

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-49

RE: C.B. NO. 23-64/J&GO

SUBJECT: TO FURTHER AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-85,
AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW NOS. 19-155,
20-180, 21-50 AND 21-215, BY INSERTING
A NEW SECTION 10 THEREOF, TO ASSIGN A
TRANSITION ROLE FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON THE COMPACT REVIEW PLANNING (JCRP)
FOR A LIMITED DURATION OF 12 MONTHS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JANUARY 17, 2024

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Third Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2024

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations to which
was referred C.B. NO. 23-64, entitled:

"TO FURTHER AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-85, AS AMENDED BY
PUBLIC LAWS NOS. 19-155, 20-180, 21-150 AND 21-215, BY
INSERTING A NEW SECTION 10 THEREOF, TO ASSIGN A TRANSITION
ROLE FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMPACT REVIEW PLANNING
(JCRP) FOR A LIMITED DURATION OF 12 MONTHS, TO ALLOW THE
JCRP TO PROVIDE KEY ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL AND STATE
GOVERNMENTS DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE TRANSITION AND
PREPARATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 AMENDED COMPACT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS
SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS, TO SUPPORT THE RATIFICATION PROCESS,
TO PERMIT JCRP TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY AND BRIEFINGS BEFORE
THE FSM CONGRESS AND U.S. CONGRESS ON THE 2023 AMENDED
COMPACT ON RATIFICATION AND REQUIRE THE COMPILATION,

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ORGANIZATION AND PRESERVATION OF KEY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE 2023 AMENDED COMPACT AND ITS SUBSIDING AGREEMENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The Committee provides a bill summary of C.B. No. 23-64 below:

- 1) C.B. No. 23-64 amends the current mandate of the JCRP to add four new duties to the JCRP mandate:
 - a. provide assistance to FSM national government on ratification, transition, and preparation for implementation on 2023 Amended Compact;
 - b. provide advice and assistance with the transition from the current Compact to the 2023 Amended Compact, including explanation of context and intent of signed finalized agreements, and assessments on the implications of national and state level policies with recommendations on how best to transition;
 - c. provide support to briefings and testimony to FSM Congress and U.S. Congress on legislative ratification and approval processes; and
 - d. direct JCRP Secretariat to compile and organize key documents and historical records on the 2023 Amended Compact negotiations. The compilation of these documents is required to be preserved in the Office of Compact Management, Department of Foreign Affairs, Library of the Congress of the Federated States of

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Micronesia, and Department of National Archives,
Culture & Historic Preservation.

- 2) C.B. No. 23-64 limits the duration of the new proposed JCRP mandate to an extension of 12 months beginning the date of the submission of any negotiated agreement under Section 7 in current law. The President will have the power to change the 12 month timeline for the JCRP mandate extension based upon his assessment and discretion.

Section 7 of the current law (P.L. No. 20-180) provides:

"Negotiated agreement. JCRP shall submit any agreement negotiated by it pursuant to this law to the President or his designee for signature. Any such agreement shall be subject to ratification as required by law."

The Committee is interpreting Section 7 to include the 2023 Amended Compact of Free Association (COFA), 2023 Amended Fiscal Procedures Agreement (FPA), 2023 Amended Compact Trust Fund Agreement (CTFA), and the 2023 Amended Federal Programs and Services Agreement (FPSA). The Committee also wishes to make clear that no further negotiation on the 2023 Amended Compact and its subsidiary agreements are necessary. The 2023 Amended Compact and its subsidiary agreement have been finalized, signed, and transmitted to the U.S.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
JANUARY 15, 2024 HEARING ON C.B. NO. 23-64:

Congressional Members present at the January 15, 2024 Committee hearing: Speaker Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker Robson U. Romolow, Senator Fabian S. Nimea, Senator Perpetua S. Konman, and Senator Merlynn Abello-Alfonso.

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Witnesses present at the January 15, 2024 Committee hearing to testify: Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP) Board Chairman Asterio Takesy, JCRP Executive Director Epel K. Ilon, FSM Department of Finance & Administration (DoFA) Secretary Rose Nakanaga, and DoFA Assistant Secretary of Budget Sohs John.

Senator Nimea chaired the hearing on behalf of J&GO Committee Chairman Tiwiter Aritos.

Senator Nimea welcomed the witnesses and public to the committee hearing. The Senator opened the hearing with a brief statement detailing the purpose of the hearing is to consider the extension of the JCRP mandate under C.B. 23-64 and JCRP's related FY24 Supplemental Budget request.

