



THE SENATE
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
and SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Petrus Tun, Chairman

Bailey Otter
Andon Amaralch
Edward Pangelinan
Roman Tmetuchi

STANDING COM. REP. NO. 199

August 28, 1972

RE: S.B. No. 258

The Honorable Amata Kabua
President of the Senate
Fourth Congress of Micronesia
Second Special Session, 1972

Dear Mr. President:

Your Committee on Education and Social Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 258, ENTITLED:

S.B. No. 258, "A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND FUND A
POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION."

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this bill is to take the initial step in preparing the people of Micronesia to make a rational and considered decision in a plebiscite on their future political status. The bill establishes a Political Education Commission consisting of members appointed by both the executive and legislative branches of the government to set policy and recommend legislation to carry out the process of political education. The Commission is to perform its functions between now and the next regular session of the Congress in January 1973 at which time it is to make its recommendations.

Your Committee has concluded that political status is the most important issue facing Micronesia today and that a very fundamental element, preparation of the Micronesian people for a plebiscite, is being ignored. Your Committee feels that continuing to ignore preparation of the people to decide their future political status can only result in a tainted and meaningless plebiscite.

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Your Committee held a public hearing on this bill at which testimony was heard from Mr. Neiman Craley, Mr. Carl Heine, a representative from the Department of Public Affairs and a member of the general public. Among these witnesses there was uniform agreement that the people of Micronesia are unprepared to decide political status at this time, that a program of political education is needed in order to prepare for a plebiscite, and that the policy decisions as to the form and content of the political education program should be made by the Congress upon recommendations of a joint legislative-executive commission.

Your Committee made the following amendments to the bill:

1. Page 1, line 19, delete the word "twelve" and insert the word "nine". This amendment is made because it is felt that a twelve member commission would be too large and unwieldy.
2. Page 1, line 20, insert the words "President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the" before the word "Congress", and delete the words "or any authorized joint committee thereof,". This amendment is made because it is felt that the presiding officers of the Congress are more appropriate persons to appoint members to the Commission at this late date in the session.
3. Page 1, line 21, insert the word "and" before the word "three" and delete the words on lines 21, 22, 23 and 24, ",and three members appointed by the High Commissioner with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia". This amendment was made for the reason expressed in amendment No. 1 and because it was felt that a strong majority of the members of the Commission should be appointed by the Congress.
4. Page 1, line 24, insert the words "The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a temporary chairman from among the six members appointed by them, who shall designate the time and place for the first meeting and preside over the selection of a permanent chairman at that meeting." before the word "The".

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5. Page 1, line 24, delete the word "twelve" and insert the word "nine".
6. Page 2, line 2, insert the word "permanent" before the word "chairman".
7. Page 2, line 3, delete the word "eight" and insert the word "six".
8. Page 2, lines 15, 16 and 17, delete the words "and also to insure that they are prepared to assume the burdens and responsibilities of self-government or independence".
9. Page 2, line 18, insert a new section "(4)" to read "(4) To recommend policies and programs and propose legislation regarding the general political education of the people of Micronesia;". This amendment is added in order to make it clear that the Commission is to recommend policy and legislation regarding general political education as well as political education in preparation for a plebiscite.
10. Page 2, line 18, delete the figure "(4)" and insert the figure "(5)".
11. Page 2, lines 19 and 20, delete the words "February 1" and insert the words "January 15".
12. Page 2, lines 21, 22, 23 and 24 delete the words "The Political Education Commission shall be funded half from funds provided by the executive branch of the Trust Territory Government and half from funds appropriated by this act."
13. Page 3, line 2, insert the words "No funds appropriated herein shall be expended for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act unless matched by an equal sum of money provided by the executive branch of the Trust Territory Government." before the word "Any".
14. Page 3, line 2, insert the words "appropriated herein" after the word "sums".

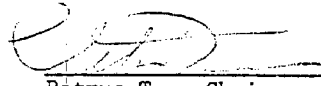
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- 15. Page 3, line 13, delete the words "February 1" and insert the words "January 15".

