

The President

Palikir, Pohnpei Federated States of Micronesia

June <u>184</u>, 2020

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina Speaker Twenty-First Congress Federated States of Micronesia Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941 PRESIDENTIAL COMM. NO. 21-302

Dear Speaker Simina:

I am pleased to transmit the following Congressional Act, which I have signed to become Public Law No. 21-120:

Congressional Act No. 21-119, entitled: "AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND CHAPTER 6 OF TITLE 55 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (ANNOTATED), AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (A) TO SECTION 609A (3), FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THAT TOURISM SECTOR BUSINESSES ARE PROPERLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR LOSSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the FSM Congress for the passage of this act.

David W. Panuelo President

xc: Chief Justice, FSM Supreme Court



Office of the Chief Clerk

CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

P.O. Box PS 3

Palikir, Sokehs Pohnpei State, FM 96941 Tel: (691) 320-2324 / 2338 Fax: (691) 320-5122

PRESIDENTIAL COMM. NO.

0.21-302

June 01, 2020

His Excellency David W. Panuelo President Federated States of Micronesia Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Dear President Panuelo:

I have the honor to transmit herewith Congressional Act No. 21-119, "AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND CHAPTER 6 OF TITLE 55 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (ANNOTATED), AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (A) TO SECTION 609A (3), FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THAT TOURISM SECTOR BUSINESSES ARE PROPERLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR LOSSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.", which was passed by the Twenty-First Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fourth Regular Session, 2020, by a two-thirds vote of all the State delegations as required and as duly certified.

Sincerely yours,

Liwiana Ramon Ioanis

Chief Clerk, Congress of the

Federated States of Micronesia

Enclosures



TWENTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOURTH REGULAR SESSION MAY 11 - 30, 2020

PRESIDENTIAL COMM. NO. 21-302
FSM CONGRESS

An Act

TO FURTHER AMEND CHAPTER 6 OF TITLE 55 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (ANNOTATED), AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (A) TO SECTION 609A (3), FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THAT TOURISM SECTOR BUSINESSES ARE PROPERLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR LOSSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR: WESLEY W. SIMINA

DATE: MAY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WITHDRAWN - MAY 14, 2020

FIRST READING: - MAY 14, 2020

SECOND READING: - MAY 21, 2020

Liwiana Ramon Idanis Chief Clerk, FSM Congress



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

P.O. Box PS 3 Palikir, Sokehs Pohnpei State, FM 96941 Tel: (691) 320-2324 / 2338 Fax: (691) 320-5122

> PRESIDENTIAL COMM. NO. 21-302 FSM CONGRESS

ACT NO. 21-119

(CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO. 21-192, C.D.1)

We hereby certify that on May 21 the foregoing act passed Second and Final Reading of the Twenty-First Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fourth Regular Session, 2020, by a two-thirds vote of all the State delegations as required under article IX, section 20, of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Speaker

Congress of the

Federated States of Micronesia

Liwiana Ramon Ioanis

Chief Clerk

Congress of the

Federated States of Micronesia

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ACT RG. 33-3131

(CONGRESSIONAL AFTS NO. 21-182) C.STAY

We hereby curtify that on May 21 the foregoing oft passed decond and Finel Resound of the Twenty-First Congress of the Pedersted States of Microurgia, Fourth Regular States, 2020, by a two-thirds vote of all the States delegations as required woder sutical TX, section 30, of the Geograph States of Micronsta.

Speaker Stutied

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Pederated States of Micronesia

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Federated States on Microsesia

AN ACT

To further amend chapter 6 of title 55 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as amended, by adding a new subsection (a) to section 609A (3), for the purpose of ensuring that tourism sector businesses are properly compensated for their losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

