

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-09

RE: P.C. No. 16-369

SUBJECT: FY 2012 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/EDUCATION

MAY 27, 2011

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Regular Session, 2011

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was jointly referred Presidential Communication No. 16-369 regarding the National Government's Recommended FY2012 Budget, begs leave to report as follows:

Presidential Communication No. 16-369 was transmitted to Congress with the *National Government Fiscal Year 2012 Recommended Budget* ("Budget Book"). Pursuant to Rule 7, Section 3(b), of the Official Rules of Procedure of the Seventeenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, your Committee has limited its review to those portions of the recommended budget relating to matters under its jurisdiction. These are:

- A. Department of Education
 - 1. Office of the Secretary
 - 2. Division of Basic Education & Accreditation
 - 3. Division of Vocational & Manpower
 - 4. Specialized Service Program (Federal Programs)
- B. Board of Regents COM-FSM
- C. Grants, Subsidies and Contributions.
 - 1. Aid to Non-Public schools
 - 2. Financial Assistance for FSM students at CMI & PCC
 - 3. National Scholarship
 - 4. National Close-up
 - 5. National Merit Scholarship
 - 6. COM-FSM Annual Board Meeting
- D. Resources: Grants, Subsidies and Contributions

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1. COM-FSM Treaty Obligations

E. Capital & Human Resources Development

1. College of Micronesia-FSM
2. FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute
3. COM-FSM-SEG

This report, and all previous and subsequent reports of your Committee, should be treated as reflecting policies of the Federated States of Micronesia, as defined by the Congress. It is the intent of your Committee that any commentary found in this report should be treated as policy for the guidance of the department, agencies and entities.

The findings and recommendations of your Committee follow:

I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Your committee notes that the FY12 Budget Book was transmitted to the Sixteenth Congress on April 2, 2011. The National Department of Education ("NDOE") FY12 Compact Integrated Action Plan ("Integrated Plan") was transmitted to the Sixteenth Congress on May 5, 2011 via Presidential Communication No. 16-382. Your Committee appreciates receiving the Integrated Plan early in the budget process to allow ample time for review and to correlate the figures in the Integrated Plan with the Budget Book. Your Committee has been advised by the Office of SBOC that the Integrated Plan is still in draft form and that NDOE should be revising the Plan to conform with the EBRC Recommended Budget. SBOC also advised that, where a conflict in figures occurs between the Integrated Plan and the Budget Book, the Committee should give the EBRC Recommended Budget precedence. Furthermore, SBOC has assured the Committee that the final Integrated Plan as submitted to the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) will conform with recommendations made by your Committee in this report as adopted by Congress.

Finally, the total funds available under Education Sector and SEG were different in the Integrated Plan and the Budget Book. Based on further consultations with SBOC, your Committee has prepared its recommendations for NDOE on the following breakdown of available

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funds: \$637,560 from Education Sector, and \$496,482 from SEG. The funds available for FSM-COM are \$3,800,000 from Education Sector, and \$684,126 from SEG.

Your Committee held public hearings with NDOE on: May 16,17,19,23, and 24, 2011. Witnesses at the hearings included: Marcellus Akapito, Special Assistant to the President; Casiano Shoniber, Burnis Danis, Iuhfert Hainrick, Olfred John, Wayne Mendiola, and Arthur Albert, NDOE; Suzanne L. Gallen and Kemsy Sigras, SBOC; Juliet Jimmy and Angie Lambert, Department of Finance; and Salpasr Tilfas, Division of Personnel.

Your Committee held a public hearing with COM-FSM on May 20, 2011. Witnesses at the hearing included: Ringlen Ringlen, Acting President, COM-FSM; Jeff Arnold, Acting Vice President for Student Services, COM-FSM; Joe Habuchmai, Vice President of Administrative Services, COM-FSM; Jean Thoulag, Vice President of Instructional Affairs, COM-FSM; Jim Currie, Vice President for Cooperative Research and Extension, COM-FSM; and Kasio Mida and Mary Berngun Figir, Board of Regents, COM-FSM.