Senator Nimea explained the importance of recognizing the unique circumstances facing the nation, in light of recent FSM national government budgetary constraints and the U.S. Congress failure to approve the 2023 Amended Compact; although the FSM Congress has taken proactive measures to ratify the 2023 Amended Compact. The Senator recognized that Compact funds are vital to the long-term financial stability of the nation, particularly in terms of sustainable economic growth, infrastructure development, and capacity building at the both the national and state levels. The Senator also recognized the importance of the COFA on FSM-U.S. diplomatic relations.

Senator Nimea noted that while some may question the relevance of this hearing, the Committee is holding the hearing to foster discussion, and encourage transparency and accountability. The Senator added that one of Congress primary responsibilities is to examine the allocation of the national government financial resources, ensure budgetary appropriations are rationale based,

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and reflect on how congressional policy decisions on fiscal matters effect FSM citizens and residents. The Senator highlighted the need to ensure the efficient use of national government funds in alignment with the best interests of our nation and citizens. Lastly, the Senator thanked the witnesses for the time to engage with them and seek clarity on the JCRP budget request, and opened the floor to opening statements from witnesses.

JCRP Chairman Asterio Takesy made a brief opening statement. Mr. Takesy expressed his appreciation to the Committee providing an opportunity to present on: 1) extension of the JCRP mandate (C.B. No. 23-64); and 2) JCRP FY24 Supplemental Budget request. Mr. Takesy testified the extension of the JCRP mandate is to enable the JCRP to continue for an additional twelve (12) months after adoption and/or approval by the U.S. Congress of the 2023 Amended Compact agreements. Mr. Takesy stated the mandate is for a maximum of twelve (12) months with the President having the prerogative to shorten the time period of the JCRP mandate. Mr. Takesy explained the JCRP transition work is anticipated to be completed in less than twelve (12) months.

Mr. Takesy testified that JCRP's transition assistance under C.B. 23-64 is being offered to the Executive because the JCRP staff and members are uniquely positioned to provide effective expertise on the 2023 Amended Compact implementation due to the JCRP's work on the COFA. Mr. Takesy explained JCRP will help the national and state governments to embark on an smoother and more efficient implementation of the 2023 Amendment Compact its subsidiary agreements. Mr. Takesy added that several changes to the 2023 Amended Compact, along with the 2023 Fiscal Procedures Agreement, merit assistance from JCRP members, advisors, staff and secretariat.

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Senator Nimea asked JCRP witnesses what work the committee was currently performing in relation to the Compact under current law, when the Compact negotiations have been completed along with the final subsidiary agreements, signed and submitted to the United States.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that while the COFA is transmitted to the U.S. Congress, the JCRP has actively engaged in U.S. Congressional hearings in Washington D.C. and Guam following transmission of the COFA. Mr. Takesy added that the JCRP has met with members of the U.S. House of Representatives on the U.S. Congressional delegation trip to Pohnpei last year, where the JCRP briefed the delegation and answered questions. Mr. Takesy informed the Committee of its subsequent activities through the Secretariat and advisors, whom continue to advocate with the U.S. Congress and their staff, and the U.S. executive branch. The JCRP is also engaging in preparatory work for the 2023 Amended Compact implementing agreements between the FSM and U.S., which require an exchange of a diplomatic note. According to Mr. Takesy, it is the JCRP's position that only upon the exchange of a diplomatic note is JCRP's current mandate fulfilled, as would have delivered on the full package of the negotiated Compact. Mr. Takesy added that C.B. No. 23-64 provides for a new mandate in order for the JCRP to assist the Executive branch and states in the 2023 Amended Compact implementation due to the complexity of the agreements and internal knowledge possessed by JCRP members and staff on the agreements.

Senator Nimea questioned the JCRP witnesses on the JCRP mandate extension of twelve (12) months and whether JCRP's position is that the Executive branch departments cannot perform the duties identified under C.B. No. 23-64. The Senator identified the following duties as clearly within the Executive branch role of duties:

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- Support ratification process, and transition and preparation for implementation of the 2023 Amended Compact
- Interpretation (context and intent) of the 2023 Amended Compact

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that the JCRP's offer of assistance to the Executive branch is not a judgment call on the Executive branch capacity to perform, but just an offer of assistance. Mr. Takesy explained the goal is to assist in improving implementation of the 2023 Amended Compact by combining JCRP and the Executive's efforts. Mr. Takesy stated the President sees fit to support the JCRP's recommendations and offer of assistance by submitting C.B. No. 23-64 to Congress for consideration. Mr. Takesy added the Compact mandate is to JCRP, and JCRP brings on board advisors, public relations and legal professionals in order to carry out its mandate. As such, JCRP farms out some work to firms like Arnold & Porter LLP (A&P), dependent upon the relevant expertise required.

