

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-281

RE: C.A. NO. 18-120 (P.C. NO. 18-458)/W&M

SUBJECT: VETO OF CONGRESSIONAL ACT NO. 18-120

APRIL 10, 2015

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Sixth Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways & Means, to which was referred Presidential Communication 18-458, regarding the veto of Congressional Act 18-120, entitled:

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1213 OF TITLE 55 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (ANNOTATED), AS AUTHORIZED BY PUBLIC LAW NO. 18-96, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (3), TO REQUIRE THE DEPOSIT OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE FSM TRUST FUND WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM APPROPRIATION, AND TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SUBMIT PROOF OF DEPOSIT WITHIN ONE BUSINESS DAY FROM DATE OF DEPOSIT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this act is expressed in its title.

Your Committee has reviewed Congressional Act 18-120 and the accompanying veto message (P.C. No. 18-458). Your Committee did not find any legal impediments or drafting errors in the Act. Your Committee has determined that the veto is purely based on policy decision.

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Your Committee would like to note that the President makes some very sensible arguments in P.C. No. 18-458. Your Committee sympathizes with his concerns regarding the availability of funds and disbursement of funds to other budget items. Your Committee is assured that Congress will act prudently when appropriating funds to the FSM Trust Fund, so that the appropriation will not be a drain on other Governmental needs. Your Committee would also like to point out that the impetus for this bill was a result of past practices where years elapsed before appropriations were deposited into the FSM Trust Fund.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee has reviewed the veto of Congressional Act 18-120 and the veto message. Your Committee finds that the decision made by the Executive was made based on policy and not on a violation of the law. Your Committee disagrees with this policy decision and recommends overriding the veto Congressional Act No. 18-120.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac Figir
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, member

Yosiwo P. George, member

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

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, member

Joseph J. Urusemal, member