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II. FY 2012 BUDGET - SOURCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Office of the Secretary

	FY2011 Approp.	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends	Domestic Revenue	Sector	SEG
Personnel	85,595	89,314	85,879	28,860	33,473	23,546
Travel	35,000	35,000	35,000	-0-	35,000	-0-
Contract	83,271	73,721	92,055	-0-	8,334	83,721
OCE	30,866	30,866	30,866	-0-	30,866	-0-
Fix Assets	-0-	20,000	20,000	-0-	20,000	-0-
Total	234,732	248,901	263,800	28,860	127,673	107,267

Employee # 4 4 4

The President recommended a budget of \$248,901 for the Office of the Secretary; all funding is proposed to come from Education Sector and SEG funds, except for \$28,860 from Domestic Revenues to pay the salary of the Secretary of Education. The Committee recommendations are discussed below.

Personnel: Due to inaccuracies in the Budget Book, your Committee received an updated list of actual current salaries for all NDOE employees from the Division of Personnel. Consistent with the policy decision made by Congress regarding the FY12 budget, your Committee recommends denying any requests for reclassification, and maintaining current FY11 salaries. The amount recommended above reflects the current salaries of the four employees of the Office of the Secretary.

Travel: Your Committee recommends maintaining the FY11 travel budget of \$35,000 for the Office of the Secretary.

Contract: Based on testimony from NDOE, the contract for the current consultant in the office ends in January 2012; therefore, the Committee recommends reducing the contract amount for the consultant to \$8,334 (\$25,000 - \$16,666) to reflect that funds are needed for only the first four months of FY12 for the consultant. The source of funds for the consultant remains Sector.

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The Committee recommends funding the FSM Student Atlas, and increasing the requested funding from \$40,000 to \$75,000. Your Committee is impressed with the project proposal, and finds the project potentially a very useful tool for students in the FSM. Your Committee urges NDOE to seek bids from established and reputable companies for project completion. Finally, your Committee reminds NDOE that, while the books should be made available for use by all States and FSM students, *mandating* the use of a specific textbook as part of the curriculum may exceed NDOE's authority; the Committee advises that the FSM Atlas be made available for States to use at their discretion.

OCE: Your Committee recommends maintaining the FY11 OCE budget of \$30,866 for the Office of the Secretary.

Fixed Assets: Your Committee recommends funding the request of \$20,000 to purchase a vehicle and computer for the Office of the Secretary.

FY2012 Goals: Your Committee notes that one of the goals of the Office, per the Integrated Plan, is that by the end of FY12 all 240 ECE-12 level schools in the FSM will have completed the FSM School Accreditation System pre-condition survey. Your Committee recognizes that school accreditation has been a long process thus far in the FSM, and looks forward to this step being completed in FY12.

Your Committee would also like the Office to focus efforts towards improved performance in all grade levels on standardized tests in FY12.

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2. Division of Basic Education & Accreditation

	FY2011 Approp.	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends	Sector	SEG
Personnel	255,226	283,138	277,406	101,497	175,909
Travel	60,303	43,349	49,349	26,060	23,289
Contract	186,000	247,004	139,637	15,000	124,637
OCE	20,407	19,425	19,425	19,425	-0-
Fix Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	521,936	592,916	485,817	161,982	323,835

Employee # 14 16 15

The President recommended a budget of \$592,916 for the Division of Basic Education & Accreditation; all funding is proposed to come from Education Sector and SEG funds. The Committee recommendations are discussed below.

Personnel: Again, consistent with the policy of Congress, your Committee recommends denying any reclassifications. Your Committee recommends denying the new position of Educational Specialist I, as the Committee feels that the Education Specialists already located in each State should be sufficient to meet the needs of the Division. Your Committee increases the employee cap for the Division to recognize that an employee that has historically been located in the Specialized Services Program, but paid out of SEG funds, is now located in the Division of Basic Education. The employee cap for Specialized Services has been lowered accordingly, resulting in no new employees in NDOE as a whole. The personnel level recommended by your Committee reflects the current, accurate salaries of the 15 employees located in the Division according to figures obtained from the Division of Personnel. Your Committee recommends funding all four Education Specialists from SEG, which the Committee finds to be in accordance with the intent of SEG as explained by OIA to the Committee last year: "to enhance and support Compact dollars" and "to provide direct services to students."

Travel: Your Committee appreciates the decrease in travel proposed by the Division. Your Committee recommends increasing the request by \$6,000 to be used specifically by the Post Secondary Specialist to

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travel to the College of Marshall Islands (CMI) and Palau Community College (PCC) to address the needs of FSM students in those locations. Your Committee has traveled to these two locations this past year to meet with students, and is convinced of the need for the Post Secondary Specialist to also visit these students. Your Committee recommends that the additional \$6,000 be funded from SEG.

