A BILL FOR AN ACT

To further amend title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), by amending sections 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 202, 404, 503, 601, 602, 603, 605 and 710 thereof, in order to update the aforesaid provisions of title 9, to rectify certain technical errors in some of the sections and to strengthen several provisions by changing certain timelines provided therein, making them more practical and realistic, and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. Section 101 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 101. Short title. This act shall be known and cited as the ‘Revised National Election Act of [2005] 2022’.”

Section 2. Section 101 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 102. Definitions.

The following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) ‘Citizen’ means a citizen as defined by the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia and title 7 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(2) ‘Congress’ means the Congress of the Federated
States of Micronesia;

(3) ‘Congressional Election District’ means the district apportioned by population for which a two-year term Member is elected;

(4) ‘Election Day’ means the date in the Federated States of Micronesia on which National Elections are conducted in the Federated States of Micronesia without regard to the actual date at any Polling Place outside the Federated States of Micronesia;

(5) ‘Member’ means a two-year or four-year member of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(6) ‘Municipality’ means a subdivision of a Congressional Election District;

(7) ‘National Election’ means any general or special election for a member, or any national referendum on a constitutional amendment;

(8) ‘National Election Director’ means the person appointed in accordance with subsection 302 (1) of this title;

(9) ‘National Election Office’ means the office or other locations designated by the National Election Director as a location from where official national election activities are carried out;

(10) ‘National Voter Register’ means the list of all Registered Voters in the Federated States of Micronesia
segregated by each State who registered to vote with a
the National Election Office;

(11) ‘Polling Place’ means a location officially
designated by the National Election Director where
voters cast their ballots in a National Election,
[including] include special polling places, VAAP polling
places, [mobile polling places] and traveler polling
places;

(12) ‘Polls’ may refer to two or more Polling Places,
or all Polling Places generally;

(13) ‘President’ means the President of the Federated
States of Micronesia;

(14) ‘Public Property’ means any land, buildings,
facilities, vessels, vehicles, equipment, supplies or
other resources that are owned, operated or controlled
by the National Government, a State Government or a
Municipal Government, or any subdivision, agency or
department thereof;

(15) ‘Public Employee’ means any employee of the
National Government, a State Government or a Municipal
Government, or any subdivision, agency or department
thereof;

(16) ‘Registered Voter’ means a person who has
registered to vote pursuant to chapter 4 of this title.

(17) ‘Resident’ means a person who qualifies as a
resident under the law of the State in which the person has registered, or seek to register, to vote;

(18) 'Signature List' means the certified list of Registered Voters in a Municipality or Congressional Election District the any person seeking to vote on Election Day must sign at their designated Polling Place before being issued a ballot;

(19) 'State' means one of the four States of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(20) 'State Election Office' means the official office or other locations designated by the State election officials or state government as a location from where official state election activities are carried out;

(21) 'State Voter Register' means the list of Registered Voters for a Congressional Election District or Municipality who registered to vote with a State Election Office;

(22) 'VAAP' means voting at another polling place in accordance with section 604 of this title; and

(23) 'Voter Identification Card' means an identification card issued under the authority of the National Election Director to a Registered Voter that contains the Registered Voter’s name, registration number, State, Congressional Election District, Municipality, date of birth, sex, signature and other
Section 3. Section 103 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 103. Eligible Voters. Every Citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia is eligible to vote in a National Election if he or she has fulfilled the following requirements:

1. Is living;

2. Is 18 years of age and registered 30 days or older on before the day of the election;

3. Is a Resident of a State

4. Has been a Registered Voter and voted in previous elections [for at least 30 days immediately preceding Election Day];

5. Is not currently under a judgment of mental incompetency or insanity; and

6. Is not currently under parole, probation, or sentence for any felony for which he or she has been convicted by any court of the Federated State of Micronesia.”
read as follows:

“Section 105. General elections.

