

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To temporarily suspend voting at special Polling Places for the March 2021 national election due to the prevalent Coronavirus-19 pandemic by amending further section 605 of title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as enacted by Public Law No. 14-76, and as amended by Public Laws Nos. 14-98 and 15-2, and for other purposes.

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

1 Section 1. Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of
2 Micronesia (Annotated), as enacted by Public Law No. 14-76, and as
3 amended by Public Laws No. 14-98 and 15-2, is hereby amended by
4 amending section 605 to read as follows:

5 "Section 605. Voting absentee ballot at a special
6 Polling Place.

7 (1) Registered Voters who are absent from their State
8 of registration on Election Day may cast their votes at
9 a special Polling Place.

10 (2) Not less than 60 days prior to a general
11 election, or 45 days prior to a special election, the
12 National Election Director shall designate the locations
13 of the special Polling Places, provided that, there
14 shall be one special Polling Place in Guam and one
15 special Polling Place in Honolulu and that these shall
16 be the only special Polling Places located outside the
17 Federated States of Micronesia.

1 (3) Requests to vote absentee ballot at a special
2 Polling Place must be in writing, using the forms
3 required by the rules and regulations promulgated
4 pursuant to this title, and received by the national
5 election commissioner of the State of registration not
6 less than 30 days prior to a general election or 20 days
7 before a special election; provided however, no written
8 request shall be required if in a previous National
9 Election the absentee voter submitted a request in which
10 he or she indicated his or her desire to vote at the
11 same special Polling Place in future National Elections
12 until such time as the voter provides written
13 notification to the national election commissioner that
14 he or she wishes to resume voting at his or her regular
15 Polling Place. Provided, further, that a voter with a
16 valid Voter Identification Card may vote at any special
17 Polling Place designated for his or her Congressional
18 Election District without submitting a written request.

19 (4) The national election commissioner, or his or her
20 designee, shall review all special Polling Place
21 requests for a particular Congressional Election
22 District, and shall request that the National Election
23 Director place on a special Polling Place Signature List
24 for that Congressional Election District all the
25 information contained on the National Voter Register for

1 those absentee voters who submitted valid and timely
2 requests. No later than six days before a National
3 Election, the national election commissioners shall post
4 at the National Election Office in their State the
5 special Polling Place Signature List for each special
6 Polling Place in their State.

7 (5) The National Election Director, or his or her
8 designee, shall review all requests to vote at a special
9 Polling Place outside the Federated States of
10 Micronesia, and shall place on a special Polling Place
11 signature list for that special Polling Place all the
12 information contained on the National Voter Register for
13 those absentee voters who submitted valid and timely
14 requests. No later than 14 days before a National
15 Election, the National Election Director, or his or her
16 designee, shall post the special Polling Place Signature
17 Lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible
18 place in each respective location to be set out in the
19 regulations promulgated pursuant to this title.

20 (6) The National Election Director, or his or her
21 designee, shall strike out or delete the entry of an
22 absentee voter included on a special Polling Place
23 Signature list from the Signature List for that voter's
24 regular Polling Place. The absentee voter shall not be
25 allowed to cast a ballot at his or her regular Polling

1 Place on Election Day.

2 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
3 title, the special Polling Places located outside the
4 Federated States of Micronesia shall remain open between
5 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on election day.

6 (8) Notwithstanding the provision of this section or
7 another section anywhere in the Code, in view of the
8 prevalent Coronavirus-19 pandemic, and for the sake of
9 the safety and health of citizens in particular those
10 residing in Honolulu and in Guam voting at special
11 Polling Places is temporarily suspended for the March
12 2021 national election. The Election Director shall
13 issue appropriate guidelines, in consultation with the
14 President, to ensure that eligible voters abroad are
15 able to cast their ballots using alternative means of
16 absentee voting."

17 Section 2. This act shall become law upon approval by the
18 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
19 becoming law without such approval.

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21 Date: 10/28/20 Introduced by: /s/ Florencio S. Harper
22 Florencio S. Harper
23 (by request)

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