



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2021

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

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1<sup>st</sup> Day, Second Special Session

Friday, May 28, 2021

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*The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Second Special Session on Friday, May 28, 2021 at 1:37 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

*The Honorable Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House, presided.*

*A moment of silence was observed.*

### ROLL CALL

*The Clerk called the roll and all twenty members were present.*

*The Chair directed the members to item III, Adoption of Journals and recognized the Floor Leader.*

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Journal:*

*Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 19, 2021*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 19, 2021 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills.*

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### *House Bills:*

*The following bills were introduced by the author of each bill and referred to its appropriate committee by the Chair.*

**H. B. NO. 22-58**

To amend 7 CMC §4101 to lower the interest rate of civil money judgments from nine percent (9%) to three percent (3%).

**REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Vicente C. Camacho, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, and Leila H.F.C. Staffler)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-59**

To rename the San Vicente Elementary School to “Moses Tydingco Fejeran Elementary School”.

**REP. ROY C. A. ADA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-60**

To amend 1 CMC §425 by renaming the Youth Center within the “Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park” in San Vicente, Saipan as the “Prudencio Cabrera Youth Center”; and for other purposes.

**REP. ROY C. A. ADA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-61**

To repeal statutes relating to public officials’ financial disclosures and re-enact them as the Public Official Disclosure Act of 2021.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Sheila J. Babauta, Christina M.E. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Ralph N. Yumul)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-62**

To repeal and re-enact 1 CMC §7407(f) to stiffen the penalty for anyone who violates the stated travel restriction; and for other purposes.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Christina M.E. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-63**

To amend 1 CMC §6424 to require all candidates and their respective committees to fully disclose financial contributions and expenses of amounts in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) within fifteen (15) days.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Christina M.E. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-64**

To provide for the issuance of certificates as certified public accountants to regulate the practice of accountancy in the public interest; to establish a Board of Accountancy and prescribe its powers and duties, and for other purposes.

**REP. EDWIN K. PROPST** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-65**

To amend 3 CMC §2822(f) to rename the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan as the Dr. Carlos S. Camacho Commonwealth Health Center.

**REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-66**

To amend 1 CMC §2901 to require newly appointed persons to undergo certification training in regards to the Open Government Act (OGA); and for other purposes.

**REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-67**

To amend 4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; and for other purposes.

**REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-68**

To establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

**REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE)**

**H. B. NO. 22-69**

To repeal Title 1, Division 8, Part 2, Chapter 2, Article 1 (codified as 1 CMC §§ 8221-8223) in order to remove taxpayer-funded housing for key elected officials.

**REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Christina M.E. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)**

**H. B. NO. 22-70**

To reform the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 to promote economic development in the Commonwealth and increase competitiveness of the Commonwealth for private sector investment.

**REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON CANNABIS, COMMERCE AND TOURISM)**

*The Chair directed the members to House Local Bills.*

***House Local Bills:***

*The following bills were introduced by the author of each bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 22-9**

To re-appropriate Two Thousand, One Hundred Forty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Three cents (\$2,145.73) allotted under Saipan Local Law 17-18, specifically under Business Unit 3398P and Three Thousand, Three Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$3,387.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-05, specifically under Business Unit 3752U; and for other purposes.

**REP. ROY C. A. ADA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

**H. L. B. NO. 22-10**

To re-appropriate lapse funds under Section 2(B)(5) of Saipan Local Law 21-5; and for other purposes.

**REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

***House Legislative Initiatives: None***

*The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan.*

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

***House Resolutions:***

*Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced as a Committee of the Whole:*

**H. J. R. NO. 22-6**

To urge Members of the United States Congress to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

**REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai*)

*Several members voiced “no objection.”*

*The Chair placed House Resolution 22-6 on the Resolution Calendar.*

***House Joint Resolutions: None***

***House Commemorative Resolutions: None***

***House Concurrent Resolutions: None***

*The Chair directed the members to item VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.*

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

*The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:*

GOV. COMM. 22-30: (4/26/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. James A. Houston, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-31: (4/27/2021) Submitting revision worksheets allocations under the (American Rescue Plan) for FY 2022 for the following Business Units (BUs) BUs 1722A; 1764A; 1770; 1979; 1950 and 1440. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-32: (4/27/2021 received 4/28/2021) **Executive Order 2021-09** – Declaration of Executive reorganization by transferring the Agricultural Quarantine Section of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to the Division of Custom Services of the Department of Finance; and directing the establishment of an Office of Information Technology within the Department of Finance. [*Deadline 6/27/2021*]  
**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATION/NATURAL RESOURCES)**

GOV. COMM. 22-33: (5/11/2021) **Executive Order 2021-10** – *RENEWAL*–Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and *RENEWAL*–Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.

GOV. COMM. 22-34: (5/13/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-5, D1 (*To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law 18-30, as amended; and for other purposes.*). Became **Tinian Local Law 22-1** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-35: (5/13/2021) In accordance with 29 U.S.C. §3111, “*Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*”, “*The Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce development board to carry out the functions to develop a statewide workforce development plan—primary objective of supporting a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system in the Commonwealth. [For info-note A member of each Chamber of the Legislature shall be appointed by the presiding officer to serve a two-year term]*”

GOV. COMM. 22-36: (5/18/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Mrs. Marianne Concepcion-Tregay, Infrastructure and Recovery Coordinator for the Infrastructure/Recovery Program created under Directive 2021-05, at the Office of the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$75,000. [For info]

