TITLE 39 – CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS
CHAPTER 1 - CUSTOMARY LAW AND LANGUAGE COMMISSION

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

CUSTOMARY LAW AND LANGUAGE COMMISSION ACT 2004

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AN ACT to create a single entity to be known as the Customary Law and Language Commission, and to repeal the "Republic of the Marshall Islands Language Commission Act 1983 and the "Customary Law Commission Act 1989".

Commencement:	*May, 2005*
Source:	*P.L. 2005-34*
P.L 2015-52	

§101. Short Title.

This Chapter may be cited as the Customary Law and Language Commission Act, 2004. **[P.L. 2005-34, §1.]**

§102. Establishment of the Commission.

(1) In keeping with the responsibility of the Nitijela, under Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to declare by Act the customary law of the land, and to encourage the preservation, development and use of the Marshallese language, there is hereby established a Customary Law and Language Commission.

(2) The Commission shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the President for a term of two years (2) years. Their term may be extended for any other period as determined by the President.

(3) As far as practicable the persons appointed to the Commission shall be persons with wide experience and knowledge in customary law and traditional practice of the land, and in the Marshallese language.

(4) The members of the Commission may be removed at any time with or without cause.

(5) The Attorney-General and the Legislative Counsel shall act as legal advisors to the Commission and shall assist the Commission in the drafting and codification of the law. **[P.L. 2005-34, §2.]**

§103. Functions and Duties of the Commission vis a viz; its duty to codify the customary law.

(1) The functions of the Commission in relation to its duty to codify the customary law of the Marshall Islands shall include the responsibility:

(a) to examine all necessary books, records and all other documents relating to customary law and traditional practice of the Marshall Islands.

(b) to examine witnesses and all other persons who are familiar or conversant with the customary law or traditional practice of the land: and

(c) to collect all such material that are relevant to the customary law and traditional practice of the land

(2) It shall also be the duty of the Commission to reduce to writing all material collected by it in relation to its functions, and codify the law in order to enable the country to have a unified customary law.

(3) The Commission shall, upon the completion of its task, submit to the President a certified copy of the proposed customary law Code containing the laws codified under this Chapter. **[P.L. 2005-34, §3.]**

§104. Publication of the Customary Law Code.

(1) The President may publish the said Code for the benefit of the public and shall, present it to the Nitijela, as soon as practicable, for due consideration.

(2) The Code shall have no effect in law unless the Nitijela declares it by Act as the Customary Law in the Marshall Islands, in accordance