

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, Friday, February 22, 1974

Fines Transfer Bill Ready For HiCom



SAIPAN (MNS) - The third bill to complete legislative action during the current session of the Congress of Micronesia is on its way to High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston after action Tuesday afternoon in the Senate.

Senators were holding their second session of the day, the first time this session that either house has met twice in a single day.

Passed on final reading was a measure providing that fines imposed by a court under authority of district or municipal law shall be paid into the treasury of the jurisdiction which enacted the law. Presently, such fines are transmitted to the treasury of the Trust Territory. It is expected that some \$25,000 to

\$30,000 in fines will be affected annually.

If the bill is transmitted officially to the HiCom by today, he will have 10 days in which to act on it. Any legislation received by his office after today must be acted upon within 30 days.

Senators also passed four other bills on second reading and sent them to the house for further action.

- They are:
- A bill to foster unity in Micronesia by establishing inter-district student exchange programs.
 - A bill to establish a Micronesian Sports Council and plan Micronesia's entry in the 1975 South Pacific Games.
 - A bill to amend the merit system act on overtime

compensation and holiday pay.

-A bill to expand the definition of "dangerous device" under the weapons control act and prescribe additional rules regarding possession of firearms and other dangerous devices aboard vehicles and vessels.

The latter two bills were amended by the Senate and thus must receive further consideration in the House.

Senators also voted to file a bill to broaden the scope of naturalization procedures in the TT to make the spouses of citizens who have been residents of Micronesia at least 10 years, and adopted children whose adoptive parents are citizens, eligible for naturalization. The

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committee on judiciary and governmental operations, which considered the bill, said, "we regard citizenship of Micronesia to be a right which should be jealously guarded and are consequently opposed to any measure which attempts to broaden the scope of law to made additional classes of persons eligible for naturalization as citizens."

A House joint resolution which has completed legislative action and become the official position of the Congress of Micronesia asserts the Marshallese and Micronesian claim to Eneu-Kio atoll, in the northern Marshalls. Known generally as Wake Island, the atoll is occupied by the United States, which maintains weather and navigational facilities and an airfield there.

In the house of representatives Wednesday morning floor action was light. One bill was filed. It would have reduced the residence period required for divorce in the TT from two years to three months. It was filed as being "without merit, since it could only encourage divorce among temporary residents to the possible detriment of the Micronesian people and to the benefit of no one."

Two bills and two joint resolutions were introduced. One bill involves major changes in the foreign investors business permit act, introduced in light of Interior Secretary Roger Morton's announcement of lifting restrictions on foreign investments from third countries. The other would appropriate \$115,000 for programs and projects in Ponape District.