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Sheila J. Babauta.*

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d just like to bring everyone’s attention to Governor’s Communication 22-32, Executive Order 2021-09 and that is reorganizing the executive branch by transferring the agricultural quarantine section of DLNR to the Division of Custom Services of the Department of Finance and directing the establishment of an office of Information Technology within the Department of Finance. Now, the establishment of the office of Information Technology I think is a smart move especially in this day and age, however, I am concerned about the transferring of the Agricultural quarantine section of DLNR to the Division of Custom Services only because I’ve heard concerns from the actual staff and they have compared this type of move on some of the other pacific governments like Guam and other places. So Mr. Speaker, if I can ask that this Executive Order be referred to committee so that we can just address this reorganization receive feedback from the agencies that it will impact and really go from there maybe even offering some amendments to this executive order.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Rep. Sheila Babauta. Governor’s communication 22-32 will be referred to the Committees on JGO and NR. Any further discussion? Recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Mr. Speaker. Just a question on Governor’s Communication 22-35, I see that’s only addressed to the Senate President was there a similar communication to you to appoint a member from the House to the State Workforce Development Board?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the record I am a member for the State Board. So we haven’t met because of COVID, but we have constant communication via chat.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Okay. So, it’s a two-year term is your term up this year or have you been – I’m just curious – have you been reappointed for 22<sup>nd</sup> term?

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: No, I believe then Speaker Attao appointed me sometime January, so it might be this coming January.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Okay. So clarified. Thank you. I yield.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Did you need anything?

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: We can talk after the session. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Thank you, Floor Leader. Any further discussion? Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Governor's Communication 22-33 Executive Orders 2021-10 does renew the Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and the continued Declaration of State of significant emergency and that is something that we do need at this time. However, I would like to clarify with Legal Counsel and maybe even the Clerk if we have received an executive order renewing the unlimited reprogramming authority for the Secretary of Finance.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I would like to call for a quick recess.

*The House recessed at 1:53 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 1:55 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Alright members. We'll rise back to session. Rep. Sheila, you have the floor.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to refer to Legal Counsel to clarify and state for the record if the unlimited reprogramming authority granted by a past executive order has expired and that executive order granted the Secretary of Finance unlimited reprogramming authority across our government to include the legislative and the judicial branch. Legal Counsel, can you please clarify if that authority has expired?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Counsel.

Legal Counsel Joseph Tajeron: Mr. Speaker, the communication that Representative Babauta is referring to apparently was Governor's Communication 22-29, which we received on April 20, 2021 that was Executive Order 2021-08 renewing the authority of the Secretary of Finance and that by its own terms expired 30-days after its issuance approximately May 20, 2021.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Legal Counsel. I also just wanted to state for the record that in the current budget law for this fiscal year the Governor still has unlimited reprogramming authority within the executive branch and may not over reach into the legislative and judicial branch. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Any further discussion? Okay. At the request of the Chairperson Governor's Communication 22-36 will be

referred to the Committee on FFA and Ways and Means. Thank you, members. We now move down to Senate Communications and I recognize the Clerk.

## **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk informed the members of the Senate Communications.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-14 to 22-21 so they may become property of the House.*

SEN. COMM. 22-14: (5/18/2021) Returning H. B. No. 22-19, HD1, entitled, “*To repeal Title 4 Section 1709 of the Commonwealth Code in order to provide relief for working families by making them eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on May 18, 2021. [*For info-transmitted to Governor on May 20, 2021*]

SEN. COMM. 22-15: (5/18/2021) Returning H. B. No. 22-21, HD1, entitled, “*To strengthen the tools and powers of the CNMI Government to promote and expand economic development and to establish the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on May 18, 2021. [*For info-transmitted to Governor on May 20, 2021*]

SEN. COMM. 22-16: (5/18/2021) Returning H. J. R. 22-2, HD1, entitled, “*Strongly supports a delay in the proposed coral critical habitat designation process by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) until such time as the 5-year coral status review and coral recovery plan can be completed, and have the Department of Lands and Natural Resources work in coordination with NMFS in identifying appropriate coral critical habitat for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) using Best Scientific Information Available.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on May 18, 2021. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-17: (5/18/2021) Returning H. J. R. 22-4, entitled, “*To authorize the establishment of an additional sixteen (16) positions as needed by the CMA and partially funded by the CMS program for Compliance and Medicaid Enterprise Systems (MES); and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate *with amendments* in the form of **H. J. R. 22-4, SDI** on May 18, 2021. [*For action on Senate amendments*]

SEN. COMM. 22-18: (5/18/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-10, SD1, entitled, “*To amend 1 CMC § 2804(c) to authorize the payment of the travel expense, airfare, car rental if a department car is not provided, and per diem, in advance of a scheduled meeting for the Department of Public Lands Advisory Board members.*”, which was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2021. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 22-19: (5/18/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-24, SD1, entitled, “*To establish guidelines for the CNMI’s membership in the Pacific Islands Development Bank; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2021. [*For action*]



SEN. COMM. 22-20: (5/18/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-34, SD1, entitled, “*To amend 3 CMC § 2212 to require that Medical Assistants be licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise regulated by the Health Care Professions Licensing Board.*”, which was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-21: (5/18/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-50, entitled, “*To clarify the NMTI Trustee Nominating Committee provisions by repealing and reenacting 3 CMC § 12114(a); and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on May 18, 2021. [**For action**]

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-14 to 22-21 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair referred the following Senate Communications accordingly:*

- *Senate Communication 22-17 (H.J.R. 22-4) placed on the Resolution Calendar*
- *Senate Communication 22-18 (S.B. 22-10, SD1) referred to the Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations & Natural Resources*
- *Senate Communication 22-19 (S.B. 22-24, SD1) referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism*
- *Senate Communication 22-20 (S.B. 22-34, SD1) referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare*
- *Senate Communication 22-21 (S.B. 22-50) referred to the Committee on Education*

