

S.C.R. NO. 13-26
AUGUST 28, 2003

COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

your Committee on External Affairs, to which was jointly referred C.B. No. 13-25, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND TITLE 2 , AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING

SECTION 207 THEREOF, TO REQUIRE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA SHALL APPOINT AMBASSADORS WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, LIMITING THE TERM OF AMBASSADORS TO THE TERM OF THE PRESIDENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The amendment would clarify that the President must obtain the advice and consent of the Congress in the appointment of ambassadors. It would also limit the term of an ambassador to that of the President for whom he serves.

This amendment would conform the law to the language of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. Article 10, section 2(c) provides that the President shall "with the advice and consent of Congress, appoint ambassadors". Article 10, section 2(d) further provides that the ambassadors, like cabinet members, "serve at the pleasure of the President".

Your committee believes that, in addition to being constitutionally mandated, this is also good policy. Ambassadors, like all government appointees, should be reviewed regularly on performance and other relevant measures. Further, the conduct of foreign affairs is a critical function of government expressly delegated to

the President. Thus, like his cabinet members, each President should have the explicit authority to choose his ambassadors upon beginning his term of office.

Accordingly, your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 13-25 and, concurring with the report of your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, recommends its passage on First Reading and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading.

Signed by Senators Figir, Fritz, Alik, Neth and Asugar

