

A HOUSE BILL FOR AN ACT

Appropriating the sum of two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000) from the General Fund of the State of Chuuk for oil spill response and mitigation efforts in the State of Chuuk, and for other purposes.

1 **Section 1. Findings.** On September 11, 2025, an oil spill commenced from the
2 shipwreck of the *Rio De Janeiro* in the Southern Namoneas Region of Chuuk State, posing an
3 immediate and significant threat to the marine environment, coastal communities, and the
4 livelihood of the citizens of Chuuk. Recognizing the gravity of this environmental disaster,
5 the Governor of the State of Chuuk issued a Declaration of State of Emergency on September
6 15, 2025, followed by a National Emergency Declaration from His Excellency President
7 Wesley Simina. The State of Chuuk has established an Oil Spill Response Taskforce,
8 operating under the existing Chuuk State Emergency Plan and led by the Chuuk
9 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to manage and coordinate the ongoing response and
10 mitigation efforts. These response efforts have been in full operation since the spill began.
11 The Legislature finds that an immediate appropriation of funds is essential to bolster the
12 Taskforce’s capacity to deploy necessary equipment, procure vital supplies, support
13 personnel, and execute critical cleanup and environmental monitoring initiatives to minimize
14 the damage caused by the oil spill.

15 **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of this Act is to appropriate emergency funds to
16 support the ongoing response and mitigation efforts led by the Chuuk State Oil Spill Response
17 Taskforce in addressing the environmental and economic impact of the oil spill from the
18 shipwreck of the *Rio De Janeiro*.

19 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Two Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars
20 (\$240,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund of the State of Chuuk for oil spill
21 response and mitigation efforts in the State of Chuuk.

22 **Section 4. Use of Funds.** The funds appropriated under Section 3 shall be made available
23 to the Oil Spill Response Taskforce, to be used exclusively for the following purposes related
24 to the *Rio De Janeiro* oil spill incident:

- 25 1. Procurement of oil spill containment and cleanup materials.

- 1 2. Logistical support, transportation, and deployment costs for response personnel and
- 2 equipment.
- 3 3. Personnel costs, including overtime, stipends, and compensation for specialized
- 4 expertise required for cleanup and environmental assessment.
- 5 4. Environmental monitoring and damage assessment of affected marine and coastal
- 6 areas.
- 7 5. Coordination and public information dissemination regarding the response efforts.

8 **Section 5. Restrictions and Limitations.** The funds appropriated herein shall solely be
9 expended in accordance with this Act, the Financial Management Act of the State, and its
10 implementing rules and regulations and other relevant laws. These funds shall remain
11 available until fully expended. The Governor shall be the allottee of this fund, and all payments
12 under this Act shall be made by the Oil Spill Response Taskforce.

13 **Section 6. Reporting Requirement.** The Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency,
14 through the Oil Spill Response Taskforce, shall provide a detailed report on the expenditure
15 of the funds appropriated by this Act to the Governor and the Chuuk State Legislature every
16 thirty (30) days until all funds have been expended or the State of Emergency is lifted,
17 whichever comes first.


18 **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act shall be held to be invalid by a court
19 of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the
20 remaining provision of this Act, which shall remain in full force and effect.

21 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor,
22 or upon becoming law without such approval.

Date:

9/26/25

Introduced by:



Floor Leader Wayne Olap