*The Chair directed the members to item VIII, House Communications and recognized the Clerk.*

## **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following House Communications:*

HSE. COMM. 22-17: (4/23/2021) From the House Standing Committee on Health & Welfare to the NMI Delegate re: *Supports funding of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation’s (CHCC) proposed infrastructure projects submitted for consideration by Congress.* [**For info**]

HSE. COMM. 22-18: (4/30/2021) From Representative Celina R. Babauta informing the Speaker that she will be off-island beginning Wednesday, May 12, 2021 to Monday, May 24, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during her absence.[**For info**]

*There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item X, Communications from Departments & Agencies and recognized the Clerk.*

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

*The Clerk announced the following Communications from Department & Agencies:*

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-16: (4/21/2021) From the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) submitting *CUC's FY 2021—Second Quarter Expenditure Report*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-17: (ELECTRONIC MAIL) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *Tourism Industry Update as of April 30, 2021*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-18: (5/10/2021) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *FY 2021—Second Quarter Report*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-19: (5/14/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) submitting *FY 2021—Second Quarter Financial Report*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-20: (5/17/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Public Works (DPW) submitting *Amendment 3 to the 4-Year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for the periods of FY 2020 to 2023 for review and comments [comments should be submitted no later than June 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.]*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-21: (ELECTRONIC MAIL) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *Tourism Industry Update as of May 22, 2021*. [For info]

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero.*

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to Department Communication 22-20. Mr. Speaker, I highly respectfully request that this communication be placed under PUTC, because this is a really disturbing concern that we see that we need to address because it is not fair that we continue to allow this thing to transpire absence of a public hearing and I appreciate that the committee Chair by respectfully Richard Lizama address these concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leepan. Noted. Any further discussions? Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you Rep. Leepan for bringing this to our attention. I, too, support that this communication be sent to the PUTC committee and if Chairman does host a public hearing and invite Secretary James Ada with his team then we can better understand this amendment to the 4 year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan that really does impact all of our precincts and so that is something I do support Mr. Speaker and I hope that it does get sent to PUTC. Thank you.

*There was no further discussion; the Chair referred the following Communications from Department & Agencies accordingly:*

- *Dept./Agcy. Communication 22-16 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Dept./Agcy. Communication 22-18 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Dept./Agcy. Communication 22-19 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Dept./Agcy. Communication 22-20 referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications*

*The Chair directed the members to item XI, Miscellaneous Communications and recognized the Clerk.*

## **MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:*

MISC. COMM. 22-23: (4/20/2021) From the Presiding Officers of the 22nd Legislature re: *Mr. Perry P. Tenorio's appointment to the Office of Director, Legislative Bureau.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-24: (4/23/2021) From the LB Director requesting supplemental budget request. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-25: (4/26/2021) From the CNMI Scholarship Office re: *submission of FY 2022 Annual Report.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-26: (4/29/2021) Invitation to the inaugural ceremony of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the Senate Chamber. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-27: (4/30/2021) From the LB Director re: *Utilities consumption and request conservation of energy and water of the Legislature building.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-28: (5/3/2021) From the Presiding Officers of the 22nd Legislature to the Governor re: *Revised legislative branch budget for FY 2022.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-29: (5/3/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of 16SCM-02, entitled, *"To commemorate and recognize the 500th anniversary since the accidental arrival of Ferdinand Magellan on March 6, 1521, the arrival of the Spanish Navy ship Juan Sabastian de Elcano, on February 26, 2021, in the Marianas, and the impact since on the Chamorro, the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands."*, which was adopted by the 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-30: (5/14/2021) ) From the Presiding Officers of the 22nd Legislature to the Governor re: *Additional Funding for Fiscal Year 2021.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-31: (5/11/2021) A memorandum from Docomo Pacific, Inc. re: *Overview of Docomo Pacific, Inc's. efforts to work with CNMI Government to adopt policies as applied to local telecommunications infrastructure.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-32: (5/19/2021) From the Twenty-Second Rota Legislative Delegation informing the House that the 22nd RLD is duly organized and ready to transact business. [For info]

*MISC. COMM. 22-33: (5/19/2021) Mayor Vicente C. Santos, Jr. informing Departments and Agency Heads that Mrs. Lorna Ilap O. Iginof shall serve as delegation of Officer-In-Charge for the Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands, upon his return. [For info]*

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero.*

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Respectively to Miscellaneous Communications 22-31 again Mr. Speaker in due respect to the other fiber optic provider to the CNMI I think that this communication should be referred to PUTC because as the memorandum that was submitted to my office, they're only asking for fair play and this is added revenue. We're talking about the economy that's really down to the point that we're not seeing new revenue coming in absence of our only industry in tourism. This is very important that PUTC should look into because the other fiber optic provider, which is IT&E has been given so much privilege other than this DOCOMO that just is in the infant state Mr. Speaker. I think PUTC should conduct a public hearing or bring in the respective companies to address these concerns because they're only asking for fair play. You can't charge someone with unrealistic number and the other one is growing making more money than the other and not paying its due share. So in respect to that Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend that this Miscellaneous Communication 22-31 be referred to PUTC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leepan Guerrero. Further discussions under Miscellaneous Communications? Recognize Representative Ivan Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is just a statement on Misc. Comm. 22-28. I just wanted to support for your letter and the President of the Senate's letter to the executive branch that we comply with what the Constitution states. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Blanco. Any further discussions? Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is regarding Miscellaneous Communication 22-29 it is the certified copy of the Counsel Commemorative Resolution recognizing the 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary since the accidental arrival of Ferdinand Magellan on March 6, 1521 the arrival of the Spanish Navy ship Juan Sebastián de Elcano on February 26 in the Marianas and the impact this has had on the Chamorro, the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands. Mr. Speaker and members this resolution does call for some appropriation of funding to conduct a comprehensive study on the indigenous people and how colonialism has impacted our indigenous people. And I just want to state for the record that I support that the study also include our brothers and sisters of Carolinian decent. I just wanted to bring this to the attention of the Ways and Means Committee members as well as we continue with our budget hearings because this comprehensive study according to this resolution will be under the working group of the Northern Marianas College and the Indigenous Affairs Office. So, please keep this in mind as we continue to conduct our budget hearings because I believe that this comprehensive study will really shed light on the current situation of our indigenous population and the needs that we really need to address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*There was no further discussion; the Chair referred the following Miscellaneous Communications accordingly:*

