



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

P.O. Box PS 3
Palikir, Sokehs
Pohnpei State, FM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-2324 / 2338
Fax: (691) 320-5122

COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-22

RE: C.B. NO. 24-12/R&D

SUBJECT: AMENDING SECTIONS 205 AND 206 OF TITLE 24 OF
THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE NORMA IN HIRING THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO MANAGE THE DAY-TO-DAY
ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING THE
HIRING OF STAFF

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Fourth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2025

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred
C. B. No. 24-12, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND SECTIONS 205 AND 206 OF
TITLE 24 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
(ANNOTATED), AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-169, TO CLARIFY
THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
IN HIRING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO MANAGE THE DAY-TO-DAY
ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING THE HIRING OF STAFF, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

C.B. No. 24-12 was transmitted to FSM Congress through Presidential
Communications No. 24-10 on May 13, 2025.

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Brief Summary of C.B. No. 24-12

The proposed amendments are on sections 205 and 206 of title 24 of the FSM Code. The purpose of this bill is to allow the Board of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) to delegate to the Executive Director of NORMA the prerogative of hiring employees and staff.

Currently, the Board of NORMA has the primary responsibility of hiring of employees and staff of the Authority. Thus, the intent of the proposed amendment to sections 205 and 206 is to strip the hiring responsibility of the Board and give it to the Management of the Authority.

Committee Hearing

The committee had an opportunity to conduct an oversight hearing with the Board and Management of the Authority regarding the proposed bill (C.B. No. 24-12). Your chairman opened the hearing and yielded the floor to the witnesses to comment on the bill. The witnesses commented that the Executive Director of NORMA has been vacant for quite some time due to the fact that there was no quorum of the Board. Recently, all the members of the Board were confirmed, and the Board is ready to work with the Management.

According to the Management, the bill will clarify that the Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of NORMA, including staff recruitment. In addition, the bill will clearly define the separate roles of the Board and the Management. For the Board, it sets broad policies and provides oversight. And for the Executive Director, he or she will manage operations including recruitment of staff. The separate roles of the Board and the Management as envisioned in the bill aligns with good governance principles, and will prevent micromanagement of the Board in operational matters. It also strengthens accountability by making

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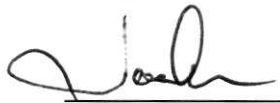
the Executive Director directly responsible for staff management because the management knows the skills, qualifications, and competencies requires of any position, in which recruitment is based on organizational needs and not favored applicants.

Your committee recommends passage of the bill to ensure efficiency, professionalism, and accountability at NORMA, strengthening its role as a leading fisheries management authority and that the incoming Executive Director has the statutory authority to assume full operational responsibilities immediately.

Conclusion

The Committee on Resources and Development has reviewed C.B. No. 24-12, and considered all testimony from the May 19, 2025 hearing. Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 24-12, and recommends its passage on First Reading and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading.

Respectfully submitted,



Johnson A. Asher, chairman



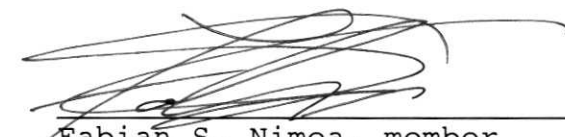
Peter M. Christian, member



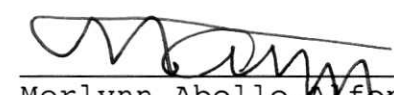
Andy P. Choof, member



Victor V. Gouland, member



Fabian S. Nimea, member



Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, member

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Jermy W. Mudong, member

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To further amend sections 205 and 206 of title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as amended by Public Law No. 19-169, to clarify the role of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority in hiring the Executive Director to manage the day-to-day activities of the Authority, including the hiring of staff, and for other purposes.

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

1 Section 1. Section 205 of title 24 of the Code of the
2 Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), as amended by
3 Public Law No. 19-169, is hereby further amended to read as
4 follows:

5 "Section 205. Authority - duties and functions.
6 In addition to the regulatory authority granted in
7 the preceding section, the Authority shall have the
8 following duties and functions:

9 (1) to provide technical assistance in the
10 delimitation of the exclusive economic zone in
11 accordance with section 107 of title 18 of the Code of
12 the Federated States of Micronesia;

13 (2) to negotiate, conclude and implement access
14 agreements and fisheries management agreements in
15 accordance with sections 105 and 106 of chapter 1 of
16 this subtitle and chapters 4 and 5 of this subtitle;

17 (3) to issue fishing permits in accordance with

1 this subtitle;

2 (4) to issue permits for fishing in the territorial
3 sea or internal waters of an FSM State as authorized
4 pursuant to section 118 of chapter 1 of this subtitle;

5 (5) to regulate related activities in accordance with
6 this subtitle;

7 (6) to coordinate and implement fisheries monitoring
8 and control as required under this subtitle and under
9 international treaties to which the Federated States of
10 Micronesia is a party;

11 (7) to cooperate as appropriate with other nations or
12 territories in the region and with foreign states
13 fishing in the region and adjacent high seas area for
14 the conservation and management of highly migratory
15 fish stocks;

16 (8) to cooperate in and coordinate as appropriate
17 with each FSM State on fisheries management measures in
18 the exclusive economic zone and territorial sea;

19 (9) to convene and chair a Fisheries Management
20 and Surveillance Working Group as set forth in section
21 207 of this chapter;

22 (10) to employ a full-time Executive Director [~~and~~
23 ~~such other staff as it may deem necessary;~~]

24 (11) to submit the Authority's budget and
25 report regarding the expenditure of its funds to the

1 Congress each regular session for review;

2 (12) to contribute to the planning of programs relating
3 to fisheries, or fishing in the exclusive economic zone,
4 in which an FSM State government or the Government of the
5 Federated States of Micronesia, or any agency or
6 subdivision thereof, has a proprietary interest,
7 direct or indirect, by way of stock ownership,
8 partnership, joint venture or otherwise; [~~and~~]

9 (13) to act as the authority responsible for
10 implementing the international fisheries and related
11 obligations of the Federated States of Micronesia
12 including the verification of catch and issuance of catch
13 certificates;

14 (14) to perform such other duties and functions as may
15 be necessary to carry out the purpose of this subtitle."

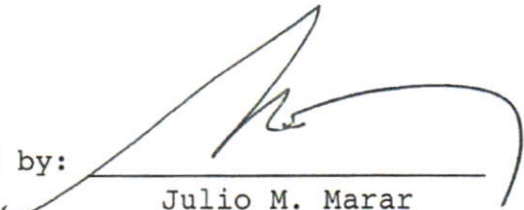
16 Section 2. Section 206 of title 24 of the Code of the
17 Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), is hereby amended
18 to read as follows:

19 "Section 206. Executive Director. The Authority
20 shall employ a full-time Executive Director possessing
21 such qualifications as may be established by the
22 Authority. The Executive Director shall receive a
23 remuneration for his services, the amount of which
24 shall be fixed by the Authority in accordance with the
25 pertinent provisions of the current annual budget of

1 the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.
2 The Executive Director shall be responsible for the
3 day-to-day activities, including hiring of employees
4 and other staff of the Authority. The Executive
5 Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Authority
6 and shall be exempt from the provisions of the
7 National Public Service System Act, section 111 et
8 seq. of title 52 of this code."

9 Section 3. This act shall become law upon approval by the
10 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its
11 becoming law without such approval.

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13 Date: 5/17/25

Introduced by: 
Julio M. Marar
(by request)

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