

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3797

To transfer certain administrative functions of the Department of the Interior relating to the United States territories to the Department of Commerce.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 1994

Mr. GALLEGLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To transfer certain administrative functions of the Department of the Interior relating to the United States territories to the Department of Commerce.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Territorial Administra-
5 tive Cessation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the people of Palau in the United Nations
9 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, known as the
10 Japanese Mandated Islands, have voted to approve

1 the Compact of Free Association with the United
2 States, thereby leading to the end of the trusteeship
3 responsibilities of the United States as administering
4 authority for Palau under the United Nations Char-
5 ter;

6 (2) the Secretary of State is responsible for
7 government-to-government relations with the freely
8 associated states of Micronesia and the Marshall Is-
9 lands;

10 (3) the United States territories have developed
11 progressively increased local self-government over
12 the past 5 decades;

13 (4) the territories predominantly deal directly
14 with Federal agencies and departments like a State;

15 (5) the Department of the Interior's admin-
16 istering responsibilities for the insular areas has de-
17 clined substantially during the past 5 decades; and

18 (6) Federal-territorial relations can be enhanced
19 and Federal fiscal conditions improved by the elimi-
20 nation of unnecessary Federal bureaucracy.

21 **SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES.**

22 (a) TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.—
23 All responsibilities of the Office of Territorial and Inter-
24 national Affairs of the Department of the Interior relating
25 to the administration and termination of the Trust Terri-

1 tory of the Pacific Islands and the implementation of the
2 Compact of Free Association are hereby transferred to the
3 Office of Pacific Island Affairs of the Department of
4 State.

5 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OPERATIONS AND
6 MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.—All responsibilities of the
7 Office of Territorial and International Affairs of the De-
8 partment of the Interior relating to technical assistance
9 and operations and management assistance is hereby
10 transferred to the Economic Development Administration
11 of the Department of Commerce.

12 (c) TERMINATION OF POSITION OF ASSISTANT SEC-
13 RETARY.—Effective 30 days after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, section 5315 of title 5, United States Code,
15 is amended by striking “Assistant Secretaries of the Inte-
16 rior (6)” and inserting “Assistant Secretaries of the Inte-
17 rior (5)”.

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