- *Misc. Communication 22-24 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Misc. Communication 22-25 referred to the Committee on Education*
- *Misc. Communication 22-28 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Misc. Communication 22-31 referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications*

*The Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Clerk.*

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

*The Clerk announced the committee reports ready for House action.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-5:** Reporting on H. B. No. 22-2 entitled: “To amend the Commonwealth Code to authorize civil claims for child sexual abuse to be commenced at any time; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-2 in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-5 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-6:** Reporting on H. B. No. 22-5 entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §20175 to include additional members to serve on the Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC); and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 22-5, HDI.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-6 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-7:** Reporting on H. B. No. 22-28 entitled: “To rename the structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the CNMI”; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on*

*Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 22-28, HD1.***

*The motion was seconded.*

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Joel C. Camacho.*

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Speaker of JGO as well as you, Mr. Speaker, the author of this legislation. Ms. Lydia Igitol resides in our precinct and we've known her and her wonderful family for many years. One of her daughters is also my son's teacher who he just graduated this morning, Bell Igitol. So, I just want to thank you for honoring her and her family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-7 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-8:** Reporting on S. B. No. 22-29 entitled: "To authorize government agencies, boards, and commissions to promulgate regulations to utilize electronic means to participate in official meetings." *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **S. B. No. 22-29, HD1.***

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-8 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-9:** Reporting on H. B. No. 22-26 entitled: "To amend 3 CMC §2204(e) to remove the limitation of terms for members to serve on the Health Care Professions Licensing Board; and for other purposes." *Your House Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 22-26, HD1.***

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-9 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-10:** Reporting on H. B. No. 22-57 entitled: “To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens or residents of the CNMI whose employment was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 22-57, HDI.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:*

**S. C. R. NO. 22-11:** Reporting on H. B. No. 22-48 entitled: “To amend Public Law 21-35, “To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2021”; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 22-48, HDI.*

*The motion was seconded.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-11 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair directed the members to item XV, Resolution Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.*

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:*

### **H. RES. NO. 22-8**

To encourage Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and CNMI Delegate Gregorio “Kilili” Camacho Sablan to submit to the President of the United States their recommendation for the re-nomination of the Honorable Ramona Villagomez Manglona to serve another term as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and to recognize her for her distinguished career.

*The motion was seconded.*

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan.*

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, there is a substitute resolution that our Chairman for FFA will be introducing.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Christina Sablan. Representative Vicente Camacho is this true? I recognize Representative Vicente Camacho.

Representative Vicente C. Camacho: A House Resolution 22-08 is hereby substituted with House Resolution 22-08, House Substitution 1 that we should be honored as a people to have one of our own sitting on a federal court bench. She was appointed by the President of the United States. She has done us proud as the people, as the Commonwealth and the United States Federal Courts. She is the serving of this recognition, let us support this recognition. Thank you.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Camacho. So offered. Can we take a quick recess? Real quick.

*The House recessed at 2:18 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 2:19 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Members we'll rise back to session. Before we went on a quick recess, Representative Vicente Camacho did offer a substitute to House Resolution 22-8 and it has been seconded. Any discussion? Recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And for the record, if we can ask the mover Representative Vicente Camacho to explain to the body, what are the changes in this substitute, versus the original version that was offered sessions ago? Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative John Paul. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And before you recognize Rep. Sablan, I'm just curious because it is a substitute and we haven't heard main author, was he, was he okay with the bill because this is not normal where we substitute a whole entire resolution. Usually, it's the author that actually does it for us. So, can we get some clarification on that?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Floor Leader. Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And you know, when we calendared this resolution in the last session, we left it on calendar and the understanding that we



were going to update the language because at that time, at the time of introduction, there was discovery that the delegate had already submitted his letter. And so that was the understanding that we would update this resolution to reflect that. Today, a few minutes before the session, I learned that there was a substitute bill or a substitute resolution, and that's before us now. So, I did have a few minutes with a Rep. Tina Sablan to go over it. And basically, the substance is there and the language is updated to reflect that there is a recommendation submitted and now the resolution language under the substance looks and appears to be now a resolution in support of the nomination of Chief Judge Manglona and no longer to encourage the Governor and the Delegate to submit their recommendation. Update from the Governor's office this morning is that I've been informed by his legal counsel that the Governor's letter is now pending his signature and then will be transmitted. So, since that hasn't happened, we haven't put that language in this resolution. But yes, to the Floor Leader's comment, I also acknowledge that concern and I am just inclined to support this substitute bill, because I think it's important that we support the nomination of Chief Judge Manglona, but also hope that in the future that we do things in a little bit more cordial way. Thank you very much.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Rep. John Paul Sablan are you okay with Tina explaining or would you –