Contract: Your Committee recommends funding the following projects from SEG: \$81,705 to develop the NST Social Studies Assessment and \$42,932 to develop Curriculum Teaching Guides. Your Committee also recommends the \$15,000 requested for Data Management, to be funded by Sector. Your Committee feels that all other proposed contract services are items that should be performed by current employees of the Department; your Committee is unconvinced of the need to expend additional contract funds on these proposed projects. The Committee does not recommend funding for: Leadership, School Improvement Plans (SIP), and Teacher Performance.

OCE: Your Committee recommends funding OCE in the amount of \$19,425.

FY2012 Division Goals: Your Committee notes that the Division goals for FY12, per the Integrated Plan, include: completing the curriculum frameworks and teaching guidelines for language arts and math; assisting the States in developing their approved staff professional development plans; and certifying an additional 10-15% of currently non-certified teachers. Your Committee is particularly interested in these goals, as the strength of our teachers is integral to the success of our students. Your Committee would like to see an additional 200 teachers certified by the end of FY12, this is approximately 20% of currently non-certified teachers; your Committee feels this goal should be attainable by NDOE.

3. Division of Vocational & Manpower Program

	FY2011 Approp.	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends	Sector	SEG
Personnel	50,544	53,713	33,630	24,838	8,792
Travel	14,000	9,986	9,986	-0-	9,986
Contract	40,000	100,000	40,000	-0-	40,000

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OCE	9,591	6,602	6,602	-0-	6,602
Fix Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	114,135	170,301	90,218	24,838	65,380
<i>Employee #</i>	3	3	2		

The President recommends a budget of \$170,301 for the Division of Vocational & Manpower; the entire amount is to be funded out of Sector and SEG; the Committee recommendations are discussed below. As you will recall, the former T-3 Department was finally transitioned to the States in FY10. This Division at NDOE exists on the National level to provide support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the schools through 12th grade by developing and implementing standards, monitoring, and holding workshops.

Personnel: In S.C.R. No. 16-188, regarding the FY11 NDOE Budget, your Committee acknowledged that the Division seemed to exist more in theory than in practice, the only staff position filled was that of secretary, and the Committee reduced the personnel level from 4 to 3 positions in FY11. Unfortunately, the Department has been unable to fill either of the remaining 2 vacant positions. Your Committee understands that personnel from other Divisions of NDOE fill in when possible to perform work for this Division. Your Committee recommends deleting another position from the Division, leaving only the secretary and the vacant position of Chief remaining. Your Committee recognizes the tremendous potential of the Division if a Chief can be hired to progress in the restructuring of the Division; your Committee will gladly consider increasing funding of the Division in FY13 based on successful outcomes in FY12 should a Chief be hired.

Travel: Your Committee recommends funding travel for the Division of \$9,986 to be funded from SEG.

Contract: \$40,000 was appropriated in FY11 under contract for the Division in order to develop the new training and vocational education program, which the Committee recognized as the necessary first step in the restructuring of the Division as a result of T-3 transitioning to the States. Unfortunately, due to the lack of staff in the Division, little progress has been made in developing the program; only \$10,000 of those funds have been expended to date. Your Committee recommends maintaining the same level of funding for FY12; \$40,000 should be

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sufficient to get the program up and running should a Chief be found and hired.

OCE: Your Committee recommends funding OCE at \$6,602 to be funded out of SEG.

FY2012 Division Goals: Your Committee cannot stress strongly enough the need to fill the position of Chief in order to avoid eliminating the Division entirely. Again, the Committee recognizes the potential for the Division to contribute significantly to the needs of FSM students, and urges NDOE to prioritize filling the vacant position.

4. Specialized Services Program (Federal Funds)

	FY2011 Approved	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends
Personnel	186,578	177,160	177,160
Travel	87,844	94,135	94,135
Contract	271,952	271,952	271,952
OCE	19,961	25,308	25,308
Fix Assets	26,000	7,868	7,868
Total	592,335	576,423	576,423
<i>Employee #</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>

Your Committee had reduced the employee cap for the Specialized Services Program to reflect that one employee has relocated to the Division of Basic Education & Accreditation. Your Committee recommends approval of the FY2012 Budget of this Division in its entirety as recommended by the President.