(1) All general elections for Members shall be held biennially in each odd-numbered year on the first Tuesday of March; provided, that where a natural disaster or other event precludes holding the election on the foregoing date, the President may postpone the election in the affected Congressional Election District, Municipality or Polling Place until the next available date on which the natural disaster or other event will not hinder voting, excluding weekends and national holidays.

(2) When a State or municipal election is scheduled to be held currently with a National Election, the National Election Director shall assist in that election as requested by the State or municipal government, to the extent determined by the National Election Director and within the limits of available resources.”

Section 5. Section 106 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 106. Special Elections.

(1) Special Elections shall be conducted in the same manner as general elections, except where this title sets forth a different procedure for special elections.
(2) The National Election Director shall schedule a special election to occur [50] 70 days after receipt of notification of the need for a special election; provided, that where a natural disaster or other event precludes holding the election on the foregoing date, the President may postpone the election in the affected Congressional Election District, Municipality or Polling Place until next available date on which the natural disaster or other event will not hinder voting, excluding weekends and national holidays.

(3) Special elections shall be declared as follows:

(a) After election of President and Vice President. After the election of the President and Vice President, vacancies shall be declared for the seats to which the President and Vice President were originally elected as Members. The speaker of Congress shall make the declaration and notify the National Election Director of the Vacancies.

(b) Other vacancies—seated Congress. Any other vacancy in the Congress shall be filled for the unexpired term by special election, except that an unexpired term of one year or less shall be filled by appointment by the Governor of the State affected. The appointee shall possess the qualifications required by section 201 of this title and shall serve only the
unexpired term. The Speaker of Congress shall make the declaration of a vacancy to be filled by special election and notify the National Election Director of the vacancy.

(c) Other vacancies—death of a declared winner. In case a death of a declared winner before being sworn into office, the Governor of the State affected shall notify the Speaker of Congress, who shall immediately declare a vacancy and notify the National Election Director.

(4) Date of special election. If the date required by this section for a special election to be held falls in a Saturday or Sunday, the election shall be held on the first Tuesday following that Saturday or Sunday. If the date required by this section for an election to be held falls on a national holiday, the election shall be held on the next day that is not a Saturday or Sunday.”

Section 6. Section 107 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 107. Election Funding. Within one year prior to a general election, or 40 60 days prior to a special election, [Congress shall] the National Election Director through the Office of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia shall submit to the
Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia to appropriate a sum adequate to defray the administrative and contingent expenses of conducting National Election as provided by this title."

Section 7. Section 108 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 108. Use of Public Property or Public Employees for Campaign Activities.

(1) No Public Property shall be made available, without cost, to a candidate in a National Election, or his or her supporters, for campaign activities; provided, however, that campaign materials may be displayed on Public Property without cost so long as the campaign materials do not damage or deface that Public Property and the candidate, or his or her supporters, remove such materials prior to 12:00 a.m. on Election Day pursuant to section 705 of this title.

(2) If Public Property is made available to a candidate in a National Election. Or his or her supporters, such property shall be made available on an equal basis to all opposing candidates and their supporters.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, no National Government vehicle
shall be used by candidate, or his or her supporters, for campaign activities.

(4) No candidate shall use the services of Public Employees for campaign activities during working hours or while such employees are conducting government business."

Section 8. Section 202 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:


(1) Nomination of candidates shall require submission of a nomination paper, including a petition and an affidavit, to the National Election Commissioner of the State concerned.

(2) The nominating petition shall be initiated by a candidate and shall specify whether the candidate is running for a two-year or a four-year term seat in Congress. The petition of a two-year term seat shall be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the Congressional Election District where the candidate seeks election in the case of a four-year term seat."

[four] two-year or a [two] four-year term seat in Congress. The petition of a two-year term seat shall be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the Congressional Election District where the candidate seeks election in the case of a four-year term seat."