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: I think I'm good already. I'm hearing it from the main author, I think, you know, we should work with whoever's our authoring resolution. Moving forward. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I agree. Thank you. Members, are we good? Okay. Recognized Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Representative, Demapan mentioned, we did discuss the need to update this resolution at our last session. You know, to reflect that, that the recommendation had already been, been submitted for Chief Judge Ramona Manglona's renomination. So, we reached out to Congressmen Kilili we confirmed that the recommendation had been submitted. We also obtained her most current resume and some of the changes in addition to the changes that Representative Demapan mentioned that the other changes include more information from her record based on her most recent resume, including some of her professional and civic associations and her accomplishments in the last 10 years serving as our chief judge. So, those are just the updates. There was no intention to be uncordial, but you know, this has been on our calendar for some time and I was also pressed for time on other matters, but my understanding was that this would have been referred to the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee, but we agreed to keep it on the calendar. And so, out of also some respect for our Chairman of Federal and Foreign Affairs you know, we thought that it would be appropriate coming from him since this is also coming from the committee of the whole and was intended from the very beginning to come from all the members. So that was why, but thank you for allowing me the opportunity to clarify some of these changes and I'm ready to vote. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Any further discussion?

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Vicente C. Camacho was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I apologize for that members. Can we take a quick recess?

*The House recessed at 2:25 p.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 2:26 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: All right, members we’ll rise back to session. I apologize for that. Now, when we left off the floor, we adopted the house substitute, offered by Representative Vicente Camacho, which brings us back to the main motion and that is to adopt House Resolution 22-8, House Substitute 1.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: It has been seconded. Any discussion?

*Several members voiced “ready.”*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-8, House Substitute 1 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: House Resolution 22-8, House Substitute 1 is hereby adopted. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Joint Resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 22-8, HS1**

A House Resolution to encourage Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and CNMI Delegate Gregorio “Kilili” Camacho Sablan to submit to the President of the United States their recommendation for the renomination of the Honorable Ramona Villagomez Manglona to serve another term as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and to recognize her for her distinguished career.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. A motion has been made to adopt House Joint Resolution 22-4, Senate Draft 1 and has been seconded. Any discussion on the floor? Recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to thank our colleagues here in the House and in the Senate for supporting these needs of the CNMI Medicaid Agency as well as our NMTI and I did reach out to Medicaid just to make sure and confer with them that the amendments that were made in the Senate were acceptable and they are. So, I would like to clarify, once we accept these amendments, then are the FTEs considered approved.

Okay. Thank you. And so no further action is needed at that point. Okay. Thank you. I yield and I'm ready to vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Any further discussion. ready? I recognize to the Clerk to please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 22-4, Senate Draft 1 with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 22-4, Senate Draft 1 is hereby adopted. Thank you, members. We now move down to item XVI, Bill Calendar. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

### **BILL CALENDAR**

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now offer a motion to pass House Bill 22-2, “A Bill for an Act to amend the Commonwealth Code to authorize –

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Mr. Speaker, privilege before the Floor Leader makes the motion under Bill Calendar.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize your privilege.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: We still have a House Joint Resolution 22-6. To act on 22-6 that's regarding the statehood for Washington DC.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. And yes, I overlooked that. I apologize for that Floor Leader. Can we take a real quick recess?

*The House recessed at 2:31 p.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 2:31 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Rise back to session. I apologize for that members. I would like to move back to a resolution calendar item XV to address a House Joint Resolution 22-6. And I now recognize the Floor Leader.

**RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:*

**H. J. R. NO. 22-6**

To urge Members of the United States Congress to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan.*

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just for some background and for the benefit of member's information, legislation has been passed by the US House of Representatives twice now to grant statehood to Washington DC as recently as last month. And before that last summer, and it's been introduced many times before that by the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton. Washington DC's own non-voting delegate to US Congress. This legislation is now pending in the US Senate. It's supported by the Biden administration. Our Congressman Kilili Sablan is an original co-sponsor of the house bill and more than a dozen state legislatures have so far adopted resolutions in support of statehood for the people of Washington DC. Statehood advocates are seeking support from territorial legislators, which makes sense. We in the territories have a few things in common with the people of DC. We are also us citizens. We are members of the American political family, and though we send our children into the armed forces at high rates per capita, we too lack voting representation in US Congress. So, this resolution colleagues is an expression of solidarity with the people of Washington DC and our support for their right of self-government and control over their own local affairs, as well as full voting representation in Congress. And it's also, as we see it, an expression of hope for all the people of the territories that more expanded political representation in Congress may be on the horizon for us too. And, if there are any questions about this resolution, I'd be happy to answer them, but I do ask for your support. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Christina Sablan. Any further discovery discussion? Ready? All right. A motion has been made by the Floor Leader to adopt House Joint Resolution 22-6. With no further discussion, I recognize the Clerk for the roll call.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 22-6 with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes

Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 22-6 is hereby adopted. Now we move down to Bill Calenda and I recognize the Floor Leader.

## BILL CALENDAR

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

### **H. B. No. 22-2**

To amend the Commonwealth Code to authorize civil claims for child sexual abuse to be commenced at any time; and for other purposes.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. A motion has been made by the Floor Leader to pass House Bill 22-2 and has been seconded. Any discussion on the floor?

*Several members voiced “ready.”*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-2 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes

Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-2 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

H. B. No. 22-5, HD1

To amend 1 CMC §20175 to include additional members to serve on the Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC); and for other purposes.