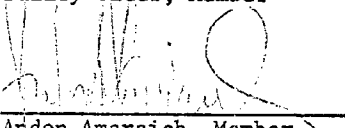
Your Committee is in complete accord with the intent and purposes of Senate Bill 258, as amended, and recommends that is pass Second and Final Reading in the amended form attached hereto after favorable action by the Senate Ways and Means Committee to which it is also assigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

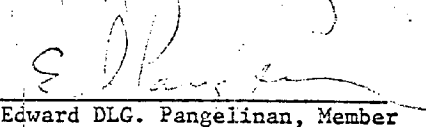


Petrus Tun, Chairman

Bailey Oltor, Member



Andon Amaraich, Member



Edward DLG. Pangelinan, Member

Roman Tmetuchl, Member

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish and fund a Political Education Commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA:

1 Section 1. Purpose. The people of Micronesia must become prepared
2 to exercise their sovereign right of self-determination by choosing,
3 in a plebiscite, the form of future political status by which they
4 wish to be governed. The people of Micronesia also must become
5 prepared to participate in their future government. In order to cope
6 with these future political demands, an evaluation of the present
7 preparedness must be made and policies and programs must be formulated
8 and instituted toward the goal of preparing each Micronesian to make
9 a rational well-considered decision as to political status, and preparing
10 Micronesians to participate in their future government. The Political
11 Education Commission established by this act is designed to meet those
12 needs.

13 Section 2. Creation of the Commission and Membership. There is
14 hereby established a Political Education Commission for the purpose of
15 preparing the people of Micronesia to exercise their sovereign right
16 of self-determination in a plebiscite to determine the future political
17 status of Micronesia and for the purpose of preparing the people of
18 Micronesia for self-government or independence. The Commission shall
19 consist of ~~twelve~~ nine members appointed as follows: Six members
20 appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
21 of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia or any authorized
22 joint committee thereof, and three members appointed by the High
23 Commissioner, ~~and three members appointed by the High Commissioner with~~
24 ~~the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House~~
25 ~~of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia.~~ The President of the

1 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
 2 a temporary chairman from among the six members appointed by them,
 3 who shall designate the time and place for the first meeting and
 4 preside over the selection of a permanent chairman at that meeting.

5 The ~~twelve~~ nine members shall serve until March 1, 1973 unless other-
 6 wise extended by act of the Congress of Micronesia. All members must
 7 be citizens of the Trust Territory. At the first meeting of the Com-
 8 mission a permanent chairman shall be chosen by majority vote of the
 9 members present. At least ~~eight~~ six members must be present in order
 10 for the Commission to conduct its business. Decisions of the Commission
 11 shall be made by majority vote of the members present.

12 Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Commission. The
 13 Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

14 (1) To evaluate the degree to which the people of Micronesia
 15 understand the various future political status alternatives and con-
 16 sequences;

17 (2) To evaluate the capabilities of the people of Micronesia
 18 for self-government or independence;

19 (3) To recommend policies and programs and to propose legis-
 20 lation to insure that the people of Micronesia are prepared for a
 21 plebiscite on their future political status ~~and also to insure that~~
 22 ~~they are prepared to assume the burdens and responsibilities of self-~~
 23 ~~government of independence;~~

24 (4) To recommend policies and programs and propose legis-
 25 lation regarding the general political education of the people of

1 Micronesia;

2 ~~(#)~~ (5) To report the results of its evaluation and to
3 report its recommendations to the Congress of Micronesia on or before
4 ~~February 1~~ January 15, 1973.

5 Section 4. Appropriation. ~~The Political Education Commission~~
6 ~~shall be funded half from funds provided by the executive branch of~~
7 ~~the Trust Territory Government and half from funds appropriated by~~
8 ~~this act.~~ The sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
9 is hereby appropriated out of the General Fund of the Congress of
10 Micronesia as its contribution to defraying all costs and expenses of
11 the Political Education Commission. No funds appropriated herein
12 shall be expended for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of
13 this act unless matched by an equal sum of money provided by the
14 executive branch of the Trust Territory Government. Any sums appro-
15 priated herein remaining unexpended or unobligated on March 1, 1973,
16 shall revert to the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia. The
17 Political Education Commission shall be responsible for, and shall
18 have authority to expend the funds appropriated under this act. The
19 members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem and travel
20 expenses at standard Trust Territory Government rates when on Commission
21 business. Any member of the Commission who is an employee of the
22 Trust Territory Government shall be entitled to his regular salary
23 while participating in the functions of the Commission. The Commission
24 shall report to the Congress of Micronesia on the expenditure of the
25 funds appropriated under this act on or before ~~February 1~~ January 15,

1 1973.

2 Section 5: Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon
3 approval of the High Commissioner, or upon its becoming law without
4 such approval.

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6 Date: _____ Introduced by: _____
7 Petrus Tun

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