[two] four-year term seat shall be signed by at least 50 qualified voters of his/her State or of the State wherein the candidate seeks election in the case of a four-year term seat]."
(3) The affidavit shall be completed and signed by the candidate and affirm that the candidate fulfills the qualifications of Senators as set forth in section 201 of this chapter.

(4) [The name of any candidate shall be printed on an official ballot to be used for choosing candidates only if,] The nominating petition for any candidate shall be filed with the National Election Commissioners of the State concerned not more than 120 days nor less than 80 days prior to a general election or not more than 70 days nor less than 50 days prior to a special election [at least 120 days prior to general election or 40 days prior to a special election, a nomination paper shall have been filed in the office of the national election commissioner of the state concerned]. There shall be deposited with the nomination paper and the petition a filing fee of $100. The national election commissioner of the State concerned shall, upon receipt of the nomination paper and the petition, endorse thereon the day, hour, and minute that such nomination paper and petition [is] are received. Any person who is elected as a write-in candidate shall, after certification of the election results, pay a $100 fee and submit the affidavit, but not the petition, required by this section.”
Section 9. Section 404 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 404. Registration procedures.

(1) A person desiring to register to vote in National Election shall complete such applications and affidavits, take such oaths, and present such personal documentation and witnesses, as required by the rules and regulations promulgated by the National Election Director pursuant to this title.

(2) Regardless of the place of registration, all completed applications and affidavits of registration shall be transmitted to the national election commissioner of the relevant state for final approval and entry onto the National Voter Register.

(3) Every completed application or affidavit of registration shall be maintained and preserved at the National Election Office of the State of registration until such time as the Registered Voter who completed the application or affidavit is deceased or is otherwise no longer eligible to vote.

(4) All completed applications and affidavits of registration shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours.

(5) The National Election Director may issue Voter
Identification Cards to all Registered Voters at or after the time of registration. All Voter Identification Cards shall be issued free of charge, provided that, there shall be a charge in an amount to be set out in the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this title for issuing a Registered Voter with a replacement Voter Identification Card. Upon issuing a Voter Identification Card to a Registered Voter, the National Election Director, or his or her designee, shall make a notation next to that Registered Voter’s entry on the National Voter Register. A Registered Voter who has been issued a Voter Identification Card must present that card before being issued a ballot at his or her Polling Place.”

Section 10. Section 503 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 503. Printing and distribution of ballots.

(1) The printing of specimen ballots along with the official ballots shall be printed by order of the National Election Director at the expense of the Federated States of Micronesia. The National Election Director shall complete the printing of specimen and the official ballots no later than [60] 70 days before general election, or no later than [35] 40 days before
special election. The National Election Director shall submit copies of the specimen to the National Election Commissioners of the State concerned for distribution to the members of the several election boards and the candidates at their addresses as given on their nomination papers. Two copies of each such specimen shall also be forwarded to the members of the election boards. The National Election Commissioners and the election boards members shall post a copy of the specimen in a conspicuous place in their office or at the entrance of both sides of the voting place. The official ballots shall be consecutively numbered. Under the direction of the National Election Director, the national election commissioners shall deliver [adequate numbers of ballots] to each polling place not less than ten percent (10%) more ballots than there are registered voters at such polling place. [At least 65 days before a general election, and at least 40 days before a special election, the National Election Director shall print a sample ballot and shall forthwith submit copies of the same to the national election commissioners for distribution to the members of the several election boards and to the several candidates at their addresses as given on their nomination papers, and the national election
commissioners and election board member shall post a
copy of the same in a conspicuous place in their office
or public place.

Section 11. Section 601 of Title 9 of the Code of the
Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to
read as follows:

"Section 601. Absentee voting and ballots in general.

(1) An absentee ballot is an official ballot that is
authorized by this title to be voted outside of any
designated Polling Place or prior to Election Day.