*The motion was seconded.*

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Privilege Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: State your privilege.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Just to clarify this is HD1.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: I apologize, HD1.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. Thank you, Representative Sablan. A motion has been made A motion has been made to pass House Bill 22-5, HD1 and has been seconded. Any discussion on the floor? Ready? Okay, Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-5, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes

Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-5, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

**H. B. No. 22-28, HD1**

To rename the structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the CNMI”; and for other purposes.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Floor Leader. A motion has been made to pass House Bill 22-28, HD1 and has been seconded. And your discussion on the floor? Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just for the members of the viewing public's information, I would just like to provide some background and some information about this house bill that was introduced by you, Mr. Speaker in March. So, thank you very much for introducing this bill and thank you to the JGO committee and the LB staff for working on the standing committee report. The center for living independently within the CNMI is a federally funded agency whose mission is to ensure rights of people with disabilities live independently and fully integrate within the community. It originally opened as a satellite office from Hawaii, but then moved in to becoming an independent agency here in the CNMI. To carry on their mission and provide opportunities for people with special needs and advocacy for them. And so, Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol was the first Executive Director of CLI CNMI after retiring from the Public School System. So even after serving and retiring, she still wanted to serve our community. She especially was a great advocate for our people with special needs, and she continued to commit herself to public service. She served as the director since 2005 through 2017, where she had to resign due to health issues. She passed away peacefully in her home last year, last July, 2020. And so, as a token of our gratitude of her hard work and dedication. It would be appropriate to rename the center as the Lydia D. Igitol Center for living independently within the CNMI to really pay tribute for all of her contributions as an advocate for our people with special needs in our community. So thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members for your support with this bill. I'm ready to vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Representative Sheila Babauta. Any further discussions before we move forward. All right, Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-28, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
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Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-28, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

**S. B. No. 22-29, HD1**

To authorize government agencies, boards, and commissions to promulgate regulations to utilize electronic means to participate in official meetings.

*The motion was seconded.*

*Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta.*

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the viewing public information to provide some background and information on Senate Bill 22-29, HD1. Again thank you to the committee on JGO, the members and our LB staff for working on this. This bill was introduced by Senator Vinnie Sablan on February 23rd. And this really is to allow electronic means to participate in meetings for boards, agencies, commissions, and so forth, as long as the board members present in the CNMI. And so, I just want to thank the author and thank the members of the committee for acting on this bill so that we can continue with meeting and really doing it at a low cost using technology. And so I'm very happy that we are responding to the needs of our community and the pandemic and acting on this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Any further discussions. Ready? Okay, Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-29, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*



Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” Senate Bill 22-29, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

**H. B. No. 22-26, HD1**

To amend 3 CMC §2204(e) to remove the limitation of terms for members to serve on the Health Care Professions Licensing Board; and for other purposes.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Floor Leader. A motion has been made to pass House Bill 22-26, HD and has been seconded. Any discussion on the Floor? Ready. Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-26, HD1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-26, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

**H. B. No. 22-57, HD1**

To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens or residents of the CNMI whose employment was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. A motion has been made to pass House Bill 22-57, HD1 and has been seconded. Any discussion on the floor? Ready? Okay, Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-57, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes” House Bill 22-57, House Draft 1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:*

**H. B. No. 22-48, HD1**

“To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2021”; and for other purposes.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. A motion has been made to pass House Bill 22-48, HD1 and has been seconded. Any discussion on the floor? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-48, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-48, HD1 hereby passes the House. Thank you, members. We now move down to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business, the floor is open. Recognize, Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, before we move to the next order of business, miscellaneous business, if it's not too much to ask, Mr. Speaker, with the pending bills in your perspective, standing committee, if we can get an update. I know our rules gives 60 days and I know that some of the committee are overwhelmed, but at least an update is all I'm asking with our pending bills that have been introduced since February and we're now past the 60 days, an update from the Chairpersons of your standing committee. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, members. I'll call for a quick recess right now.

*The House recessed at 2:50 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 2:54 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: All right members, we rise back to session and we'll proceed forward to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. Floor is open. Recognize Representative Joel Camacho.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduates for the year 2021 school year, 2021. And, I want to express that you all make us extremely proud and we look forward to your future endeavors and if you need anything, some advice, moral support, feel free to reach out my office or any other representatives office. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Rep. Joel. And congratulations to your son as well. Recognize Representative Leepan Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with due respect, Mr. Speaker, I know that you moved to item XVII, but if we can go back to item XVI. Mr. Speaker, with due respect to the Chairman for Gaming if there's no objection, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Floor Leader to pull out from the Gaming Committee, the House Bill 22-47, which is the electronic gaming. Mr. Speaker. This is revenue generating and with the industry shutting down the casino industry shutting down, this is another form, reading up on the Asian market that electronic gaming is the key right now because of the pandemic. I think this is something that we need to pass. This is a product that was introduced in the last legislature, passed both houses, but when he came back with all the amendments from the Senate, the House killed it. I think this is another form that we should pass because there's a lot of investors willing to open e-gaming, electronic gaming, but absence of a piece of legislation, no investors would want to invest here in the CNMI. And this is something that we should look thoroughly. This piece of legislation is a product of the Senate. And I asked this body to consider putting this on calendar so we can act on it.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Objection.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I recognize the Chairperson Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you. Thank you, Representative Leepan. I understand you want to pull this bill and I'm sure you have reasons for this. I know you believe in this bill, you're the author of the bill. I do want to ask you if you'd like, if you would like to meet after this session to discuss this bill and other concerns that we have with regard to this bill. I will say this, that the gaming committee is proceeding very cautiously in the wake of a 93-page FinCEN report and all the allegations that we have received, all the problems that we have right now with this casino, who is one of the pushers for this. I am concerned. So, if you'd like, I would like to discuss this diplomatically upon your time. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Representative Leepan.

