
A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish the Joint Committee on the Future of the Nation and its Secretariat for the purpose of exploring alternatives for the future of the Nation, and for other purposes.

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

1 Section 1. Purpose. In anticipation of the termination of
2 the financial provisions of the Amended Compact of Free
3 Association in 2023, there is hereby established a joint committee
4 of the Executive and Legislative branches.

5 Section 2. Establishment of the Joint Committee on the
6 Future of the Nation. There is hereby created and established a
7 joint committee to be known as the Joint Committee on the Future
8 of the Nation ("JCFN"), comprising nine members as follows: one
9 representative from each of the four States, as appointed by the
10 President in consultation with the leadership of each State, and
11 four representatives from the Congress of the Federated States of
12 Micronesia, one from each congressional delegation. The
13 Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall be a member ex officio. He
14 shall chair the Joint Committee's first meeting, and organize the
15 election of its Chairman and Vice Chairman. Six of the members
16 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
17 Decisions shall be made within the Committee by at least five
18 concurring votes, with each participating member casting a single
19 vote.

1 Section 3. Meetings. The JCFN shall hold its first meeting
2 at the call of the acting Chairman. Subsequent meetings shall be
3 held in accordance with a schedule set by the JCFN covering the
4 entire period between the first meeting and the termination of the
5 Amended Compact in 2023.

6 Section 4. Mandate. The JCFN shall carry out the following
7 responsibilities and obligations:

8 (1) In consultation with the Congress, set goals and
9 objectives in anticipation of the termination of the Amended
10 Compact of Free Association;

11 (2) Conduct a thorough analysis of all factors
12 relating the future of the Nation;

13 (3) Develop all necessary strategies and approaches to
14 enable the Federated States of Micronesia to explore alternatives
15 for the future of the Nation;

16 (4) Direct its Secretariat in preparing the
17 documentation necessary to accomplish its responsibilities
18 hereunder;

19 (5) Analyze all economic information available on the
20 Federated States of Micronesia, with the aim of identifying the
21 FSM's continuing requirement for reasonable, fair, and effective
22 financial assistance from all sources from the year 2023 onward;

23 (6) Provide reports periodically to the Congress at
24 each regular session, and to the Office of the President, on all
25 developments, actual or potential, positive or negative, that may

1 be related to the future of the Nation, including but not limited
2 to new information, actions, communications, domestic and foreign
3 policies, bilateral and multilateral plans, as well as periodic
4 surveys exploring the value of net benefits to a foreign nation
5 from an exclusive security prerogative; and

6 (7) Collaborate with the State governments, the
7 Department of Foreign Affairs, the Congress, and the Office of the
8 President in identifying the nominees for the JCFN whose selection
9 will be subject to Congress's expressed approval; and

10 (8) Use funds for each separate category of expense
11 only up to the aggregate amount of the line-items of the
12 corresponding expense category set out in the associated
13 appropriations bill or bills approved by Congress, and select and
14 hire the personnel needed to staff the Secretariat, as specified
15 in section 5 below.

16 Section 5. Financing of the JCFN.

17 (1) The President shall include the JCFN operations
18 budget in his annual budget to Congress;

19 (2) The departments and agencies of the Executive
20 Branch shall cooperate in providing information and other
21 logistical support to the JCFN upon request; and

22 (3) The expenses of experts and consultants for the
23 governments (state and national) traveling with JCFN shall be
24 borne by their agencies of origin.

1 Section 6. Establishment of the Secretariat. There is
2 hereby created and established a full-time Secretariat for the
3 JCFN. The Secretariat shall consist of an Executive Director, an
4 Administrative Officer, a staff Counsel, and a secretary, all
5 based in Pohnpei. The Secretariat shall have the following
6 responsibilities.

7 (1) Provide all administrative and logistical support
8 to the JCFN, and shall (a) prepare an annual budget for approval
9 by the Joint Committee, (b) transmit an approved budget to the
10 President to submit, with comments, to the Congress of the
11 Federated States of Micronesia;

12 (2) Coordinate with the various departments, offices
13 and agencies of the FSM and State Governments to collect all
14 information and technical input necessary for satisfying its
15 responsibilities; and

16 (3) As directed by the JCFN, hire professionals
17 including an outside developmental economist and other consultants
18 with expertise in security or defense policy to assist the Joint
19 Committee with any aspect of its responsibilities, particularly
20 that are provided under section 4(5) above.

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1 Section 7. This act shall become law upon approval by the
2 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
3 becoming law without such approval.

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5 Date: 7/31/12

Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir

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