(2) Any Registered Voter qualified to vote in any
general or special election shall be qualified as an
‘absentee voter’ and entitled to vote according to the
provisions set forth in this chapter if:

(a) He or she is confined to home or hospital by
reason of illness or physical disability, or is
incarcerated for a crime, as will prevent him or her
from coming to the Polling Place to cast a ballot on
Election Day; or

(b) He or she is prevented from coming to the
Polling Place in the Congressional Election District of
registration by reason of being at sea, serving in the
armed forces, being obstructed by natural barrier, or
being otherwise absent from the Congressional Election
District of registration, making it highly impractical
or extremely difficult for him or her to arrive at the
Polling Place in time to cast a ballot on Election Day.

(3) An absentee voter may vote by absentee ballot in
one of the following ways:

(By mail;

(a) [By voting at a mobile polling place]; By
voting at home or at hospital due to illness;

(b) By voting at a government facility due to
incarceration;

(c) By voting at a VAAP Polling Place in another
Congressional Election District;

(d) By voting at a special polling place;

(e) By voting at a traveler polling place

(4) It shall be unlawful for an absentee voter to
vote using more than one method of absentee voting.

(5) Any Registered Voter wishing to vote by absentee
ballot must submit a written request, using the forms
specified in the rules and regulations promulgated
pursuant to this title, to the national election
commissioner of the state in which the voter is
registered. The request shall be signed and dated by
the Registered voter and shall include the following
information, as well as any additional information the
National Election Director may require:

(a) The voter’s full and correct name and date
of birth;
(b) The voter’s current place of residence and mailing address;
(c) The voter’s Municipality and Congressional Election District of registration;
(d) The voter’s reasons for being absent from his or her Congressional Election District on Election Day; and
(e) The type of absentee voting the voter seeks to use.

(6) Only the Registered Voter seeking to vote by absentee ballot may submit an absentee request to the national election commissioner.”

Section 12. Section 602 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 602. Voting absentee ballot by mail.
(1) Any registered voter who will be outside his or her State of registration on Election Day may vote absentee ballot by mail.
(2) Deadlines for submitting requests to vote absentee ballot by mail.
(a) In the case of a general election, the request to vote absentee by mail, using forms required by the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to
this title, must be received by the national election commissioner of the State in which the voter is registered not more than 120 but not less than 40 days before Election Day.

(b) In the case of a special election, the request to vote absentee by mail must be received by the national election commissioner of the state in which the voter is registered not more than 70 days but not less than 30 days before Election Day [the day of the special election].

(c) If the absentee voter currently resides in a foreign country where the Federated States of Micronesia maintains an embassy or consulate, then a request to vote absentee ballot by mail may alternatively be sent to the embassy or consulate, which shall forward a copy of the request to the National Election Director, or his or her designee, for verification and processing. The absentee voter shall indicate on the request form whether he or she intends to pick up his or her absentee ballot at the embassy or consulate. The National Election Commissioner shall immediately upon the printing of the official ballots before a general election mail an absentee ballot to any absentee voter who has requested for such a ballot and shall be closed 40 days before Election Day. In the event of a special
1 election, an absentee ballot shall be sent to any
2 absentee voter who has requested for mail-in absentee
3 ballot and shall be closed 30 days before Election Day.
4
(d) The voter is solely responsible for ensuring
5 that the request to vote absentee ballot by mail is
6 received by the deadline. Delayed or lost mail for
7 absentee ballot requests shall not create any obligation
8 of the National Election Director or the national
9 election commissioner to provide absentee ballots at any
10 time after the time periods set forth herein have
11 expired.
12
(e) Upon receipt of a request to vote absentee
13 ballot by mail, the name of the requester and the time
14 and the date of receipt of the request must be recorded.
15 The national election commissioner, shall, no later than
16 2 days from receipt of the request, act on the request
17 and mail back to the requester an absentee ballot
18 provided that printed ballots are already available. If
19 the printed ballots are not available at the time a
20 request is received, the name of the requester and the
21 time and date of receipt of the request must still be
22 recorded, and an absentee ballot shall be mailed to the
23 requester as soon as the official ballots are printed
24 and no longer [later] than 5 days thereafter [the
25 printing of ballots has been completed. Absentee voter
who has indicated on their request forms that they intend to pick up their absentee ballot at an embassy or consulate shall retrieve their ballot from the embassy or consulate. The National Election Director shall provide sufficient absentee ballots to the embassy or consulate 10 days before a National Election].