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, we just heard Representative John Paul that, you know, some of these bills have been sitting in committee. I do understand that and shared by the Senate, same sentiment as Rep. Tina Sablan that we're all invited, but again, I'm not alluding to the casino industry. I'm alluding from an investor beside the casino industry. That's what I'm alluding from. This casino industry that we have, it's a done deal, but these are other investors not pertaining to the casino industry that are wanting to establish this e-gaming here in the CNMI. They've come in and wanting to see what they can to have this electronic gaming. I'm not aware of this illusion that it is from the IPI. This bill is not by IPI this is a product of the author itself.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Privilege Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize your privilege.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: With all due respect to Congressman Leepan, I do think that this debate is out of order. And for the record this is not an e-gaming bill that he's asking to pull onto the floor, this is internet gaming, which is very controversial, which has been expressly requested by IPI and their communications to this body and which is now the subject of an oversight in the gaming committee. And so, with all due respect colleagues, I don't think this debate is appropriate at this time, I would invite – as the Vice Chair of the Gaming Committee I would also invite Congressman Leepan to meet with the Gaming Committee, with the Chairman. You know, let's sit down and have this conversation, but I do think that there are serious concerns that are raised by this internet gaming bill that were concerns in the last legislature. And those issues have not gone away and they are the subject of an investigation right now. So, I yield at this time, but I would respectfully ask that we have this conversation in the appropriate venue, which is not here, not now, but in the Gaming Committee, which is scheduled to have its meeting very shortly.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Rep. Sablan. I'm going to call for a quick recess.

*The House recessed at 3:01 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 3:07 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: All right members we'll rise back to session. Before we went on recess, we were in miscellaneous and I would like that we stick to this item on the agenda. So, the floor is open. Recognize Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker. I also want to echo the congratulations to all the graduates today MHS and many more to come. I also want to bring to the public's attention, I'm sure that they've heard about it, but just to make sure that it continues to be repeated out there. The CNMI Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer for students who attended public schools last school year are still collecting their applications to receive this really

added benefit to support families whose children attended public schools to support putting more food on their tables. And so, the deadline to register is June 11<sup>th</sup> and so we just encourage the public to make sure they go and get their application in to the Food and Nutrition over at Capitol Hill PSS. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leila Staffler. Recognize Representative Denita Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Thank you, Speaker. I, too, would like to congratulate the graduates, especially of Marianas High School, because they are in P3 and for the members of the Youth Congress. Mr. Castro, told me that there's a Senator from off-island who is into tourism. So, are we going to invite them one of these days to join us or so they can see how we debate. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. Anybody else recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to submit under miscellaneous and just read into the record a brief letter to you and then submit it for the record. “Dear Mr. Speaker, I am submitting here with the report on the public expenditures of Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres violations of law, areas of abuse and recommendations for oversight and reform, which was prepared by the members of the House Minority in the 21st Northern Mariana's Commonwealth Legislature and submitted on January 6, 2021. I respectfully request the inclusion of this report as an official communication and the records of the 22nd House of Representatives and your expeditious referral to the standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for further review and investigation.” And this is copied to the Chair of the JGO, Representative Celina Babauta and the minority report of the 21st Legislature is attached.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. I will take that under advisement. Floor is still open, recognized Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I wanted to of course extend our congratulations to all graduates. I was hoping we could end on a very positive note, but I'll start with a positive note instead, but yes, congratulations and wish them all the best in their endeavors. We're excited for the opportunities ahead for them. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I just wanted to mention on a, switching gears, on a sad note. Last night, I had a phone call from a former IPI employee who's was leaving. His name is Derek Lim, he's one of a few Malaysians that are leaving. These are employees from IPI and several of them are going home either without any payment or with a fraction of what they were owed. It is very sad to see that this is how they are leaving and not being paid in full what they're owed. And it's heartbreaking. We are also look at the three-fourths guarantee that they were promised that apparently is not enforceable either by federal local labor. And it's heartbreaking to think that again, their struggles, everything that they went through while they were here, dipping into their own personal savings and hoping to get some kind of payment, but, you know, some of them have asked, had asked before if they got attorneys, you know, if they got an attorney, could, you know, would these things happen? And I explained to them, yes, but it, it will cost you. It will cost you. Well, we have seen the recent judgment awards through federal district Chief Judge

Ramona Manglona over \$5 million for seven plaintiffs and we've read the horrible stories that they've gone through. I'm not saying that these employees went through the same but they just weren't paid. And I just hope and pray that these types of workers cannot be forgotten that although they're leaving home, I plan on advocating for them. I told them to continue to reach out to our committee, to reach out to our leaders so that we continue to fight for them to make sure that they're paid. So, I just wanted to point that out and, on another note, last but not least is, for the last week we have been helping some people who are really hurting right now and these are applicants who applied for PUA and have waited several months for a word or something from it. We have consent forms and our staff has met with them and talk with them. Some of them have called me. I've met with some of them personally. Some of them have even come to my house. The hard part is that every single one of them, just about every single one of them said the same thing. They are told to be patient, to wait, "don't call us, we'll call you." "You'll hear from us, we're very busy" all kinds of reasons, but you all know what they're going through because I know you all hear it too. We collected in about six days 204 applicants through our consent forms, it was over 200. We went over to the PUA office and we wanted to go through the process and try to get updates for these applicants. It ended up, we had to submit all of the files and hopefully we'll be hearing about each one. Are the documents complete? Have they been adjudicated? Things like this and some are, we'll say from PUA that, "why are you bothering us? Why are you making it harder for us?" We are not, we're simply trying to advocate for our constituents so that they may get an answer. If there is a document that's missing that they need to know that so they can submit it so that it can be completed. The third installment of PUA is coming out and we have some who have, who are still claiming for from the first one. These are very difficult times for our constituents and I really hope that as a body, Mr. Speaker, we can have an audience again with the labor secretary and just ask what is the status. How can we get these applicants so that they can get an answer because they're just not getting it. And I don't think it should be us that has to go through all this, but if not us, then who that is the question. Thank you for your time Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I wish you all well, thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Representative Propst. Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for referring the Executive Order 2021 The restructuring of the government and moving the Division of Quarantine to the Division of Customs. I am already in communication with the agencies that may be affected. So, we will be calling a joint committee hearing or just a public hearing or a meeting with these agencies on the week of June 7th. Also, I am aware of all the increase activities happening in the Northern Islands. And so, I just wanted to inform the public and the Committee on Natural Resources that I am looking to gather quotes already, and I'm chartering a trip to the Northern islands and this will be to – the purpose of the trip really will be to review the activities, I do have the support of the Northern Islands Mayor and the Governor as well. So, we are encouraged to really visit our Northern Islands and see what's happening up there for ourselves. I just want to let the committee know so that you can begin preparing and we are looking at the last week or the last week, the week of June 14 or the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> to make a three-to-four-day trip. Right now, it's just to Pagan but, just with costs in mind, we may be able to visit Alamagan and Agrigan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Recognize Representative Richard Lizama.

