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(a) Authorities and Duties of the Comptroller General of the United States.--

(1) In general.--The Comptroller General of the United States (including any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General of the United States) shall have the authorities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Comptroller General of the United States under--

(A) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 102(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(b));

(B) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 103(k) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(k)); and

(C) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, related subsidiary agreements, and the authorities described in appendix D of the "Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review" signed by the United States and the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010.

(2) Reports.--Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report with respect to the

Freely Associated States, including addressing--

(A) the topics described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 104(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(h)(1)), except that for purposes of a report submitted under this paragraph, the report shall address those topics with respect to each of the Freely Associated States; and

(B) the effectiveness of administrative oversight by the United States of the Freely Associated States.

(b) Secretary of the Interior Oversight Authority.--The Secretary of the Interior shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior by section 211(a) to carry out--

- (1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;
- (2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;
- (3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and
- (4) subsidiary agreements.

(c) Postmaster General Oversight Authority.--The Postmaster General shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) of section 211(b) and deposited in the Postal Service Fund under paragraph (2)(A) of that section to carry out--

- (1) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;
- (2) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(4) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) Interagency Group on Freely Associated States.--

(1) Establishment.--The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish an Interagency Group on Freely Associated States (referred to in this subsection as the "Interagency Group").

(2) Purpose.--The purposes of the Interagency Group are--

(A) to coordinate development and implementation of executive branch policies, programs, services, and other activities in or relating to the Freely Associated States; and

(B) to provide policy guidance, recommendations, and oversight to Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities with respect to the implementation of--

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(iii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(3) Membership.--The Interagency Group shall consist of--

(A) the Secretary of State, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(E) the heads of relevant Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out obligations under--

(i) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) sections 131 and 132 and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(iv) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(v) any applicable subsidiary agreement; and

(vi) section 209; and

(F) the head of any other Federal agency, department, or instrumentality that the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Interior may designate.

(4) Duties of secretary of state and secretary of the interior.--The Secretary of State (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of State) and the Secretary of the Interior (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of the Interior) shall--

(A) co-lead and preside at a meeting of the Interagency Group not less frequently than annually;

(B) determine, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the agenda for meetings of the Interagency Group; and

(C) facilitate and coordinate the work of the Interagency

Group.

(5) Duties of the interagency group.--The Interagency Group shall--

(A) provide advice on the establishment or implementation of policies relating to the Freely Associated States to the President, acting through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, in the form of a written report not less frequently than annually;

(B) obtain information and advice relating to the Freely Associated States from the Presidents, other elected officials, and members of civil society of the Freely Associated States, including through the members of the Interagency Group (including senior official designees of the members) meeting not less frequently than annually with any Presidents of the Freely Associated States who elect to participate;

(C) at the request of the head of any Federal agency (or a senior official designee of the head of a Federal agency) who is a member of the Interagency Group, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action affecting 1 or more of the Freely Associated States proposed by the Federal agency, department, or instrumentality; and

(D) facilitate coordination of relevant policies, programs, initiatives, and activities involving 1 or more of the Freely Associated States, including ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication between programs, initiatives, and activities conducted pursuant to a Compact with a Freely Associated State

and non-Compact programs, initiatives, and activities.

(6) Reports.--Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and each year thereafter in which a Compact of Free Association with a Freely Associated State is in effect, the President shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the activities and recommendations of the Interagency Group during the applicable year.

(e) Federal Agency Coordination.--The head of any Federal agency providing programs and services to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State regarding the provision of the programs and services.

(f) Foreign Loans or Debt.--Congress reaffirms that--

(1) the foreign loans or debt of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau shall not constitute an obligation of the United States; and

(2) the full faith and credit of the United States Government shall not be pledged for the payment and performance of any foreign loan or debt referred to in paragraph (1) without specific further authorization.

