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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To mandate a national comprehensive census for the Federated States of Micronesia, by amending for this purpose chapter 1 of title 43 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), in particular sections 101, 102, 103, 106, 109, and 114 thereof, by inserting new sections 115 and 116 under the same chapter, and for other purposes.

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

1       Section 1. Section 101 of title 43 of the Code of the  
2       Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended to  
3       read as follows:

4           "Section 101. Short title. This chapter may be cited  
5           as the [~~Statistics and Census Act of 1988~~]  
6           Comprehensive National Census Act of 2026."

7       Section 2. Section 102 of title 43 of the Code of the  
8       Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended to  
9       read as follows:

10           "Section 102. Definitions.

11           As used in this chapter, unless the context requires  
12           another meaning or unless it is otherwise provided:

13           (1) "Census" means the Comprehensive National Census  
14           as required under this chapter[~~a survey of all of the~~  
15           ~~persons, owners, officials, agents, corporations,~~  
16           ~~businesses, institutions, establishments or other~~  
17           ~~organizations in field of inquiry~~];

(2) "Chief" means the Chief of the Division of Statistics;

(3) "Citizen" means any person who is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia under the laws of the FSM.

(4) "Comprehensive National Census" means the official count and survey of the population undertaken pursuant to this Act, which includes all FSM citizens, both resident and non-resident;

(5) [(-3)] "Congress" means the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(6) "Diaspora" refers to FSM citizens residing outside of the FSM.

(7) [4] "Division of Statistics" means the Division of Statistics within the Department of Resources and Development [~~Office of Planning and Statistics~~] of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(8) [(-5)] "National Government" means the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia;

[(6) "National Planner" means the highest management official of the Office of Planning and Statistics of the Federated States of Micronesia;]

(9) [(-7)] "President" means the President of the Federated States of Micronesia;

(10) [+8] "Respondent" includes a corporation,

1 company, association, firm, partnership, proprietorship,  
2 society, joint stock company, individual, or other  
3 organization or entity which reported or is required to  
4 report, or on behalf of which information was reported,  
5 in response to a questionnaire, inquiry, or other  
6 request of the Division of Statistics;

7 (11) [+9] "Sample Survey" means a survey of some but  
8 not all of the persons, owners, officials, agents,  
9 corporations, businesses, institutions, establishments  
10 or other organizations in a field of inquiry; [and]

11 (12) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the  
12 Department of Resources and Development; and

13 (13) [+10] "State government" means the government of  
14 any of the States of the Federated States of  
15 Micronesia."

16 Section 3. Section 103 of title 43 of the Code of the  
17 Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 "Section 103. Statement of purpose and legislative  
20 intent.

21 (a) The primary purpose of this chapter is as  
22 follows:

23 (1) To define the functions and  
24 responsibilities of the Division of Statistics;  
25 (2) To authorize the Division of Statistics

1                   to develop an integrated and comprehensive statistical  
2                   and census information system;

3                   (3) To guarantee the confidentiality of data  
4                   collected by the Division of Statistics and other  
5                   departments and agencies of the National Government or  
6                   jointly by departments or agencies of the National and  
7                   State Governments; and

8                   (4) To promote cooperation between the  
9                   National and State Governments with respect to the  
10                  improvement of recording and reporting of statistics in  
11                  the Federated States of Micronesia.

12                  (b) Legislative intent: Congress also  
13                  recognizes that a significant number of citizens of the  
14                  Federated States of Micronesia reside abroad, forming a  
15                  vital part of the national community, and are currently  
16                  residing abroad, particularly in the United States. The  
17                  current national census framework does not  
18                  systematically capture comprehensive data on citizens  
19                  residing outside the FSM, limiting the Government's  
20                  understanding of its total population and resources.

21                  (c) The FSM diaspora represents a substantial  
22                  reservoir of skills, knowledge, financial capital, and  
23                  cultural strength that can contribute significantly to  
24                  the nation's economic, social, and developmental  
25                  progress.

(d) On the basis of the above considerations, it is the intent of this chapter to mandate a Comprehensive National Census, inclusive of all citizens, regardless of residence, which is essential for accurate national planning, equitable resource allocation, effective public policy formulation, and the strengthening of national unity.

(e) engage, and facilitate the participation of all its citizens in nation-building, whether they reside within FSM or abroad.”

11           Section 4. Section 106 of title 43 of the Code of the  
12   Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended to  
13   read as follows:

14 "Section 106. Conduct of censuses and sample surveys  
15 and collection of statistical data.

25 (b) The methodologies for diaspora enumeration shall

1           consider available records from immigration, election  
2           and civil registry. Methodologies may also include, but  
3           not be limited to: online census portals, coordination  
4           with FSM Embassies and Consulates, targeted outreach  
5           through diaspora associations, and partnerships with  
6           host-country statistical agencies where feasible and  
7           lawful.