Representative Richard T. Lizama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just like everybody was saying congratulations to the new graduates 2021. I want to remind everybody that it's a Memorial Day weekend. So, I hope you enjoy your Memorial Day weekend and I asked that at 11 hour take a moment of silence. That's Monday. So, it's Monday the Memorial Day, I just want to remind you as a veteran 22 years, I ask that you honor those not forgotten. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Lizama. We will never forget. I recognized Representative Celina Babauta.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate your prompt and expeditious referral of the documents that have been introduced by Representative Tina Sablan with respect to the investigation into the Governor. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I continue to receive information on a weekly, if not daily basis that government documents and properties are continuously being destroyed in an attempt perhaps to hide things or conceal evidence. So, your most expeditious referral of documents that have just been introduced would be most appreciated. It would be the most sensible action this body can take. And it is the duty of the JGO Committee to have legislative oversight and to partake in a democratic review of actions that our government, including elected officials may take in the course of their duties. It is my purpose to determine whether the Governor's actions, warrant impeachment by the House and removal by the Senate. Those judgements are constitutionally reserved for and entrusted to the legislative branch violations of statutes, embezzlement, unjust, enrichment, and obstruction of justice by any citizen. And by whatever title they or office, they hold are profoundly serious matters. Article two, section eight of the constitution grants, the legislature that they may impeach those executives and judicial officers of the Commonwealth under the constitution and the House of Representatives may initiate impeachment proceedings as such I would most appreciate, I would appreciate your most expeditious referrals of the documents that have been introduced. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. The floor still open. Ready? Alright. Item XVIII, Announcements. Ready? All right. I recognize the Floor Leader for Adjournment.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now offer a motion to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair.

*The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*The House adjourned at 3:20 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Venetia S. Rosario  
House Journal Clerk

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### APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

**FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. NO. 22-8: To impose a local license fee on all non-poker electronic gaming devices within the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021.

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

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*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on April 23, 2021:*

H. B. NO. 22-48: To amend Public Law 21-35, “To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2021”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 22-49: To provide a voluntary incentive to business establishments to install closed circuit television cameras. Introduced by REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 22-50: To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1, §2104 of the Commonwealth Code to have all trailer(s) in the CNMI registered in order to be operated on public streets; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 22-51: To amend 9 CMC § 4101 to add new subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) to have restrictions related to the color of headlights, signal lights and brake lights on vehicles; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 22-52: To amend 1 CMC § 2806(c) to provide flexibility in negotiating public land rental amounts for hotels and golf courses. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 22-53: To appropriate funds for the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency to ensure that federal appropriated and awarded funds may be expended for program administration, reimbursements to medical providers, and for compliance and Medicaid enterprise systems and further enable recruitment, retention, and appropriate classification and compensation of personnel. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Sheila J. Babauta, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means; and to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. B. NO. 22-54: To update the definition of tobacco products in the CNMI's excise tax laws; bring tobacco tax rates to the recommended level; set tobacco tax rates to increase with inflation; and invest tobacco tax revenues in health promotion and disease prevention and control programs in the CNMI; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself*, and Representatives Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Edwin K. Propst, and Leila H.F.C. Staffler) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 22-55: To amend 4 CMC §5526 to establish a separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representative Vicente C. Camacho) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

[ADDED-4/23/2021] H. B. NO. 22-56: To assess a fee on plastic checkout bags distributed in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representative Leila H.F.C. Staffler) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

[ADDED-4/23/2021] H. B. NO. 22-57: To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens or residents of the CNMI whose employment was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on April 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. L. B. NO. 22-7: To appropriate \$1,446,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021.

H. L. B. NO. 22-8: To impose a local license fee on all non-poker electronic gaming devices within the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021.

H. RES. NO. 22-6: To commend Maria Palacios Muna for her time-honored legacy of dedication, enthusiasm, and outstanding public service given to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the past thirty years. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. RES. NO. 22-7: To honor and commend Ms. Jane Mack for her lengthy service and extraordinary contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. RES. NO. 22-8: To encourage Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan to submit to the President of the United States their recommendation for the re-nomination of the Honorable Ramona Villagomez Manglona to serve another term as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and to recognize her for her distinguished career. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 22-3: To respectfully urge the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres to reallocate necessary funds generated by the fees paid for by prospective employers of foreign nonimmigrant workers to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI). Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 22-4: To authorize the establishment of an additional sixteen (16) positions as needed by the CMA and partially funded by the CMS program for Compliance and Medicaid Enterprise Systems (MES); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 22-5: To authorize the establishment of an additional nine (9) positions as needed by the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. C. R. NO. 22-1: To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2022, beginning October 1, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2022. Introduced by REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representative Celina R. Babauta) on April 23, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

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*House information on deadlines for override: None*