Speaker Moses provided additional information to the Committee on the question posed. Speaker expressed support for the services provided by A&P, and stated there is no other firm better equipped to handle the transition to the 2023 Amended Compact. Speaker explained that A&P's expertise on a legal and technical level is necessary. Speaker added that while the FSM views the 2023 Amended Compact as a treaty, the U.S. views the Compact as an appropriation matter under the U.S. Department of Interior.

The Committee requested the record to reflect that Speaker Moses and Vice Speaker Robson U. Romolow are members of the JCRP.

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Senator Nimea questioned JCRP witnesses on the new contract with A&P and the firm's work to be performed: a) continue to work with FSM Embassy Officials on issues of concern to the FSM and FSM citizens in the United States (outside of JCRP and Compact matters); and b) provide support to the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C. and JCRP on briefings, testimony and negotiations with the U.S. on 2023 Amended Compact (same duties as JCRP).

Chairman Takesy testified that Arnold & Porter (A&P) is contracted with the national government and JCRP is the focal point for that contractual arrangement. Mr. Takesy explained the services provided by A&P have mainly supported the negotiations, but now providing public relations support during the U.S. approval process phase, as the firm is not just a legal firm, but a public relations firm. Mr. Takesy discussed how A&P has a number of current staff that are former members of U.S. Congress, U.S. executive branch departments including at the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Department of Interior. According to Mr. Takesy, A&P firm connections and close relations, along with detailed knowledge on dealing with the U.S. executive and legislative branch processes' is vital. Mr. Takesy added how and A&P's knowledge and assistance is provided and/or made available to the FSM embassies on other FSM issues and FSM citizen matters as well.

Senator Konman asked JCRP whether there is a possibility for the work of the JCRP to be transferred over to the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs due to the financial restraints currently facing the nation.

Chairman Takesy testified in response that the decision to merge the work of the JCRP under the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs is beyond his expertise and a decision to be made by the FSM Congress and Executive branch.

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Executive Director Epel Ilon testified in response that as JCRP developed to fulfill its mandate, the committee worked with both the national and state governments over the years, whom are key team members of the JCRP team. Mr. Ilon explained the JCRP has worked with the national and state governments, and national government executive departments, including the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs whom are essential for JCRP's work, who provided input on JCRP recommendations. Mr. Ilon added that he views the JCRP legal mandate to require working with all JCRP team members, including foreign affairs, so that when the JCRP needs assistance with a specific matter, the JCRP seeks direct assistance from the JCRP team member with the relevant expertise.

Senator Nimea provided a brief summary of JCRP's FY24 Supplemental Budget request with a breakdown as follows:

Line Item	JCRP FY24 Supplemental Request
Personnel	\$183,912
Travel	\$201,667
Consumables	\$42,480
Contractual	\$294,082

Senator Nimea questioned the JCRP on the staff counsel position and asked the witnesses to justify the need for continued staff attorney legal services when the 2023 Amended Compact negotiations are complete and renewed A&P contract, especially when the A&P contract explicitly states to address issues on interpretation of the amendments to the Compact, and assistance on the transition and implementation process of the 2023 Amended Compact.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that Congress appropriated about one (1) quarter of the JCRP's total FY24 budgetary needs needed,

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appropriating \$335,991 to JCRP.¹ Mr. Takesy explained that JCRP total ask to the President for FY24 is \$1,058,132 in comparison to the FY23 budget of \$1,343,963.²

Mr. Takesy informed the Committee that the staff attorney addresses legal issues at the FSM national and state level dealing with the JCRP. The staff attorney was involved in meeting with all the state and national government agencies on the Compact package sent to the United States, and providing the baseline for FSM-U.S. negotiations. Mr. Takesy explained the staff attorney's first-hand knowledge will be needed for consultation on both legal and non-legal technical areas of the 2023 Amended Compact. According to Mr. Takesy, it makes sense for the staff attorney to continue with JCRP to interact at both the national and state level with legal-policy issues.