(f) The National Election Director, or his or her designee, shall strike out or delete the entry of the absentee voter on the signature list from that voter’s regular polling place. The absentee voter shall not be allowed to cast a ballot at his or her regular polling place on Election Day.

(3) Marking and returning of absentee ballots by mail.

(a) An absentee ballot my mail shall include the following parts: an official ballot, a ballot envelope, an affidavit prescribed by the National Election Director, and a covering reply envelope.

(b) The absentee voter shall mark the ballot in the usual manner provided by law and in such manner that no person can see or know how the ballot is marked. The absentee voter shall then deposit the ballot in the envelope and surely seal the same. The absentee voter shall then complete and execute the affidavit. The ballot envelope and the affidavit shall then be enclosed
(a) Upon the receipt and opening of the absentee ballots, the national election commissioner, or
his or her appointee, shall inform the candidate or his or her representative at the time and place designated by the commissioner. He shall open the ballots, remove the ballot envelope, and examine the affidavit. If the national election commissioner or his or her appointee determines that the absentee ballot is valid, the ballot envelope shall be deposited unopened in a container retained for that purpose. The container shall be securely sealed except for an opening sufficient to permit deposit of ballot envelopes and shall be marked with the name and official title of the national election commissioner, or his or her appointee, and the words, ‘this container holds absentee ballots and must be opened only pursuant to law. ‘The national election commissioner, or his or her designee, shall safely keep each container secured in the commissioner’s office until Election Day.

(b) On Election Day, the national election commissioner, or his or her designee appointee in the presence of each candidate or his or her representative shall open the container, extract and segregate the ballot envelopes, and deliver such envelopes to the counting and tabulation committee. [Each candidate, or his or her representative, shall have the opportunity to be present during this process.]
(c) An absentee ballot may be determined to be invalid if:

(i) The affidavit is found to be insufficient;

(ii) The signatures on the request for the ballot and the affidavit do not correspond;

(iii) The request for the ballot was not properly made or was untimely, as set forth in this section;

(iv) The ballot was not returned in a timely fashion, as set forth in this section;

(v) The ballot was returned in a bundle with other ballots;

(vi) The voter is not qualified to vote;

(vii) The voter is not registered to vote;

(viii) The ballot envelope is open or has been opened and resealed; or

(ix) The voter has already voted.

(d) The ballot envelope of an invalid absentee ballot shall not be opened and the national election commissioner or his or her appointee shall mark across its face ‘rejected’, and write the reason for the rejection, and shall preserve the same in the manner and for the period of time required under this title for regular ballot cast in an election. At the end of this
time period, the invalid absentee ballots shall be
destroyed without being opened in the manner provided
under this title.”

Section 13. Section 603 of Title 9 of the Code of the
Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to
read as follows:

"Section 603. Voting absentee ballot at home, hospital
and other government facility [a mobile polling place].

(1) Registered voters who are confined, as set forth
in paragraph 601(2)(a), shall be entitled to vote by
absentee ballot [at a mobile polling place].

(2) Written requests to vote at home, hospital and
other government facility [a mobile polling place],
using the forms required by the rules and regulations
promulgated pursuant to this title, must be submitted to
the national election commissioner not more than 120 30
days nor less than a day before Election Day. If the
absentee voter is unable to personally complete and
deliver the request form to vote [at a mobile Polling
Place], then the absentee voter can request the
assistance of a family member.

