

~~Committee~~ Proposal No. CC-PR-04-71
Committee on Government structure and functions

PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

To amend Article IX, Section 8, of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia to increase the number of at-large members of Congress.

Section 8. The Congress consists of ~~one~~ two members elected at large from each state on the basis of state equality, and additional members elected from congressional districts in each state apportioned by population. Members elected on the basis of state equality serve for a 4-year term, and all other members for 2 years. Each member has one vote, except on the final reading of bills. Congressional elections are held biennially as provided by statute.

PURPOSE AND INTENT OF AMENDMENT

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the pool of Senators from which to choose a President and Vice-President. The positions of President and Vice President are too important to restrict the eligible pool of persons who can hold the highest offices of the land to a mere 4 at-large Senators. Because the election of the new Senators will be held at the same time as the current Senators, the only real election cost is the addition of a name to the ballot. Although the increased number of Senators would increase the costs of Congress' operations, the benefit of having more choices for President and Vice President outweigh the financial costs considering the difficulties Congress has faced in the past in electing the most appropriate individuals for these two important positions.

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Introduced by:



Akillino H. Susaia

Delegate