Mr. Takesy explained the focus of A&P legal services have mostly been completed at this point where it's primarily role to provide legal representation during the negotiations, but now A&P's role is provide lobbying services in the U.S. Congress. Mr. Takesy stated it's in the interest of the nation to continue to retain legal services of A&P for the foreseeable future as the legal service providers have a detailed understanding of the negotiated agreement. Mr. Takesy noted there will be issues that occur in relation to the Compact on matters such as inflation which are not set out in the Trust Fund Agreement.

It is important for the Committee to note that the FY2024 Recommended Budget Book reflects the JCRP FY24 Budget request of \$1,591,380, and the Executive Recommended FY24 Budget of \$671,982 for JCRP. Congress FY24 Budget appropriation of \$335,991 to the JCRP reflects a 50% reduction, aligning with 50%

¹ Public Law No. 23-24.

² FY2024 Recommended Budget Book at 525, Apr. 1, 2023.

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or more reductions across national government subsidies for the FY24 Budget due to national government budgetary constraints (P.L. No. 23-24).

Senator Abello-Alfonso asked the Department of Finance and Administration to provide numbers on JCRP's previous year budgets in comparison to the FY24 total budget request.

Secretary Nakanaga testified that for FY23, approximately \$1.3 million was appropriated by Congress to JCRP. Secretary explained that based on the FY23 total appropriation numbers and Executive's current total FY24 budget request for \$1,058,132, JCRP's budget has decreased by \$285,831.

Vice Speaker Romolow sought JCRP witnesses to clarify to the Committee, the expected volume of work to be completed by the JCRP due to the JCRP proposed FY24 budget remaining relatively the same in comparison to its previous year budget. Vice Speaker asked JCRP if the volume of work is expected to be the same as last year when the understanding is that bulk of JCRP work occurred last year with the negotiations.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that moving forward the main bulk of JCRP's work moving forward is with the states, not in Washington D.C. Mr. Takesy explained the biggest reduction to the JCRP budget was for travel, best estimate based on anticipated costs for completion of JCRP's work. Most of the anticipated travel is to the states. JCRP only has one (1) trip planned to the U.S. as provided in its travel budget breakdown, unless the U.S. makes a drastic change to the negotiated 2023 Amended Compact, which would require renegotiation. Mr. Takesy also informed the Committee that as of now the negotiated 2023 Amended Compact remains intact and hopeful that it will remain intact.

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Senator Nimea questioned the JCRP on the ongoing need for a development economist and Trust Fund advisor under contractual services, at a cost of \$56,250 for each position, when the negotiations for the 2023 Amended Compact have been completed. Senator Nimea added that the Compact Trust Fund already has trust fund advisors, and the Department of Resources and Development should be able to provide the services of a development economist.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that JCRP is proposing for the national government to continue funding development economist at this time, because of the development economist specific experience with the Trust Fund and membership on the Trust Fund Committee. Mr. Takesy explained the development economist responsibilities are going to be far more demanding than before due to the interrelation and deference the 2023 Amended Compact Trust Fund Agreement to the 2023 Fiscal Procedures Agreement. Mr. Takesy added that the JCRP envisions someone who has particular experience in implementing the Trust Fund and hopes that through the development economist advice', the relevant officials and departments can retain this information. According to Mr. Takesy, the aim is to retain the development economist expertise for now and transition out the position over time.

Executive Director Epel Ilon testified that while the actual negotiations are over, the role of the advisors will be helpful with implementation to understand what is needed for the Trust Fund and overall 2023 Amended Compact arrangement. Director Ilon explained the retention of the advisors are not necessarily for them to deal with new issues, but to aid the implementation team. Director Ilon added that the advisors will be transitioned out when people have enough understanding on the provisions.

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Senator Abello-Alfonso asked the JCRP witnesses to provide feedback and/or recommendations on areas of the JCRP budget that can be reduced without affecting JCRP's work as a whole in consideration of national government budgetary constraints.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that it's in the interest of the nation to retain the staff at its current levels as need the expertise at its disposal. Mr. Takesy explained that JCRP position is to retain staff as needed. Mr. Takesy stated that one area of potential reduction may be the travel budget, as can cut down on travel and replace with online, virtual communications, but noted that this alternative to travel would not be as effective as in person communications.

