

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-115

RE: C.B. NO. 19-116/J&GO

SUBJECT: PROPOSING THE REPEAL OF ARTICLE III,
SECTION 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION TO ENABLE
DUAL CITIZENSHIP FOR FSM CITIZENS

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, to which was referred C.B. No. 19-116, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROPOSE THE REPEAL OF ARTICLE III,
SECTION 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENABLING CITIZENS OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO RETAIN OR OBTAIN CITIZENS
OF ANOTHER STATE WITHOUT BEING REQUIRED TO RELINQUISH
CITIZENSHIP OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Public Hearing

Your Committee held a public hearing on the bill on February 10,
2016.

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Present at the hearing were representatives from the Department of Justice, from the Division of Immigration, and from the Office of the President.

Your Chairman opened the hearing and welcomed the witnesses.

The representative from the Department of Justice made clear that the Department is very supportive of this bill. He explained that should Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution be repealed then dual citizenship would be allowed. He further explained that this would help resolve some of the immigration issues that currently face citizens and nationals of the FSM.

Your Committee inquired whether the Department of Justice thought a retroactivity provision should be included. The Department representative indicated that yes this should be included if the intent of the bill is to resolve as many of the current immigration issues related to dual citizenship as possible.

Your Committee also inquired as to how many countries worldwide permit dual citizenship. After a quick bit of online research, the representative from the Department of Justice stated that 38 countries allow dual citizenship.

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Conclusion

Your Committee would like to offer the following technical amendment to C.B. No. 19-116:

1. Page 1, title line 4: delete "citizens" and insert "citizenship" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 19-116 and recommends its passage on First Reading and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading in the form attached hereto as C.B. No. 19-116, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, chairman

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow
Robson U. Romolow, member

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