the Delegate's daily salary or $50.00 per day.

(4) Upon the request of the Pre-Convention Committee, staff assistance for the Constitutional Convention shall be provided as needed through the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Section 4. Public Law No. 11-53, as amended by Public Law No. 11-66, is hereby further amended by enacting a new section 10 to read as follows:


(1) There shall be a Post-Convention Committee, which shall consist of not less than one (1) member from each State's Convention Delegation, selected by a majority vote of the Convention Delegates. Such selection shall be made no later than the closing day of the Convention.

(2) The duties of the Post-Convention Committee shall be as follows:

(a) to insure the timely and accurate publication of a bound journal of the convention and its proceedings;

(b) to insure timely submission and payment of all Convention expenses;"
(c) to develop a plan of action to educate the public about the content and purpose of each amendment proposed by the Convention;

(d) to develop written materials that shall be used for public education on each amendment proposed by the Convention;

(e) to prepare a budget for public education on the amendments proposed by the Convention to be submitted to Congress in the next following regular or special session; and

(f) to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Convention.

(3) The Post-Convention Committee shall convene not later than thirty (30) days after the closing day of the Convention.

(4) Members of the Post-Convention Committee shall be entitled to per diem and travel expenses to the same extent as Pre-Convention Committee members.

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

(6) The Post-Convention Committee shall complete its work in no more than fifteen (15) calendar days."
President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: _____________  Introduced by: __________________________

Joseph J. Urusemal
(by request)