8           In order to conduct the censuses and sample surveys  
9           and collect the statistical data as authorized [by  
10          sections 104 and 105 of] in this chapter, the [~~National~~  
11          ~~Planner, the~~] Chief[, or other employee of the Division  
12          ~~of Statistics designated by the National Planner,~~] shall  
13          be empowered to:

14                   (1) Supply a schedule to any respondent and  
15                  require such respondent to supply to the best of his  
16                  knowledge, orally or in writing, all of the information  
17                  requested in the schedule in accordance with  
18                  instructions in the schedule or accompanying it, and  
19                  require that person to complete the schedule, if  
20                  necessary with the assistance of the [~~National Planner~~]  
21                  Chief or his designee, and to return the completed  
22                  schedule to the Chief [~~National Planner~~] or his designee  
23                  by a specific date; and

24                   (2) Ask any respondent orally or in writing  
25                  any questions necessary to obtain information for the

purpose of compiling statistical data or conducting a census or sample survey as prescribed under this chapter, and require the respondent to give, to the best of his knowledge, written or oral answers to any such questions."

6           Section 5. Section 109 of Chapter 1 of title 43 of the  
7 Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby  
8 amended to read as follows:

9                    "Section 109. Oath of employees.

10 The Secretary [~~National Planner~~], the Chief, and every  
11 other person employed in carrying out the provisions of  
12 this chapter shall take and subscribe the following oath:  
13 "I solemnly swear that I will faithfully and honestly  
14 fulfill my duties in accordance with the provisions of  
15 the Statistics and Census Act of [1988] 2026, and that I  
16 will not disclose or make known, except as authorized by  
17 law, any information collected in a census or sample  
18 survey which comes to my knowledge by reason of, or  
19 through my employment by, or on behalf of any  
20 governmental entity in the Federated States of  
21 Micronesia."

22 The oath shall be taken, retained, and recorded in such  
23 manner as the Chief shall determine."

24           Section 6. Section 114 Chapter 1 of title 43 of the Code of  
25 the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended

1 by inserting a new section 115 to read as follows:

2           "Section 114. Administration of Chapter. The Secretary  
3           [National Planner] shall be charged with the  
4           administration of this chapter. The Secretary [National  
5           Planner] shall have all such authority as may be  
6           reasonably necessary for the performance of any function  
7           of the Division of Statistics or for the administration  
8           of this chapter, including the authority to promulgate,  
9           with approval by the President, such rules and  
10           regulations as he deems necessary to conduct periodic  
11           censuses or sample surveys or to otherwise effect the  
12           administration of this chapter. Such rules and  
13           regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the  
14           provisions of chapter 1 of title 17 of this code and  
15           shall have the force and effect of law."

16           Section 7. Chapter 1 of title 43 of the Code of the  
17           Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended by  
18           inserting a new section 115 to read as follows:

19           "Section 115. Scope of the Comprehensive National  
20           Census.

21           The Comprehensive National Census shall collect, at a  
22           minimum, the following information for all enumerated  
23           citizens:

24            (a) Core Demographic Data: Name, age, gender, state  
25           of origin, current residence (domestic or abroad).

(b) Socio-Economic Data: Educational attainment, occupational skills, employment status, industry of employment, and language proficiency.

(c) Diaspora-Specific Data: Country of residence, duration of residence abroad, legal status abroad, remittance patterns (frequency and estimated volume), interest in investing, returning, or engaging in professional/developmental projects within the FSM.

(d) Resource Analysis Data: As pertains to the nation's human capital, the census shall analyze data to assess the total skilled workforce, educational profile, and economic potential of the entire citizenry, forming a national human resources inventory of this nation."

Section 8. Chapter 1 of title 43 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated) is hereby amended by inserting a new section 116 to read as follows:

## “Section 116. Data Utilization and Government Planning.

(a) The data collected from the Comprehensive National Census shall be consolidated, analyzed, and published in an official report by the Statistics Unit.

(b) All Government departments and agencies shall utilize this comprehensive data in their planning, policy development, and resource allocation exercises. This data shall provide, at a minimum, the baseline for:

(1) National and state development planning.

(2) Educational and vocational training programs.

### (3) Healthcare and infrastructure planning that

accounts for potential return migration.

#### (4) Economic policies to facilitate diaspora

investment, remittance flows, and knowledge transfer."

6           Section 9. This act shall become law upon approval by the  
7   President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its  
8   becoming law without such approval.

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10 Date: 1/21/26

Introduced by: /s/ Julio M. Marar

Julio M. Marar

(by request)

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