

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-205

RE: C.B. NO. 19-261/W&M

JANUARY 30, 2017

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Sixth Regular Session, 2017

Dear Speaker,

Your Committee on Ways & Means, to which was referred  
Congressional Bill No. 19-261, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, 8, AND 9 OF  
PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-118, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAWS NO. 19-  
125, 19-131, AND 19-135, IN ORDER TO APPROPRIATE \$1,410,390  
OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED  
STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER  
30, 2017, TO CORRECT FOR A TECHNICAL ERROR REGARDING SEG  
FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$556,074, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee notes that C.B. No. 19-261 is a substitute  
version of C.B. 19-248, a supplemental budget bill drafted by  
the Executive and transmitted to Congress in Presidential  
Communication No. 19-541.

Your Committee held a Public Hearing on January 28, 2017, at  
1:00 p.m. in the Congress Central Facilities Room, to discuss  
C.B. No. 19-248. Present at the hearing were members of your  
Committee on Ways & Means, other members of Congress, the Chief

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of Staff of the Executive Branch, and representatives from each Department and Office of the Executive Branch who requested specific funds to be appropriated in this supplemental budget bill.

Your Chairman of the Committee on Ways & Means, Sen. Isaac V. Figir, presided over the Public Hearing. Chairman Figir thanked all those present for attending, and established the format for the hearing, wherein your Committee allowed a representative from each Department and Office of the Executive Branch to offer brief testimony in support of their specific appropriations requests in the bill. After the Public Hearing, certain Departments and Offices submitted further supporting documentation to your Committee.

Your Committee held formal Committee Meetings on January 28, 2017 and January 30, 2017, to discuss the Public Hearing and make final decisions on the supplemental budget. Your Committee decided to fund a limited set of line items, identified in the table below.

<b>Budget Section</b>	<b>Requesting Department</b>	<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2(1)	Office of the President	Travel	\$40,000
2(3)	Dept. of Finance & Administration, Division of CTA	Travel	\$20,000
2(5)	Dept. of TC&I, Marine Division	Personnel (Overtime for Crew)	\$100,000
3(1)	Congress: Speaker and Members	Contractual Services (Representation Fund)	\$160,000
8(5)(k)	Dept. of Health	CEDAW	\$20,000
8(6)(k)	Dept. of Education	Scholarship Board Meetings	\$30,000
8(6)(l)	Dept. of Education	Travel to Colleges to Meet with Students Regarding Scholarships	\$20,000
8(7)(f)	Dept. of TC&I	Fuel Subsidy	\$250,000
8(7)(g)	Dept. of TC&I	AIP Matching Funds	\$530,000

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8(8)(h)	Dept. of Justice	Settlement of Mohner Esiel case and settlements/judgments for other pending cases against FSM	\$32,000
8(10)(l)	OEEM	DAEF Matching Funds	\$200,000
9(7)(g)	Office of the President	Printing of Ballots for Constitutional Question	\$8,390
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,410,390</b>

Your Committee notes that multiple Departments requested additional Personnel funding to cover increased salaries of Cabinet Secretaries and Department heads. Contracts granting these increased salaries have apparently been offered and signed, without prior Congressional appropriations to fund the increased salary amounts. Your Committee declines to appropriate additional money to fund these salary increases. Your Committee wishes to reiterate the policy of the National Government against increasing the salaries of Cabinet Secretaries.

Your Committee notes that the appropriation for the line item titled "Teacher and Principal Academies" in Section 9 of Public Law No. 19-118, as amended, was inadvertently reduced to "-0-" in Public Law No. 19-135. This was a technical drafting error. This line item is funded out of Supplemental Education Grant (SEG) funds. Your Committee wishes to correct this error and restore the "Teacher and Principal Academies" line item back to its full appropriation amount (\$556,074) in this supplemental budget bill.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee on Ways and Means has carefully reviewed Congressional Bill No. 19-261. Your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 19-261, 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. 19-261.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Victor Gouland  
Victor Gouland, member

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

David W. Panuelo, member

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

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