

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-148

RE: C.B. NO. 18-107/H&SA

SUBJECT: TO BAN SMOKING WITHIN 150 FEET OF ALL
FACILITIES OWNED OR LEASED BY THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT.

MAY 19, 2014

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Regular Session, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was
jointly referred C.B. No. 18-107 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 801 OF TITLE 41 OF
THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AS
AMENDED, TO BAN SMOKING WITHIN 150 FEET, OF ALL
FACILITIES OWNED ORLEASED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The bill would ban smoking within 150 feet of all National
Government facilities owned or leased by the National
Government.

Your Committee has had a number of opportunities over the
years to be briefed on the multitude of negative health
impacts from smoking. Most recently your Committee held a
joint public hearing with the Committee on External Affairs
on May 14, 2014 regarding the major grant funding for the
tobacco control and prevention work in the National

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Department of Health and Social Affairs, and in the four States. Again, the Department discussed the effects of disabilities and early death caused by tobacco smoking.

Your Committee would like to support the Department's work to control and prevent tobacco use, and to promote health, in general of our Nation's citizens. To this end it supports further amending the ban on smoking inside National Government facilities to include a ban of smoking within 150 feet of the perimeter of such buildings.

This bill was introduced in the 17th Congress, however, at that time Members had a concern that the bill as drafted might be construed to include private property. C.B. No. 18-107 as drafted now addresses that concern and specifically only covers the property that is leased or owned by National Government. This means that if private or State property is within 150 feet of a National Government facilities there is not a smoking ban on that property.

As our country faces enormous health challenges regarding heart disease and cancer. Your Committee strongly recommends the passage of C.B. 18-107 to assist in our promotion of healthy life styles of our citizens.

Your Committee supports the National and State Governments' efforts to reduce the use of tobacco in the Federated States of Micronesia. Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purposes of C.B. No. 18-107, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Yosiwo P. George
Yosiwo P. George, member

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

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member