

[DATE 10/20/72]

FOURTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 1972

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

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

1 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
2 appoint a temporary chairman from among the six members appointed
3 by them, who shall designate the time and place for the first
4 meeting and preside over the selection of a permanent chairman
5 at that meeting. The nine members shall serve until March 1, 1973,
6 unless otherwise extended by act of the Congress of Micronesia. All
7 members must be citizens of the Trust Territory. At the first
8 meeting of the Commission a permanent chairman shall be chosen by
9 majority vote of the members present. At least six members must
10 be present in order for the Commission to conduct its business.
11 Decisions of the Commission shall be made by majority vote of the
12 members present.

13 Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Commission.

14 The Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

15 (1) To evaluate the degree to which the people of
16 Micronesia understand the various future political status alter-
17 natives and consequences;

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

20 (3) To recommend policies and programs and to propose
21 legislation to insure that the people of Micronesia are prepared
22 for a plebiscite on their future political status;

23 (4) To recommend policies and programs and propose
24 legislation regarding the general political education of the
25 people of Micronesia;

1 (5) To report the results of its evaluation and to
2 report its recommendations to the Congress of Micronesia on or
3 before January 15, 1975.

4 Section 4. Funding. The costs and expenses of the Political
5 Education Commission shall be defrayed by contributions and
6 appropriations from the Congress of Micronesia, from Federal
7 grant funds, or from such other sources as may be available.
8 The Political Education Commission shall be responsible for
9 and shall have authority to expend all sums received to carry
10 out the purposes of this act. The members of the Commission
11 shall be entitled to per diem and travel expenses at standard
12 Trust Territory Government rates when on Commission business.
13 Any member of the Commission who is an employee of the Trust
14 Territory Government shall be entitled to his regular salary
15 while participating in the functions of the Commission.

16 Section 5. Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon
17 approval of the High Commissioner, or upon its becoming law without
18 such approval.

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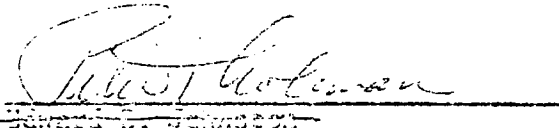
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October 20, 1972

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Edward A. Gurnea

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Agpt High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands