

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14-129

RE: C.B. NO. 14-215/J&GO

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO TITLE 9, SECTION 605

NOVEMBER 07, 2006

The Honorable Peter M. Christian
Speaker, Fourteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Special Session, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations ("J&GO"), to which was referred C.B. No. 14-215 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND TITLE 9 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING SECTION 605, TO REQUIRE THAT THE SPECIAL POLLING PLACES LOCATED OUTSIDE THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO REMAIN OPEN FOR SEVEN DAYS INCLUDING ELECTION DAY, TO MAKE CERTAIN OTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TIMING OF ELECTION ACTIVITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the bill are expressed in its title.

The subject bill proposes three amendments to section 605 of title 9 of the FSM Code. First, to add a new subsection 605(7) to title 9 of the FSM Code for the purpose of ensuring that Special Polling Places located outside the FSM remain open for seven day period commencing on the sixth day before Election Day. This amendment contains an exception clause to close Special Polling Places, if a national election falls on a Sunday. The rationale behind the seven-day period is to allow as many registered voters to exercise their right to vote during any National Election. It is a general observation that some registered voters residing outside the FSM have conflicting work schedules during election day. Therefore, the seven-day period would allow sufficient time for said registered voters to avail themselves at such special Polling Places in order to cast their votes.

Second, to amend subsection 605(3) to increase the number of days from 10 to 20 by which registered voters send their requests to vote absentee ballot to the National Election Commissioner of the State of registration before a special election. The purpose of this amendment is to allow sufficient time for registered voters who are interested to vote by absentee ballot to send their request to the National Election Commissioner and to give the National Election Commissioner in each State sufficient time to review all the required information in the absentee ballot requests before a special election.

Third, to amend subsection 605(5) to increase the number of days from 6 to 14 by which the National Election Director or his or her designee

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14-129

RE: C.B. NO. 14-215/J&GO

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO TITLE 9, SECTION 605

NOVEMBER 07, 2006

shall post a signature list at a designated Special Polling Place before a National Election. This amendment would give sufficient time for the National Election Director or his or her designee to review all written information in any absentee ballot request before posting the signature list.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 14-215 and recommends its passage on First Reading, and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, chairman

/s/ Roosevelt D. Kansou
Roosevelt D. Kansou, vice chairman

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, member

Tiwiter Aritos, member

Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Moses A. Nelson
Moses A. Nelson, member

/s/ Ramon Peyal
Ramon Peyal, member