

Session 2: Mr. Lyndon L. Cornelius, the nominee:

During the second session, which started at 10:00 am, the nominee, Mr. Lyndon Cornelius showed up for the public hearing and respectfully responded to the inquiries of the J&GO committee. When asked of his well-being or health, the nominee responded that his doctors told him that he has no sickness, not even diabetes. When asked to reaffirm his willingness to avoid outside influences, such as friends, board members, and other matters in his regular life, the nominee responded saying that if the nomination is confirmed, he will be sure to avoid all outside influences has done in the past. Plus, "a judge should be lonely when actively serving." When asked about his level of willingness to serve as the Chief Justice, the nominee responded stating that he will serve diligently and faithfully, as accorded in the State Constitution.

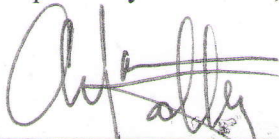
As part of this report, the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations also received an anonymous comment from the public on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:15 pm stating: "I strongly disagree to the nomination of Mr. Lyndon Cornelius!"

After the public hearing, the committee met again and decided to move forward on the resolution by reporting out.

RECOMMENDATION:

With the aforementioned findings, Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (J&GO) hereby recommends the adoption of L.R. 13-30 and further adoption of this standing committee report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Artson S. Talley, Acting Chairman

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Nena C. Ned, Chairman

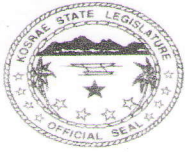
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Moses M. Thomson, Member

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Ramsey S. George, Member

  
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Lyndon H. Jackson, Member

  
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Andy J. Andrew, Member

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Salpasr E. Tilfas, Member



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S.C.R. No. 13-25  
April 11, 2023  
RE: L.R. 13-30

Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations  
(J&GO)

**CHAIRMAN**  
Nena C. Ned

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Artson S. Talley

**MEMBERS**  
Moses M. Thomson  
Ramsey S. George  
Lyndon H. Jackson  
Andy J. Andrew  
Salpasr E. Tilfas

The Honorable Semeon J. Phillip  
Speaker  
13<sup>th</sup> Kosrae State Legislature

Dear Speaker Phillip:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations reports on L.R. 13- 30 entitled:

“Consenting and confirming the nomination of Mr. Lyndon L. Cornelius to serve as the Chief Justice for the Kosrae State Court.”

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Your committee met in an Executive meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 around 10:00 am to deliberate on this nomination. The decided courses of action were to hold public hearings and also solicit recommendations and comments from the general public by radio announcement.

After the meeting, the committee decided to hold public hearings scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, starting at 9:00 am to 10:30 am, with two separate sessions: the first one for T.H. Tulensa W. Palik and the second one for the Nominee, Mr. Lyndon L. Cornelius.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS:

The intent of the subject resolution is clearly stated in its title.

The committee’s actions were triggered by Governor’s Message No. 13-31, which calls for the nomination of Mr. Lyndon L. Cornelius to serve as the Chief Justice for the Kosrae State Court, hence the materialization of this subject resolution.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations held public hearings in two separate sessions, noted as follows:

Session 1: T.H. Tulensa W. Palik, Governor-Kosrae State:

The committee had the presumption that a judge should not partake or be involved in any association or organization (i.e. board of directors), when actively serving as a judge; however, in the case of the nominee, he is a sitting board member of the Kosrae Port Authority--when asked of the Governor why the nominee has not stepped down, the Governor responded saying that the question would be better answered by the nominee himself, however, the nominee has already mentioned to him that he is willing to surrender all other associations, should he be confirmed. Furthermore, when asked of the Governor if the nominee is able to abide, as a judge, by the Kosrae State Constitution--the Governor responded stating that the nominee had served in the same position in the past and that his track records have shown be in accordance with the supreme law.