

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF YAP

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Terrence R. Fong

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March 17, 2026

Standing Comm. Report No. 11-209
Re: Bill No. 11-204

The Honorable Nicholas Figirlaarwon
Speaker
Eleventh Legislature of the State of Yap
Fourth Regular Session, 2026

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred Bill No. 11-204, entitled,

“A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE \$48,336 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE OF YAP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO FUND MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION - YAP OFFICE DURING FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”,

beg leave to report as follows:

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

On February 25, 2026, the Executive Director for Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) sent a letter requesting additional funding to Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon, noting that the same letter was sent to Governor Francis Itimai. The request was in the amount of \$48,336 to be used for retaining additional position in the local Yap Office of MLSC. It was designated as Miscellaneous's Communication No. 11-125 and assigned to your Committee.

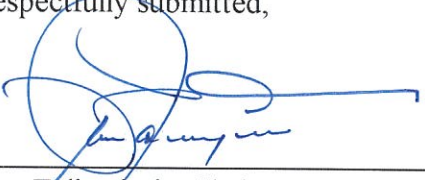
The letter cited, with appreciation, the previous appropriation of \$80,000 from YSL No. 11-130, but the main funding source of a US Grant was greatly reduced. The shortfall for Yap office is identified in the requested amount.

Your Committee held a public hearing on March 04, 2026 for the request at 10:00 am, with the main witness being John Mootmag, the Directing Attorney for the Yap MLSC Office and Senator John Mafel, the Yap State representative on the MLSC Board of Directors. During the hearing, a lot of explanation was made on the shortfall the office is experiencing and the drastic measures that the corporation is trying to make to keep in operation. The communication included the 2025 impact report for the corporation and the statistics for Yap Office as justification to get funding in providing free/affordable legal services to the general public. Information for request is in the main file for the request.

Your Committee recommends approval of the funding, with the provision that it be deemed as a grant, similar to the previously appropriated \$80,000 for MLSC. Thus, Floor Leader Terrence R. Fong, by request, is introducing Bill No. 11-204 in today's session, which includes the Committee's recommendation.

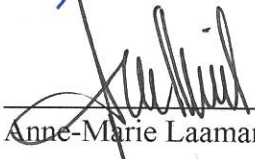
Therefore, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill No. 11-204 and recommends passage on first and final reading in its original form

Respectfully submitted,




Pius Talimeisei - Chairman

3/17/24
Date



Anne-Marie Laamar - Vice Chairman

3/17/24
Date



Ted Rutun - Member

3/17/24
Date