OVERALL BUDGET SUMMARY FY2012 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

	FY2011 Approp./ Approved	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends	Domestic Revenues	Sector	SEG	Federal Funds
Personnel	577,943	603,325	574,075	28,860	159,808	208,247	177,160
Travel	197,147	182,470	188,470	-0-	61,060	33,275	94,135
Contract	581,223	692,677	543,644	-0-	23,334	248,358	271,952

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OCE	80,825	82,201	82,201	-0-	50,291	6,602	25,308
Fix Assets	30,866	27,868	27,868	-0-	20,000	-0-	7,868
Total	1,463,138	1,588,541	1,416,258	28,860	314,493	496,482	576,423
<i>Employee #s</i>	31	32	30				

Number of DOE Employees: Your Committee recommends reducing the overall employee cap at NDOE by one position, for a total of 30 positions at NDOE for FY2012.

B. Board Of Regents - COM

	FY2011 Appropriation	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends
Board of Regents - COM	75,000	70,890	75,000

In FY11, your Committee recommended \$75,000 to fund the Board of Regents COM-FSM, a \$10,000 increase over prior years, with the intent that those additional funds be used towards reviewing the college's finances and endowment fund. Based on testimony presented by COM-FSM, the long-term financial stability of the college, especially in light of the decrement, is an on-going, significant and important goal, and your Committee therefore recommends funding the Board of Regents COM-FSM at \$75,000 again in FY12.

C. Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions

	FY2011 Approp.	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2011 Committee Recommends
Aid to Non-Public Schools	500,000	500,000	500,000
CMI & PCC	40,000	45,000	25,000 CMI 50,000 PCC
National Scholarship	451,997	1,000,000	500,000
National Close-up	70,000	70,000	70,000

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Merit Scholarship	125,000	200,000	200,000
COM-FSM Board Meeting	5,000	5,000	5,000

Aid to Non-Public Schools: Your Committee recommends continued funding for Aid to Non Public Schools at \$500,000; source of funds is Domestic Revenues

Financial Assistance to FSM students at College of Marshall Islands (CMI) & Palau Community College (PCC): Your Committee has visited FSM students at CMI and PCC this past year and has observed first-hand the needs of students in these locations. Your Committee recommends separating the appropriations into separate line items to better track the need and use of funds. Your Committee recommends \$25,000 to assist FSM students at CMI, and \$50,000 to assist FSM students at PCC. This increase in funding is for FY12 only, to ensure that all current students can continue in their educational endeavors. There are currently 12 FSM students enrolled at CMI; during summer session the students are unable to stay in the dorms and alternate arrangements must be made. There are approximately 100 FSM students at PCC, and the Committee wants to ensure that all students are able to register for class next school year. Your Committee understands there is an outstanding balance owed at PCC, partly due to discrepancies in billing. Your Committee hopes that these issues can be resolved finally this year when the Post Secondary Specialist visits the schools.

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National Scholarship: Your Committee recommends funding National Scholarship in the amount of \$500,000. Based on testimony from NDOE, your Committee believes that this amount, when considered also with the over \$300,000 awarded in "Sin Tax" scholarships each year, and in addition to the ample State Scholarship funds available, is sufficient to meet the needs of FSM students. Your Committee urges the Division of Scholarship to continue in their efforts to track graduates in an effort to learn how many FSM students studying abroad return to the FSM after college to fulfill the scholarship requirement of providing services in their field of study for at least one year for each year the graduate received scholarship funds.

Your Committee recommends the following breakdown of funding: \$176,933 in Domestic Revenues and \$323,067 from Sector funds.

National Close-up: Your Committee recommends maintaining funding at \$70,000 for National Close-up; source of funds is Domestic Revenues.

Merit Scholarship: Your Committee recommends funding \$200,000 for Merit Scholarship in FY12. Your Committee notes that the Merit Scholarship program has not been successful to date. There is currently no eligible Merit Scholar receiving the award; your Committee hopes that NDOE has been more aggressive in making States aware of the scholarship, and that four recipients will be awarded from students graduating this year. Source of funds for the Merit Scholarship is Domestic Revenues.

COM-FSM Board Meeting: Your Committee recommends funding the COM-FSM Board Meeting in the requested amount of \$5,000; source of funds is Domestic Revenues.

D. Resources: Grants, Subsidies and Contributions

1. COM-FSM Treaty Obligation

Your Committee recommends funding \$25,000 for COM-FSM Treaty Obligations; source of funding is Domestic Revenues.