(3) Voting by absentee ballot at home, hospital and
other government facility [a mobile Polling Place] shall
take place either on Election Day or the days
immediately prior to [preceding] Election Day.
(4) Absentee voters voting at home, hospital and other government facility [a mobile Polling Place] shall vote in such manner as to ensure secrecy of ballot and to preclude tampering with the ballots of such voters and other election fraud; provided, that any voter by reason of physical disability is unable to mark his or her ballot shall be authorized to receive assistance in the marking thereof.

(5) The National Election Director may require affidavits and other written statements from absentee voters voting at home, hospital and other government facility [a mobile Polling Place] and from election officials who assist these voters to vote.

Section 14. Section 605 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 605. Voting absentee ballot at a special polling place.

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

(2) Not less than 60 days prior to a general election, or 45 days prior to a special election, the National Election Director shall designate the locations of the special polling places[, provided that, there
shall be one special polling place in Guam and one
special polling place in Honolulu] in the FSM Consulate
Office in Guam, the FSM Consulate Office in Honolulu,
the FSM Consulate Office in Oregon, the FSM Embassy in
Washington D.C. and FSM Permanent Mission in New York
and that these shall be the only special polling places
located outside the Federated States of Micronesia. The
National Election Director in consultation with the
heads of the Consulates and Embassies identify suitable
and accessible locations within the areas where the
special polling places shall be located to conduct
voting on Election Day to allow the time and opportunity
for citizens in and around these special polling places
to participate in the electoral process to exercise
their constitutional right to vote freely and fairly.

(3) Request to vote absentee ballot at a special
Polling Place must be in writing, using the forms
required by the rules and regulations promulgated
pursuant to this title, and received by the national
election commissioner of the state of registration not
more than 70 days and not less than [40]35 days prior to
a general election or not more than 50 days and not less
than [20]25 days before a special election; provided
however, no written request shall be required if in a
previous National Election the absentee voter submitted
a request in which he or she indicated his or her desire
to vote at the same special polling place in future
National Elections until such time as the voter provides
written notification to the national election
commissioner that he or she wished to resume voting at
his or her regular polling place. Provided, further,
that a voter with a valid Voter Identification Card may
vote at any special polling place designated for his or
her Congressional Election District without submitting a
written request.

(4) The national election commissioner, or his or her
designee, shall review all special Polling Place
requests for a particular Congressional Election
District, and shall request that the National Election
Director place on a special Polling Place Signature List
for that Congressional District all the information
contained on the National Voter Register for those
absentee voters who submitted valid and timely requests.
No later than six days before a National Election, the
national election commissioners shall post at the
National Election Office in their State the special
Polling Place Signature List for each special Polling
Place in their State.

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

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

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the special Polling Places located outside the Federated States of Micronesia shall remain open [34 days prior to Election Day] between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Election Day.”

Section 15. Section 710 of Title 9 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended to
read as follows:

“Section 710. Counting of ballots; announcement of unofficial results.

(1) The National Election Director, upon the recommendation of the national election commissioner of the relevant State, shall establish counting and tabulation committees in each State. Each counting and tabulation committee shall be composed of not less than three members.

(2) Each counting and tabulation committee shall publicly count and tally all votes cast and determine the accessibility thereof, provided, however, that no persons other than members of the counting and tabulation committee, the candidate the candidate’s poll watcher, and such other election or law enforcement officials as the National Election Director or the national election commissioner shall deem necessary, shall be permitted within [100 feet] the seal off area where of the counting and tabulation of ballots are taking place.

(3) The counting and tabulation of ballots cast shall begin upon receipt of the ballot box, if such activity is centralized, or upon the close of the Polling Place, if such activity is decentralized.

(4) Public announcement of the unofficial results of
the counting and tabulation of the ballots by each
counting and tabulation committee shall be made by the
national election commissioner in the manner set forth
in regulation promulgated pursuant to this title."

Section 16. This act shall become law upon approval by the
President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
becoming law without such approval.

Date: 5/5/22

Introduced by: /s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio S. Harper (by request)