



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) ACT 2016

Sponsored by:

HON. MINISTER MATTLAN ZACKHRAS

Approved:

HON. SPEAKER KENNETH A. KEDI /s/

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**NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
37TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2016**



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Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2016**

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) ACT

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1 NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
2 37TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2016



3 Republic of the Marshall Islands
4 *Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

5 **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
6 **(AMENDMENT) ACT 2016**

7 **A BILL FOR AN ACT** to amend the *National Environmental Protection Act 1984* (35
8 MIRC Ch. 1) to specify the coordination of water use and sanitation in order to
9 implement the National Water and Sanitation Policy and Action Plan adopted by the
10 Cabinet in 2014.

11 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

12 **§1. Short Title**

13 This Act may be cited as the National Environmental Protection
14 (Amendment) Act 2016.

15 **§2. Amendment**

16 To include a new section as follows:

17 **§127A. Integrated Water Resources Management and Water**
18 **Sanitation**

19 (1) The Authority shall, in consultation with the Office of the
20 Chief Secretary, coordinate the monitoring and
21 implementation of the National Water and Sanitation Policy
22 and its Action Plan by the following:

- 23 (a) reviewing, recommending and enacting procedures for
24 the monitoring and implementation of the Policy;
- (b) reviewing and, where necessary, preparing legislation,
regulations and policies relevant to the water and

1 sanitation sectors and the declaration and protection of
 2 natural water resources;

- 3 (c) establishing performance monitoring systems for water
 4 and sanitation providers for annual reviews;
- 5 (d) establishing performance monitoring systems for water
 6 and sanitation providers for annual reviews;
- 7 (e) reporting to the Cabinet on water resources in the
 8 Republic, including water and sanitation outlook;
- 9 (f) preparing an integrated strategic plan for the water and
 10 sanitation sectors for annual review;
- 11 (c) conducting water and sanitation sector assessments for
 12 donor reviews;
- 13 (h) facilitating periodic water and sanitation sectors
 14 program alignment;
- 15 (i) establishing and managing a water and sanitation
 16 database;
- 17 (j) developing and implementing public communications
 18 and awareness programs on water and sanitation
 19 issues, including National Water Day activities;
- 20 (k) overseeing licensing and use of groundwater resources.

- 21
- 22 (2) All references to “water use policy” or any variation thereof in
 23 the *Planning and Zoning Act 1987* (10 MIRC Ch. 2) shall be
 24 repealed.

25 **§3. Effective Date**

26 This Act shall take effect in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules
 27 of Procedures for the Nitijela.

1 NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
2 37TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2016

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2016

3 BILL SUMMARY

4 In March of 2014, the Cabinet endorsed the National Water and Sanitation Policy
5 and the 5-year National Water and Sanitation Policy Action Plan. The Policy entails
6 that a National Commission be established to oversee and coordinate integrated
7 water resource management in the Republic. The protection of groundwater and
8 other water resources of the Republic is critically important to providing an essential
9 fresh water supply for the growing population demands of the nation. This is
10 especially true in the face of climate change. The Policy covers the areas of water
11 quality, water quantity, water and sanitation management, drought and extreme
12 weather (climate change) and highlight the need to improve access for the
13 disadvantaged.
14

15 However, rather than creating a National Commission to manage water use and
16 sanitation, it was determined that the *National Environmental Protection Act 1984* be
17 amended to specify with such responsibilities. This Bill adds on the duties of
18 monitoring and implementing the National Water and Sanitation Policy and the 5-
19 year National Water and Sanitation Policy Action Plan to the EPA Authority.
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**NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
37TH CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2016**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2016**

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SIGNATURES

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DATE: *_AUG.25,2016_* **INTRODUCED BY** *_MIN. MATTLAN ZACKHRAS_* **/S/** *_*