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

- 1 Section 1. Chapter 6 of title 55 of the Code of the
- 2 Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as amended, is hereby
- 3 amended by adding new subsection(a) to section 609A(3) to read as
- 4 follows:
- 5 "Section 609A. Tourism Sector Mitigation Fund.
- 6 (1) There is created a Tourism Sector Mitigation
- Fund to be used to partially offset the economic losses
- 8 of the businesses in the tourism industry and
- 9 individuals working in the tourism industry who were
- 10 laid off in the Federated States of Micronesia during
- 11 the coronavirus epidemic.
- 12 (2) Moneys for the Tourism Sector Mitigation Fund
- shall be derived from coronavirus epidemic
- 14 appropriations by the Congress of the Federated States
- of Micronesia and the State legislatures, United States
- grants, funds designated for such purposes from
- international organizations and from any and all other
- appropriate sources.

| 1 | (3) Tourism sector businesses operating in the |
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| 2 | Federated States of Micronesia seeking relief from the |
| 3 | Tourism Sector Mitigation Fund must show tax returns |
| 4 | from the previous year in order to establish their |
| 5 | losses claimed under this fund. Individuals in the |
| 6 | tourism sector, who are seeking compensation for lost |
| 7 | wages due to being laid off as a result of the economic |
| 8 | downturn, must submit their last paycheck stub and a |
| 9 | statement from their employer in the tourism industry, |
| 10 | who laid them off, evidencing their unemployment. The |
| 11 | President shall issue regulations for equitable |
| 12 | compensation for affected businesses, including a |
| 13 | possible cap on the amount of a valid claim. |
| 14 | (a) A tourism sector business will be eligible |
| 15 | for the following relief in the relevant quarter to be |
| 16 | calculated as follows: |
| 17 | (i) a rebate for reimbursement purposes |
| 18 | equivalent to 100% of the Wages and Salaries paid by the |
| 19 | taxpayer to the employees of the tourism sector business |
| 20 | for personal services relating to producing the Gross |
| 21 | Revenue for the business; |
| 22 | (ii) a rebate for reimbursement purposes |
| 23 | equivalent to 100% for the Social Security contributions |
| 24 | paid by the tourism sector business in respect of its |

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employees in the quarter pursuant to section 902 of

| 1 | title 53 of the FSM Code (Annotated); |
|----|--|
| 2 | (iii) a rebate for reimbursement purposes |
| 3 | equivalent to 100% for the Gross Revenue Tax (plus any |
| 4 | penalties and interest) payable by the tourism sector |
| 5 | business in the relevant quarter pursuant to section 141 |
| 6 | of title 54 of the FSM Code (Annotated); |
| 7 | (iv) a rebate for reimbursement purposes |
| 8 | equivalent to 100% for the bank interest on business |
| 9 | loans paid by the tourism sector business to a FSM |
| 10 | domiciled branch of a FSM registered bank; |
| 11 | (v) additional relief may be added per |
| 12 | regulations; and |
| 13 | (vi) businesses that can show a direct |
| 14 | economic loss as a result in the downturn experienced by |
| 15 | the tourism sector are eligible to receive assistance |
| 16 | under this section subject to the requirements under |
| 17 | 609A(3)(i)-(v). |
| 18 | (4) The distributions from the funds shall be |
| 19 | managed and administered by a committee named by the |
| 20 | President comprising representatives of the Departments |
| 21 | of Resources and Development; Finance and |
| 22 | Administration; Justice; and Environment, Climate Change |
| 23 | and Emergency Management. The committee shall report |
| 24 | quarterly to Congress on the status of the fund and |
| 25 | distributions therefrom. |

| 1 | (5) For the purposes of this fund tourism sector |
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| 2 | businesses shall include hotel operators, car rentals, |
| 3 | tour operators, resorts, dive shops, airlines or any |
| 4 | other tourist specific business not mentioned above. |
| 5 | (6) The Tourism Sector Mitigation Fund shall expire |
| 6 | at the end of fiscal year 2021. Any unexpended funds |
| 7 | shall lapse into the Disaster Relief Fund." |
| 8 | Section 2. This act shall become law upon approval by the |
| 9 | President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its |
| 10 | becoming law without such approval. |
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| 15 | June 18th, 2020 |
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| 20 | David W. Panuelo' President |
| 21 | Federated States of Micronesia |
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