(g) Compact Compilation.--Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes a

compilation of the Compact of Free Association with the Federated State of Micronesia, the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau, and the Compact of Free Association with Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(h) Publication; Revision by Office of the Law Revision Counsel.--

(1) Publication.--In publishing this title in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end an appendix setting forth the text of--

(A) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(2) Revision by office of the law revision counsel.--The Office of the Law Revision Counsel is directed to revise--

(A) the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

SEC. 209. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) Authorization for Veterans' Services.--

(1) Definition of freely associated states.--In this

subsection, the term "Freely Associated States" means--

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to approve the 'Compact of Free Association' between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes" (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(2) Hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care abroad.--Section 1724 of title 38, United States Code, is amended--

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "subsections (b) and (c)" and inserting "subsections (b), (c), and (f)"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(f)(1)(A) The Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services in the Freely Associated States, subject to agreements the Secretary shall enter into with the governments of the Freely Associated States as described in section 209(a)(4)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024, and subject to subparagraph

(B), to a veteran who is otherwise eligible to receive hospital care and medical services.

“(B) The agreements described in subparagraph (A) shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, the applicable laws of the Freely Associated States and define the care and services that can be legally provided by the Secretary in the Freely Associated States.

“(2) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services through--

“(A) contracts or other agreements;

“(B) reimbursement; or

“(C) the direct provision of care by health care personnel of the Department.

“(3) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services for any condition regardless of whether the condition is connected to the service of the veteran in the Armed Forces.

“(4)(A) A veteran who has received hospital care or medical services in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible, to the extent determined advisable and practicable by the Secretary, for hospital care or medical services in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(B) If the Secretary determines it is no longer advisable or practicable to allow veterans described in subparagraph (A) to remain eligible for hospital care or medical services pursuant to such

subparagraph, the Secretary shall--

“(i) provide direct notice of that determination to such veterans; and

“(ii) publish that determination and the reasons for that determination in the Federal Register.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means--

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled ‘Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes’ (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”.

(3) Beneficiary travel.--Section 111 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may make payments to or for any person traveling in, to, or from the

Freely Associated States for receipt of care or services authorized to be legally provided by the Secretary in the Freely Associated States under section 1724(f)(1) of this title.

“(2) A person who has received payment for travel in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible for payment for such travel in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means--

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled ‘Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes’ (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”

(4) Legal issues.--

(A) Agreements to furnish care and services.--

(i) In general.--Before delivering hospital care or medical services under subsection (f) of section 1724 of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall enter into agreements with the governments of the Freely Associated States to--

(I) facilitate the furnishing of health services, including telehealth, under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans in the Freely Associated States, such as by addressing--

(aa) licensure, certification, registration, and tort issues relating to health care personnel;

(bb) the scope of health services the Secretary may furnish, as well as the means for furnishing such services; and

(cc) matters relating to delivery of pharmaceutical products and medical surgical products, including delivery of such products through the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the Freely Associated States;

(II) clarify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay for tort claims as set forth under subparagraph (C); and

(III) clarify authority and responsibility on any other matters determined relevant by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the governments of the Freely Associated States.

(ii) Scope of agreements.--The agreements described in clause (i) shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, the applicable laws of the Freely Associated States and define the care and services that can be legally provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the Freely Associated States.

(iii) Report to congress.--

(I) In general.--Not later than 90 days after entering into an agreement described in clause (i), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit the agreement to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(II) Appropriate committees of congress defined.--  
In this clause, the term ``appropriate committees of Congress'' means--

(aa) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and

the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate;

and

(bb) the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(B) Licensure of health care professionals providing treatment via telemedicine in the freely associated states.-- Section 1730C(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ``any State" and inserting ``any State or any of the Freely Associated States (as defined in section 1724(f) of this title)".

(C) Payment of claims.--The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may pay tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in the Freely Associated States in connection with furnishing hospital care or medical services or providing medical consultation or medical advice to a veteran under the laws administered by the Secretary, including through a remote or telehealth program.

(5) Outreach and assessment of options.--During the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, subject to the availability of appropriations--

(A) conduct robust outreach to, and engage with, each government of the Freely Associated States;

(B) assess options for the delivery of care through the use

of authorities provided pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection; and

(C) increase staffing as necessary to conduct outreach under subparagraph (A).