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August 13, 2026

Standing Comm. Report No. 11-235
Re: Bill No. 11-232 and 11-239

adopted 8/13/26

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. 11-232, entitled,

> "A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND YAP STATE LAW NO. 11-130, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING THE TITLE AND SECTION 1, AS AMENDED, TO APPROPRIATE THE ADDITIONAL SUM OF $5,800 FROM THE YAP STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026 FINANCIAL ESTIMATES IN GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR ELECTION OFFICE DURING FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

beg leave to report as follows:

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

On June 30, 2026, Governor Francis Itimai transmitted his request for appropriation of $5,800 from the Treasury for use obtaining new ballot boxes for the upcoming election. It was designated as Governor's Communication No. 11-584 and assigned to your Committee on Finance. On August 3, 2026, Floor Leader Terrence R. Fong introduced, by request, Bill No. 11-232, and it was also referred to your Committee. According to the transmittal letter, the funding source would be the Treasury and specifically General Fund.

Your Committee is mindful that this would be the first request on record for an appropriation of candidate nomination petition fees. Your Committee also consulted the staff of the Office of Administrative Services to identify the account or fund where the fees are collected. Pursuant to Title 7 in the Yap State Code, Section 503 (b), a filing fee for gubernatorial and senatorial candidates would be given to the Treasurer.

> "(b) There shall be deposited with each nomination for Governor and Lieutenant Governor a non-refundable fee of $200.00 and for each member of the Legislature a non-refundable fee of $100.00. The Election Commissioner shall pay over all such nomination fees to the Treasurer to remain available for conducting general and special elections;"
>
> (Emphasis added) - Section 503, Title 7, Yap State Code

During your Committee's fact-finding, the staff of OAS did not find any particular created account specifically for Election fees, but they were able to run financial reports on the receipts for nomination fees. Ideally, the Election fee should be in a revolving fund that does not require appropriation. Your Committee therefore, in the absence such an account, would recommend that the appropriation be made to err on the side of caution. Additionally, your Committee would not restrict the funds as part of regular operation, but would appropriate for use until December 31, 2026, giving ample time for Election Commissioner to obligate and liquidate funds for use in getting all ballot boxes ready for the November election.

This Committee would not include this particular appropriation as a supplement to Election Office operation as it is has a specific use in the law. **We are recommending that Bill No. 11-232 is filed as the property of the Legislature.**

Furthermore, this Committee, through its Chairman, is introducing Bill No. 11-239 in today's session as a "stand-alone" appropriation similar to a public project. Your Committee also recommends that the Attorney General issue a formal opinion on the above cited provision of the election law that would define the term "to remain available". Your Committee stands ready to review any opinion forthcoming.

Thus, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill No. 11-239 and recommends that it be placed on calender for passage on First and Second Reading in its original form.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Tahmeisei - Chairman — 8/13/26 Date

Anne-Marie Laamar - Vice Chairman — 8/13/26 Date

Ted Rutun - Member — 8/13/26 Date