E. Capital & Human Resources Development

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	FY2011 Appropriation	FY2012 President Recommend	FY2012 Committee Recommends
College of Micronesia-FSM	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000
FSM FMI	658,610	655,110	655,110
COM-FSM-SEG	684,126	684,126	684,126

1. College of Micronesia - FSM

Your Committee recommends funding the operations of the COM-FSM and State campuses in the amount of \$3,800,000; which represents approximately 32% of operational costs of COM. This is the same level of funding as FY10 and FY11, and the source of funds is the Education Sector Grant.

Your Committee was provided with a copy of the recent Job Audit from COM-FSM, and understands that a decision has been made to streamline campuses in anticipation of the effect of the decrement. Your Committee understands that 17 positions will be eliminated in the streamlining. Your Committee suggests that the College consider offering an early retirement bonus to employees nearing retirement age in order to eliminate positions immediately. Your Committee hopes that the College will retain qualified local hires to the extent possible. Finally, your Committee has previously expressed concern with the salaries of top administration, and hopes that any funds saved from the streamlining are not channeled into increasing salaries.

2. FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute (FMI)

Your Committee recommends funding the operations of FSM FMI in the amount of \$655,110. Enrollment has increased 30% since FY10, and testimony at the hearing indicated that additional funding for FMI may be needed for FY11 and FY12, particularly to assist with the costs of student travel home. Your Committee urges FMI to work with the Executive in submitting any necessary supplemental requests. The source of funding for the entire FSM FMI amount is Domestic Revenues.

3. COM-FSM-SEG

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Your Committee recommends funding COM-FSM-SEG in the amount of \$684,126. The use of funds is for SEG work-study, student assistance, and teacher corps.

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III. SUMMARY OF BUDGET DISTRIBUTION BY FUNDING SOURCES RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FOR FY2012

DESCRIPTION	DOMESTIC REVENUE	COMPACT EDUCATION SECTOR GRANT	SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT (SEG)	FEDERAL FUNDS
NDOE: Office Secretary	28,860	127,673	107,267	-0-
NDOE: Basic Ed & Accred.	-0-	161,982	323,835	-0-
NDOE: Voc. & Manpower	-0-	24,838	65,380	-0-
NDOE: Specialized Services	-0-	-0-	-0-	576,423
Board of Regents - COM	75,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
Aid to Non-Public Schools	500,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
CMI	25,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
PCC	50,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
National Scholarship	176,933	323,067	-0-	-0-
National Close-up	70,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
Merit Scholarship	200,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
COM-FSM Board Meeting	5,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
COM-FSM Treat Obligations	25,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
COM-FSM	-0-	3,800,000	-0-	-0-
FSM-FMI	655,110	-0-	-0-	-0-
COM-FSM-SEG	-0-	-0-	684,126	-0-
TOTAL	1,810,903	4,437,560	1,180,608	576,423

IV. SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET REQUESTS COMPARED TO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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The following budget summary reflects your Committee's recommended funding levels compared to the President's Recommended Budget Requests for areas of the FY2012 Budget under the purview of your Committee on Education.

DESCRIPTION	FY12 PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED	FY12 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
NDOE: Office Secretary	248,901	263,800
NDOE: Basic Ed & Accred.	592,916	485,817
NDOE: Voc. & Manpower	170,301	90,218
NDOE: Specialized Services	576,423	576,423
Board of Regents - COM	70,890	75,000
Aid to Non-Public Schools	500,000	500,000
CMI & PCC	45,000	75,000
National Scholarship	1,000,000	500,000
National Close-up	70,000	70,000
Merit Scholarship	200,000	200,000
COM-FSM Board Meeting	5,000	5,000
COM-FSM Treat Obligations	25,000	25,000
COM-FSM	3,800,000	3,800,000
FSM-FMI	655,110	655,110
COM-FSM-SEG	684,126	684,126
TOTAL	8,643,667	8,005,494

V. CONCLUSION

Your Committee on Education has carefully reviewed the President's Recommended FY 2012 budget and all of the supplemental information provided by the Executive and the entities within your Committee's jurisdiction. The recommended sums set forth above reflect your Committee's recommendations on the level of funding for the designated activity, program or project for all of FY 2012.

Subject to the conditions and limitations set forth herein, and subject to the concurrence of your Committee on Ways and Means, your Committee on Education recommends approval of the amounts and source of funds identified as Committee Recommendations

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian, member

Tony H. Otto, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio Singkoro Harper, member

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