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Senate Repasses Bill

SAIPAN (MNS) – The senate took an historic step to override a veto of the High Commissioner Friday by voting unanimously to repass a bill on admiralty and maritime affairs.

The bill establishes a procedure to make Micronesia a country of registry for ships and designed both to generate substantial revenue for the territory and to encourage the formation of Micronesian commercial shipping companies.

The bill passed during the first regular session of the fifth congress Feb. 26, 1973. It was rejected by the High Commissioner April 20 on the grounds that rapidly moving developments in international shipping law made enactment of the legislation unwise at that time.

The measure now goes to the house, where a two-thirds majority will be needed to send the legislation back to the High Commissioner.

Once the HiCom receives a bill that has been repassed over his veto, he has 20 days in which to reconsider the measure. If he finds he still cannot approve it, he sends it to Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton.