



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2021

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, Third Special Session

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Third Special Session on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 10:07 a.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 nineteen members were present; Representative Edwin K. Propst arrived at 10:22 a.m.

The Chair called for a short recess.

The House recessed at 10:10 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: We now rise back to session. Thank you, members and thank you to the two honorees. Before we move forward to Public Comments, I would like to recognize the Floor Leader for the suspension of rules.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule III, Section 6 and Rule IX, Section 8.

RULE III. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS.

Section 6. Notice of Sessions.

Not less than 72 hours prior to convening a Regular or Special Session, the Speaker or a majority of the members of the House, shall file a written public notice of the date, time, and place of a session with the Clerk and post the same at the executive branch administration building and the Legislature's web site. When possible, notices under this

section shall be given to at least one newspaper of general circulation. Notices shall contain an agenda of items to be considered at the session. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at such session. Once filed as part of this notice, and agenda may only be changed by adding items thereto by the recorded vote of the majority of the members of the House.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule III, Section 6 and Rule IX, Section 8 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. Yul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” the motion passes.

The Chair directed the members to item II, Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Jose C. Mafnas, Division of Customs & Quarantine – Department of Finance
 Ms. Amber Mendiola, Non-Communicable Disease Bureau Administrator – Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Ms. Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, Special Assistant for Policy, Sustainability and Development – Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

The Chair directed the members to item III, Adoption of Journals and recognized the Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal ready for adoption.

First Day, Second Special Session Journal – May 28, 2021

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the First Day, Second Special Session Journal – May 28, 2021.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, Second Special Session Journal – May 28, 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:

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. No. 22-71

To amend Public Law 21-1, Section 2 to re-appropriate sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; and for other purposes.

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can we get the representative to request?

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader. May I request the Floor Leader to put in Bill Calendar.

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Floor Leader, you are recognized.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: House Bill 22-71 moves to the Bill Calendar. Thank you, members. We now move down to House Local Bills. I now recognize Representative Patrick San Nicolas.

House Local Bills:

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 22-11

To re-appropriate forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) allotted under Tinian Local Law 20-15, Section 2(g) to the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; and for other purposes.

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: I request to put this on the calendar.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: That’s a nice request, but since it’s a local bill it’ll go directly to the Tinian Local Delegation.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: So maybe you can request the Floor Leader over there to – we’re all learning. Even to this day I’m still learning as well. Now I recognize the Vice Speaker.

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

H. L. B. NO. 22-12

To appropriate \$560,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59; and for other purposes.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yul)

H. L. B. NO. 22-13

To amend Section 413 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, to allow for concrete hollow block manufacturing for conditional use within “Village Commercial” zones; and for other purposes.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

H. L. B. NO. 22-14

To re-appropriate Sixty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars (\$62,996) under Tinian Local Law 22-2, Section 2(b); and for other purposes.

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

The Chair officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced as a Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 22-9

To honor and commend the United States Coast Guardsmen that have served the CNMI under the leadership of Admiral Karl L. Schultz.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

The Chair placed House Resolution 22-9 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. 22-37: (6/3/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. L. B. NO. 22-4, D1, *(To appropriate Two Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Six US Dollars (\$202,996.00) of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Second Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Tinian Local Law 22-02 item vetoed [Deadline 8/2/2021]**

GOV. COMM. 22-38: (6/7/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Clifford H. Aldan, Chief Information Officer, at the Office of Information Technology to receive an annual salary of \$80,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-39: (6/7/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 2-21, HD1, *(To strengthen the tools and powers of the CNMI Government to promote and expand economic development and to establish the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority. cited as the CEDA Act of 2021)*. Became **Public Law 22-01 [For info]**

GOV. COMM. 22-40: (received 6/7/2021) From SAPLR forwarding the ARPA Spending plan information. [*For info*]

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this is in reference to Governor's Communication 22-39. I just want to express my appreciation again to all of our colleagues in the House and the members of the Senate and the Administration for supporting House Bill 22-21, HD1, which was recently enacted into Public Law 22-1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Any further Discussion? Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Speaker and colleagues. I guess no one's going to say it, but I'm just going to call it out. I do want to comment on Governor's Communication 22-38. Mr. Speaker, I want to just say that I am deeply concerned with this salary. It is well above the salary cap and I have heard from others that say, "well, this is the US, his counterparts would be making a lot more." We're not in America right now and our salaries don't even compare to our counterparts in Guam. So, I am concerned about this because once ARPA dries up in two years and we have all these – if this continues – if this pattern continues where we see salaries well above the salary cap, my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, what are we going to see in two years from now? We're going to see furloughs again, unless tourism is restored and everything is peachy, but that's not the projections that we're seeing right now. It's going to take a while. So, at

the time when we're supposed to be fiscally conservative at the time when we called for House Bill 22-33 to ensure that we are, you know, we have the power of the purse and are appropriating what is going out with regard to ARPA spending? We're not doing that right now, because of this tie up in the Senate, because of whatever excuse it is, but I am concerned about if this continues, we will see massive furloughs in two years and who's going to be kept? The ones that are making those high salaries while all our front lines that are making very low, meager salaries are going to be expendable. This is deeply concerning. We have to be unified in this and say, "Mr. Governor, I'm sorry, but you cannot continue to spend like there's no tomorrow." We have two years of this wonderful gift to spend, but it is unfair to those who have worked 20 to 30 years in the CNMI and they're getting a bump from what two steps? Is that the plan for the next two years? That's great. That's great that they're finally getting that, but again, is it sustainable? Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues we have to come together and address this. If this type of spending and abuse continues. I didn't even know this, you know, I have friends too, that would have loved to apply for this position. Was it even announced? Did anybody know about it? I have friends and relatives that maybe could qualify for it. This type of selection too, is deeply concerning. I figured that we have called out in the past on those that went above the salary cap we have to continue to do so. And I appreciate my colleague Leepan for calling that out in the past, but he's not the only one that should be doing this. It should also be myself and everyone else. So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

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

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Rep. Propst for commenting on Governor's Communication 22-38. My comments are in response to this communication as well and I think that this is an ongoing issue that we face here in this chamber and so I would like to recommend to the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that we call in the Civil Service Commission for a budget hearing. And so, I just wanted to say that for the record, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good time to call in the Civil Service Commission. I think these are good topics to discuss with them, because the workforce and our government is huge and it employs many of our local people. Indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people and when it comes to announcing the job positions, salary increases, training, this is our HR department of the government. So, I really would like to make that recommendation to the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and as a member, I support that recommendation. So, I do hope that we call the Civil Service Commission in and I will be prepared to ask questions in regards to this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Any more discussions under Governor's Communication. Ready? Recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Representative Sheila and Representative Propst for raising these issues. I do support calling in the Civil Service Commission and the Office of Personnel Management since both those agencies, you know, I think we would benefit from hearing from them and listening to their concerns as well. Secondly, I wanted to comment on Governor's communication 22-40. So, this is the ARPA spending plan that the Secretary of Finance or the Administration, I guess, presented on a little over a week ago and they did say several times that they would be willing to sit down with every department and agency and branch that wanted to sit down with them and,

hopefully receive feedback, but also to answer a questions and I'd like to urge Mr. Speaker, that we take them up on that offer as soon as possible and perhaps, you know, join with the Senate and invite the Administration to come in and sit at the table with all of us in this chamber, so that we could go over the ARPA spending plan in greater detail and propose our own recommendations as a body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There was no further discussion; the Chair directed the members to item VII, Senate Communications and recognized the Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-22 and 22-23 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 22-22: (5/27/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-8, entitled, “*Strongly supporting the re-nomination of the Honorable Ramona Villagomez Manglona to serve as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and to recognize her for her distinguished career.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on May 18, 2021. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 22-23: (5/27/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-9, entitled, “*Urging the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres to exercise his authority to expedite the payment of the Child Tax Credits to benefit the people of the Commonwealth.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on May 18, 2021. [For info]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-22 and 22-23 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

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. 22-19: (5/28/2021) From Representative Christina M.E. Sablan, re: *Request inclusion of the 21st House Minority Report on Governor Torres’ expenditures as part of the records of the 22nd House of Representatives and request to be referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.* [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-20: (6/2/2021) From Representative Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be on personal leave beginning Wednesday, June 2, 2021 and returning on Monday, June 14, 2021 and request to be excused from all official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-21: (6/3/2021) From the Speaker referring HSE. COMM. 22-19 re: *Request inclusion of the 21st House Minority Report on Governor Torres’ expenditures*

as part of the records of the 22nd House of Representatives and request to be referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations” to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on June 3, 2021. [For info]

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to personally extend the families gratitude for all your prayers and thoughts on House Communication 22-20. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: For House Communication 22-19, I’d just like to inform the members that the matter has been referred to the Committee on JGO. Any further discussion?

Several members voiced “ready.”

There was no further 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. 22-21: (6/7/2021) From the Department of Public Lands (DPL) submitting *FY 2020 Annual Report*. [For info]

The Chair referred Dept./Agcy. Comm. 22-21 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

There was no discussion; 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. 22-34: (May 19, 2021) From the Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council re: *Saipan Municipal Council’s revised FY 2022 Budget*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-35: (5/21/2021) From the Chairperson the of Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) re: *Reappointment of Ms. Tatiana A. Babauta and Mr. Francisco C. Aguon to serve on the Zoning Board*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-36: (5/26/2021) From the Mayor of Saipan to the Managing Director of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) re: *Compliance with 4 CMC §2159 (a)*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-37: (6/4/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of RLD Resolution No. 22-1, entitled, “*To adopt the Official Rules of Procedure of the Rota Legislative Delegation for the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.*”, which was adopted by the Rota Legislative Delegation on May 19, 2021. [For info]

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you. On Miscellaneous Communication 22-34 just for the members awareness, the Saipan Municipal Council will be visiting the house once again next week, Tuesday, June 22nd, they wanted to just share more information about their proposed projects and programs. So, for any members here who are interested in joining, it will be in the Speaker’s conference room at ten o’clock. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Under Miscellaneous Communication 22-34, I’d like to refer that to the Committee on Ways and Means just for reference.

There was no further discussion; the Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

S. C. R. NO. 22-12: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-10 entitled: “To prohibit the use of certain disposable food service containers.” *Your House Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-10 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-12 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. 22-13: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-12 entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 51420 (b) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and promulgate reasonable registration and permitting fees through adopted regulations; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-12 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-13 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. 22-14: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-18 entitled: “To amend Division 4 of Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code relating to disposition of offenders and sentencing to provide criteria for imposition of enhanced sentencing of defendants for crimes motivated by hate.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 22-18, HD1.***

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-14 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. 22-15: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-29 entitled: “To amend 1 CMC § 121 in order to eradicate the unconstitutional public purpose perception for legislative expenditures.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 22-29** in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-15 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. 22-16: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-40 entitled: “To protect the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination.” *Your House Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **S. B. No. 22-40, HD1.***

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-16 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. 22-17: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-54 entitled: “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.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-54 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-17 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. 22-9

To honor and commend the United States Coast Guardsmen that have served the CNMI under the leadership of Admiral Karl L. Schultz.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, *(for himself)*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-9 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XVI, Bill Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY

Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action.

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House.

Section 10. Rights of Members

A majority of the members of a committee may require the Chairperson to place any bill, resolution or other matter referred to the committee on the agenda for the committee consideration, to submit any bill, resolution or other matter to the committee for its decision, to report promptly any bill referred to the committee, and to call up such bill for prompt consideration by the House and to request that the House discharge the Committee from further consideration of any matter which has been referred to it.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and no other amendment shall be in order until all committee amendments shown in the Committee Report are disposed of, except that such committee amendments shall themselves be subject to amendment. At the conclusion of a debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule.

(b) If a bill passes First Reading, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(c) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

Section 10. Second Reading of Bills

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that further amendments shall be in order without regard to whether or not they are proposed by the committee reporting the bill.

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

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

H. B. NO. 22-71

To amend Public Law 21-1, Section 2 to re-appropriate sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to assist our good colleague from the second senatorial district on this legislation and the need for the senatorial district to receive these monies, as we're all aware this is a public law that we're trying to amend monies that are dedicated to the second senatorial district back in the 20th legislature under Public Law 21-61. Under Public Law 20-61, which was an omnibus appropriation of approximately I believe is \$40 Million Dollars. Those distributed to the Commonwealth entities and municipalities, this specific amount of money was dedicated to the second senatorial district under Public Law 20-61 and as it's amending Public Law 21-1, 21-1 just took the portion of the second senatorial district and obligated those funds for the second senatorial district. This \$60,000 is being amended under 21-1 was never used to purchase the vehicles for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. I believe the Aging Center of Tinian. 20-61 became public law back in October of 2018 and as we all remember Yutu hit a few weeks after that. So these monies were never expended and when they were able to start using the funds under the local level, the Corona virus hit the CNMI so a lot of the monies were on hold to move on to the projects provided that we took care of our healthcare needs due to the Corona virus. Therefore, the funds that as being appropriate under 22-71 by Representative San Nicolas from the second senatorial district is the monies for the vehicles that will be addressing the municipals issues there on the second senatorial district, as we all are aware, there's ARPA money that's coming in and it'll get trickled down to the municipal level. Unfortunately, those monies are not yet distributed and these funds are needed for the second senatorial district to address their municipal employees and their municipal projects. So with that, I hope that's enough explanation for the members that we support this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I'm ready to vote on it.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you. And I just wanted to clarify if we should properly be amending Public Law 20-61 or Public Law 21-1, because the findings states that the intention is to amend 2-1, but then the actual operative language – oh, I see. So, we're doing both, we're amending Public Law 21-1 and Public Law 2-61.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: May I, Mr. Speaker? 21-1 is amending 21-61. So, they just took that specific portion for the second senatorial district under 2-1. Therefore, their that we're taking care of is what's going to be reflective on 2-1, because the funds were secluded from the original 20-61.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Right. And we're just reappropriating \$60,000 for personnel and operations.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Yes.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Just for the record, I understand that you do have the certification of funds from the Secretary of Finance.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Yes. And I'm not sure if all the members got it, but we got the certification of funds here. The fund status for that specific amount of \$60,000 is still there and has not been distributed.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: All right. Thank you.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: I yield, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Any further discussion? Ready? Okay, Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-71 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 voting in favor, House Bill 22-71 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-10

To prohibit the use of certain disposable food service containers. [S. C. R. NO. 22-12]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-10 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 19 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-10 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-18, HD1

To amend Division 4 of Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code relating to disposition of offenders and sentencing to provide criteria for imposition of enhanced sentencing of defendants for crimes motivated by hate. [S. C. R. NO. 22-14]

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank our Ways and Means Chairman Donald Manglona for championing the CNMI's first hate crimes enhancement law. It is fitting colleagues that we would act on this during pride month. This is a piece of legislation that is of special importance to the LGBTQ members of our community as well as for other protected classes of citizens and for our community at large. We are blessed to live in a mostly kind and loving community, but sadly, there is ignorance. There is hatred and racism, and there have been crimes here in the CNMI motivated by hate against members of our community, merely because of who they are or particular characteristics they may have, whether it's their gender identity, their ancestry, or national origin, their disabilities and passing this bill colleagues, we make it clear that the CNMI is no place for such hatred and that there will be enhanced penalties for criminal acts that are driven by prejudice and in doing so, we join the rest of the nation and so many jurisdictions across the country that have already embraced the same message and policy. Thank you and I yield. I'm ready to vote.

There was no further discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-18, 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 voting "yes," House Bill 22-18, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-12

To amend 4 CMC § 51420 (b) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and promulgate reasonable registration and permitting fees through adopted regulations; and for other purposes. [S. C. R. NO. 22-13]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-12 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-12 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

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. [S. C. R. NO. 22-17]

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, this bill to update our tobacco taxation law is the product of many months of collaboration and inter-agency review. And I want to specifically thank the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Division of Finance and particularly Customs as well as Revenue and Taxation, the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Commerce for their hard work and partnership in drafting and fine tuning this bill. I'd also like to thank our colleagues in the Ways and Means Committee and Chairman Donald Manglona for their prompt and diligent review of the legislation and the comments received and special acknowledgement to Representative JP Sablan a former Customs guy himself, who has championed legislation since the previous legislature to update the definition of cigarette to include middle cigars and close a tax loophole that has resulted in the loss of revenue for the Commonwealth. While we were working on House Bill 22-54 with the agencies and looking at comprehensive amendments to the tobacco tax law; finance specifically asked that this updated definition of cigarette and little cigar be included along with a special fund for tax collection and enforcement to be shared between customs and revenue and taxation. From the health and welfare perspective, this bill makes other important changes to the law. First, it raises the tax on tobacco to meet the evidence-based rates recommended by public health policy experts, including the world health organization and the centers for disease control and prevention and it allows those tax rates to be adjusted with inflation. This bill follows the recommendation of Customs to raise the tobacco tax by 50 cents every year for six years and thereafter to adjust the tax with inflation based on the consumer price index. Numerous studies as we've heard from our health advocates, show that tobacco tax policy has a direct effect on tobacco consumption and increasing tobacco taxes reduces that consumption and improves public health outcomes. Colleagues, we know too well, the terrible toll that tobacco has had on our community. From the loved ones, we have lost to diseases and other conditions associated with tobacco use, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Second, in addition to updating and clarifying the definition of cigarette, this bill updates, the definition of tobacco substitutes to specify that these are products that contain nicotine. This is consistent with the definition for cigarettes and clarifies that products that are not tobacco and do not contain nicotine, such as hemp products should not be taxed at the same rates and treated as if they were tobacco. Third, in addition to designating 5% of the tobacco tax for collection and enforcement, this bill directs 45% of tobacco tax funds to critical health programs, including tobacco cessation and health promotion, prenatal and maternal care, school health education programs, and public health data collection, research, monitoring, and evaluation. Finally, as I stated earlier, this bill was drafted in cooperation with the agencies that would be responsible for carrying out its intent. I will also note as has been noted in public comments that an increase in tobacco taxes has been requested by the Administration for at least the past two budget cycles and received broad and bipartisan support during last year's fiscal response summit. So, I ask for your support today and I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. I now recognized Representative John Paul Sablan. You yield. Okay, thank you, Representative John Paul Sablan. Recognize Representative Ivan Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just like to share that I'm a participant of the cessation program at the Department of Health. So, thank you. About 30 days no betelnut.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Blanco and keep it up. Keep it up. Any more discussions on the floor? Okay. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-54 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 19 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-54 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

S. B. No. 22-40, HD1

To protect the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination. [S. C. R. NO. 22-16]

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, this bill was unanimously passed by the Senate and referred to your Health and Welfare Committee for review. Its primary purpose as the title indicates is to protect the people of the Commonwealth against PFAS contamination also known as forever chemicals, Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are known to contaminate the groundwater resources of our Commonwealth. In fact, the highest volumes of PFAS contamination in the whole country were found in wells here on Saipan. PFAS contamination has resulted in multiple wells being removed from service. There have been health advisories as well as significant costs where public utilities and the people of the Commonwealth in mitigation measures. Your Health and Welfare Committee scheduled two public meetings and invited the agencies that participated in the drafting of this bill to submit

comments and testify before the committee. These agencies included the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Office of the Attorney General. Their written comments are attached to the committee report and the oral testimonies of our witnesses are part of the committee record. We also received some very thoughtful comments from public health advocates and graduate students with the university of California at Berkeley School of Public Health and our Commonwealth 670. We asked the agencies to review and respond to these comments, which they did and that correspondence is also provided with the committee report. So, the amendments that were incorporated into this bill in House Draft 1 and which are presented to you today, reflect amendments on which there was agreement by all the parties. This includes expanding the findings to take legislative notice of the environmental justice concerns that are raised by PFAS contamination in the Commonwealth to make some technical corrections and to include a definition in the operative language of the bill for PFAS chemicals. We understand from the attorney general that time is of the essence for the passage of this bill because of pending litigation, in which the CNMI is a party along with other states and territories against the manufacturers, distributors and marketers of PFAS chemicals. We need this legislation to authorize the agencies BECQ in particular to set and enforce limits for PFAS and create a cause of action for PFAS violations that the Commonwealth may then use to amend its complaint to include these violations. If the CNMI prevails in this litigation, any damages obtained will be extremely helpful in funding ongoing and costly mitigation measures that CUC is undertaking now to protect public health. And also, hopefully, maybe used for research and monitoring of the impacts of PFAS contamination on our community. So colleagues, we ask for your support today so that this legislation may be expeditiously enacted. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. I recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and in follow up to the Chair, I also want to ask for the support for this bill. As many of you may know, I think 12 to 14 water wells in the *Obyan* area are contaminated with PFAS. That's the reason why there is no provision of 24 hour water in *Obyan* for the residents living there and the ranchers that are back there. So currently the water is being supplied to *Obyan* from San Vicente and that is only for a couple of hours a day and very low pressure. It should not be an excuse when 14 wells are sitting behind the backyards of residents there. So, I'm hoping that with the passage of this legislation and hopefully settlement of the litigation, that we can finally address the cleaning of contamination in *Obyan* and finally restore the provision of 24-hour water to that area, by the way in beautiful precinct 1. Thank you very much.

There was no further discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 22-40, 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” Senate Bill 22-40, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-29

To amend 1 CMC § 121 in order to eradicate the unconstitutional public purpose perception for legislative expenditures. [**S. C. R. NO. 22-15**]

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill, colleagues, corrects a long-standing problem in our law – our public purpose law in particular and that is the unconstitutional blanket presumption of public purpose for legislative expenditures. So why is that a problem? First Article 1X, Section 1 of our Constitution mandates that public funds must be expended for a public purpose and the legislature is authorized to define public purpose. The legislature did so with Public Law 11-84, the public purpose definition act of 1998, but then amended that law shortly thereafter with Public Law 12-2 and that amendment declared all expenditures authorized by rules to be for a public purpose, unless proved by clear and convincing evidence that the expenditure was personal or political. And it is precisely that amendment that circumvents the framers intent for Article X, Section 1 and undermines the constitutional requirement that public purpose be defined by law, not by rules. And it sets a stage for misuse and abuse of public funds because that part of the law has been so vague and because legislative rules over the years have also been vague, but we have seen as OPA has put it our ideal conditions for poor public accountability. And there is unfortunately a long history of legislative funds being poorly accounted for resulting in unjustified and unconstitutional legislative expenditures as the public auditor has found. Multiple public auditors, Secretaries of Finance and advocates for good governance have raised this issue over the years and call it on lawmakers to pass legislation that removes that unconstitutional, public purpose presumption, and specifically grants authority for the reasonable allowances that are permitted in the constitution and to certify those allowances as public purpose. So this bill 22-29 is just the first of two parts to correct that problem. This bill is the simplest and the most straightforward correction, but there is companion legislation House Bill 22-30, that would grant and more

clearly defined the legislative allowance and that bill is still under committee review pending further comments from OPA and finance among others. I hope for your support colleagues, when that bill comes to this full body as well. I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

There was no further discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-29 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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
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 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 19 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-29 hereby passes the House. Thank you, members. I believe that takes care of the Bill Calendar. We now move down to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business and in the last session, I did mention that I will have each Chairperson give a brief summary to the members as to what’s going on the committee level. There were questions, just asking – there were requests for updates in the last session. So, as promised I will let that happen and I will start with the Chairperson on my left and we’ll move down. So, Representative Propst you’re up to bat.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Providing some updates with regards to our House Gaming Committee. I do want you to know that we are waiting for some additional comments. The author of the bill is more than welcome to be with me. I can discuss what we're asking and what we're hoping to receive. We will work on it as soon as we receive these comments. We're also going to push them to get the comments to us soon, but other than that, I do want to explain that we have been doing our work in the Gaming Committee. We have all agreed from the Gaming Committee to perform an oversight and the starting of that is sending out letters to different departments and agencies, public and private and asking questions and asking for documents. We've had a few difficulties with that and the next step is to move towards a subpoena if we are not satisfied with their excuses, so to speak, but certainly with the collapse of the casino industry and the talk of offering another license, it is