Executive Director Epel Ilon testified that JCRP has already made efforts to reduce their budget as reflected in reduction to staff. Director Ilon explained that JCRP recognizes the limited life of the committee, not a permanent arrangement; which is why JCRP is trying to help move the transition process forward so the relevant executive departments and agencies can continue the work.

Senator Nimea questioned JCRP on the current A&P contract for \$975,000³ over the course of the next year (October 2023 to October 2024). The Senator highlighted the millions of dollars paid to A&P⁴ (\$5.42 Million based on contracts from 2016 to

³ Important to note the Department of Finance and Administration Certification of Funds Availability on the contract, only certified \$88,500 available in A&P account as of October 20, 2023.

⁴ October 2016 to October 2018 Contract - \$840,000 paid to Arnold & Porter (fixed fee retainer of \$35,000 per month)
October 18, 2018 to October 18, 2021 Contract - \$1.8 Million paid to Arnold & Porter (fixed fee retainer of \$50,000 per month).
October 18, 2021 to October 18, 2022 Contract - \$750,000 plus expenses paid to Arnold & Porter (fixed fee retainer of \$62,500 per month).

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2024), and asked JCRP to report on current A&P assessments on the U.S. Congress approval of the 2023 Amended Compact and estimated timeline for U.S. Congress approval with authorizing legislation.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that A&P's latest assessment is that the Compact will pass with authorization from the U.S. Congress, but the issue is timing. A&P has provided an assessment projection of anywhere from 1 month to 4 months for completion of U.S. Congress approval process due to complexity of U.S. politics at the national party level. Mr. Takesy explained that the focus in finding the right vehicle to use to best enable passage of authorizing legislation for the 2023 Amended Compact. Mr. Takesy reported on the current proposal for a third continuing resolution in the U.S. Congress which will include funding for the FSM, extending the current FY23 Compact levels until March 8, 2024.

Executive Director Epel Ilon testified the 2023 Amended Compact Agreement has support in the U.S. Congress, but is being held up due to U.S. domestic and foreign policy issues unrelated to the FSM.

Vice Speaker Romolow asked JCRP, if the U.S. Congress approves the 2023 Amended Compact, would the funding levels be backdated to the October 2023 effective date of when the new compact was supposed to start.

JCRP Chairman Takesy testified that the effective date of the 2023 Amended Compact is October 1, 2023, and that upon the U.S. Congress approving the Compact with its authorizing legislation

October 18, 2022 to October 18, 2023 Contract - \$1,062,000 paid to Arnold & Porter (fixed fee retainer of \$88,500 per month).
October 18, 2023 to October 18, 2024 Contract - \$975,000 anticipated to be paid to Arnold & Porter.

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signed into law, then the funding levels at the 2023 Amended Compact levels will apply. Mr. Takesy explained the FSM will receive the amounts owed at a pro-rated share to bring the FSM up from the FY23 Compact II levels (\$80 million annually) to \$140 million, which the FSM should have been receiving annually as of October 1, 2023.

Senator Nimea asked the Department of Finance and Administration to report to the Committee on status of developing policies and/or regulations to implement Public Law No. 23-41, which amended FSM national law to comply with the 2023 Amended Fiscal Procedures Agreement. The Senator emphasized the importance of the Department's work due to the utility of Compact funds dependence upon the velocity of which funds flow into the economy and reach the necessary projects.

Senator Nimea stressed the importance of the Department of Finance and Administration looking into what actions the Department should take to prevent future Compact funds from being derailed due to complexities, and/or changes to the Fiscal Procedures requirements; along with any additional restrictions put in place and complications relating to inflation issues. The Senator raised current challenges to the effective utilization of sector funds due to a lack of human capital to progress projects forward. The Senator recognized that Compact funds are crucial to sustaining economic growth, which is hindered by infrastructure sector funds sitting idle like in the past.

Secretary Nakanaga acknowledged in response the veracity of the statements by the Senator and testified the issues enumerated by the Senator are the reason why C.B. No. 23-64 was submitted by the President; to provide for a JCRP transition period to address and/or prevent these issues. Secretary added that the Department has already engaged with requisite parties on account

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numbers to see if the 2003 Amended Compact account numbers will change under 2023 Amended Compact. The Secretary was informed there will be no changes.

Assistant Secretary Sohs John testified that the Department of Finance and Administration will work closely with JCRP on implementing changes as reflected in the 2023 Amended Fiscal Procedures Agreement. Assistant Secretary explained the Department will not only work within department to help with new compliance matters based on changes to fiscal procedures agreement, but also other departments, so that all departments understand what is required under the 2023 Amended Compact.

