
A RESOLUTION

Urging the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to change Department of Interior Order No. 3039 to allow amendment of the Trust Territory Social Security Act by concurring legislation passed by the three governing entities covered by the Trust Territory Social Security System, in order to allow needed alterations to the disability benefits program.

1 WHEREAS, there is currently a five month waiting period before Trust Terri-
2 tory Social Security disability benefits are paid to covered individuals who
3 become disabled and, when paid, the benefits are not made retroactive to the
4 beginning of the waiting period; and

5 WHEREAS, in the Federated States of Micronesia private disability insurance
6 and other forms of disability assistance are not available to disabled persons
7 to assist them during the five month waiting period; and

8 WHEREAS, during the five month waiting period covered individuals have no
9 earnings, no private disability insurance benefits and no Social Security
10 benefits, which causes extreme financial hardship to the disabled persons and
11 their families; and

12 WHEREAS, the three governing entities now covered by the Trust Territory
13 Social Security Act cannot amend the waiting period provisions of that Act, due
14 to the effect of Interior Department Order No. 3039, which maintains current
15 Social Security laws in full force and effect until the termination of the
16 Trusteeship Agreement; and

17 WHEREAS, Interior Department Order No. 3039 was issued without consulta-
18 tion with the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia or the Trust
19 Territory Social Security Administrator; and

20 WHEREAS, the problem created by Interior Department Order No. 3039 can be
21 remedied by changing that Order to allow amendment of the Social Security Act
22 by concurring legislation passed by the three governing entities operating

1 under the Trust Territory Social Security System; and

2 WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the Trust Territory High
3 Commissioner have a duty to insure that the Trust Territory Social Security
4 System operates for the maximum benefit of those persons covered under that
5 system; now, therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the First Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia,
7 Second Regular Session, 1979, that the Secretary of the United States Department
8 of the Interior is urged to change Interior Department Order No. 3039 to allow
9 amendment of the Trust Territory Social Security Act by concurring legislation
10 passed by the three governing entities within the Trust Territory; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be trans-
12 mitted to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, the High Commissioner of
13 the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the President of the Federated
14 States of Micronesia, the President of the Marshall Islands, the Acting District
15 Administrator of the Palau District, the Speaker of the Marshall Islands
16 Nitijela, the Speaker of the Palau Legislature, and the Trust Territory Social
17 Security Administrator.

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19 Adopted: November 1, 1979

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