Senator Nimea opened the floor for closing statements.

JCRP Chairman Takesy thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present on the JCRP mandate and FY24 Supplemental Budget. Mr. Takesy acknowledged the Committee's questions and concerns, welcomed the Committee to contact JCRP with any further inquiries.

Senator Nimea thanked the witnesses for their testimony and adjourned the committee hearing.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO C.B.23-64:

Upon consideration of the hearing testimony, your Committee recommends the following amendments to the bill as follows:

1. Page 1, title, delete "12" and insert "six (6)"
2. Page 1, title, after "to support the" insert "2023 Amended Compact"

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-49

RE: C.B. NO. 23-64/J&GO

SUBJECT: TO FURTHER AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-85, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW NOS. 19-155, 20-180, 21-50 AND 21-215, BY INSERTING A NEW SECTION 10 THEREOF, TO ASSIGN A TRANSITION ROLE FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPACT REVIEW PLANNING (JCRP) FOR A LIMITED DURATION OF 12 MONTHS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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3. Page 1, title, after "FSM Congress and U.S. Congress on" insert "ratification and approval of"
4. Page 1, title, delete "on ratification"
5. Page 1, title, before "and require" insert ",,"
6. Page 1, title, last line, delete "subsiding" insert "subsidiary"
7. Page 1, lines 11 - 13, delete "twelve (12) months and shall be subject to change by assessment of the FSM President." and insert "six (6) months."
8. Page 2, line 6, after "U.S." insert "2023 Amended Compact and its subsidiary;"
9. Page 2, line 8, delete "current" and insert "2003 Amended"
10. Page 2, line 9, delete "agreements that will be replacing them, explanations of" and insert "and its subsidiary agreements,"
11. Page 2, lines 10-11, delete "signed and finalized" and insert "the 2023 Amended Compact and its subsidiary"
12. Page 2, line 11, before "of" delete "s"
13. Page 2, line 11, after "of" insert "the 2023 Amended Compact agreements and its subsidiary agreements"
14. Page 2, line 11, delete "for" and insert "on"
15. Page 2, line 12, delete ",,"

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-49

RE: C.B. NO. 23-64/J&GO

SUBJECT: TO FURTHER AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-85, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW NOS. 19-155, 20-180, 21-50 AND 21-215, BY INSERTING A NEW SECTION 10 THEREOF, TO ASSIGN A TRANSITION ROLE FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPACT REVIEW PLANNING (JCRP) FOR A LIMITED DURATION OF 12 MONTHS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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16. Page 2, line 14, delete "set of agreements where appropriate." and insert "and its subsidiary agreements as;"

17. Page 2, line 16, delete "US" and insert "U.S."

18. Page 2, line 17, delete "." and insert "; and"

19. Page 2, line 20, delete "updated" and insert "its"

20. Page 2, line 22, delete "at" and insert "of"

21. Page 2, line 24, after "Congress of" insert "the Federated States of"

22. Page 2, line 25, delete "and Historic and Cultural" and insert ", Culture and Historic"

23. Page 3, line 2, insert

"Section 2. Public Law No. 19-85, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 19-155, 20-180, 21-50 and 21-215, is hereby further amended by inserting a new section 11 to read as follows:

"Section 11. Transition of JCRP Duties to Executive Branch.

Within six months of enactment of this bill into law, the President shall transition all JCRP duties and responsibilities under section 10 to Executive branch departments. The President will determine the appropriate Executive branch departments to implement the duties and responsibilities identified under section 10."

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-49

RE: C.B. NO. 23-64/J&GO

SUBJECT: TO FURTHER AMEND PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-85,
AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW NOS. 19-155,
20-180, 21-50 AND 21-215, BY INSERTING
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FOR A LIMITED DURATION OF 12 MONTHS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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24. Page 3, line 2, delete "Section 2." and insert
"Section 3."

CONCLUSION

The Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has reviewed C.B. No. 23-64, and considered all testimony from the January 15, 2024 hearing. Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. 23-64. Your Committee recommends that C.B. 23-64 is placed on the bill calendar for passage on First Reading, and Second and Final Reading in the form attached hereto as C.B. No. 23-64 C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, chairman

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow
Robson U. Romolow, member

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Fabian S. Nimea
Fabian S. Nimea, member