essential that we ensure that we learn from our past mistakes so that we don't repeat the same mistakes. We've seen the collapse of the Tinian Dynasty and now here we have IPI that is basically in a hole and their license is suspended, but where do we go from there? People are asking, our constituents are asking, what are we going to do with that hotel that is never finished? It's a huge elephant that we just seem to ignore, but it is an eyesore. It will be more of an eyesore and not only that, it's a hazard to businesses nearby. I don't know if you know this, but I was just informed of this about the cranes. Somebody was mentioning to me, who's in the know and has his credentials that those cranes, because they have not been moving or whatever, if there is a typhoon or something bad weather, it could fall, it could be damaging to businesses nearby. Not to mention, who would want to take over that hotel casino right now in its current state. So, there are a lot of things that we have to discuss not just with the Gaming Committee, but I want to ensure that we include all of you in this. And while we are looking for of course revenue generating bills, I've always stated that we have to proceed cautiously as we move forward. I was in a position where with regard to IPI that it was extremely, extremely frustrating to try and even give them an inch when they haven't so much as done what they promised. One of the things was, you know, about the workers that have recently left? Some of them returned home with nothing, hoping to get paid and then that's the promise that they will get paid once they get back home, repatriated and back home, but that's not the case with previous workers who left back to the Philippines who are still waiting, who still WhatsApp me and message me. Is there any chance we're going to ever get paid? These are huge concerns and if we are to move forward with, if we were ever to move forward with another casino, we have to ensure that we make the right, right choices. Thank you. Any other comments? But please, my office is always open to you, my dear colleagues, and I'm more than happy to discuss with you any concerns that you may have. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Representative Propst. Representative Sheila.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I Chair the Committee on Natural Resources. We do have five bills in our committee. We have completed public hearings on these five bills on the island of Rota on May 7 and on Saipan on April 21st. We are going to reschedule the public hearing for these five bills on Tinian for June 25th and that will be the last of the public hearings to entertain the five bills in the committee. And then the committee will come back and we will further discuss possible amendments for the five bills. We also did complete a successful joint committee meeting with the Committee on JGO to discuss Executive Order 2021-09 and that is the restructuring that's happening in the government moving the Division of Quarantine to the Department of Finance and so I would like to thank the members of both committees for attending and for our guests who attended that day, Director Mafnas of Customs, Secretary Atalig, Secretary Tony Benavente and Dr. Dela Cruz. And so the next step for our committee would be the public hearing on Tinian. And if there's anything else that other members have questions on, please feel free to contact me. Otherwise, we will wait to complete the public hearing and then we will come back together as a committee, discuss all the comments we received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairwoman Babauta. Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So for the Health and Welfare Committee, this has been a busy and productive six months. We've conducted briefings with the COVID-19 task force to monitor the government's COVID-19 response with the Office of Grants Management and the Housing Corporation, the Rental Assistance Programs that have been made available by federal COVID-19 relief monies. We did a tour of the Hope Recovery Center up in Marpi and we're able to ask questions with the Special Assistant and the staff there and just learn more about their program. And then we've conducted a number of meetings with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation on options for universal health insurance. They recently submitted a report to the committee and in compliance actually with the directive that they were given and the budget act for this fiscal year Public Law 21-35. And in addition to universal health insurance, we also covered their proposal legislative proposal to establish a prescription drug monitoring program and we've had meetings with Medicaid. In May, we held a series of public hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota on reforming the Medical Referral Program, including inner island referrals. We receive testimonies from 11 government witnesses, including Medical Referral, CHCC, the Mayors and health center directors on Tinian and Rota, the Special Assistant for Administration, the Secretary of Finance and one of the Finance directors as well as comments from members of the public. And there is draft legislation underway and likely more rounds of dialogue with stakeholders to review and improve that legislation before introduction and if any of you are interested in being in the working group on medical referral, please let me know. We welcome your participation. Six bills have been referred to the committee and we've invited comments for all of them and had public meetings on them. We've thus far reported out on two of the referred bills. Both of which have passed this house. One is to remove term limits for the healthcare professions licensing board and to protect the people of the CNMI from PFAS contamination, which we just passed today. Tobacco tax legislation was referred to Ways and Means, and not the Health and Welfare Committee, but it was the product of Health and Welfare work and one of our legislative priorities and I want to thank you colleagues for your support of that bill today. Coming up on June 30 as part of pride month, the Health and Welfare Committee is hosting an LGBTQ policy round table that will include advocates from Pride Marianas, Pride Marianas Youth, the T Project, PSS, CHCC and others advancing the health equality and wellbeing of LGBTQ people in our community is also one of our committees legislative priorities. The hate crimes act that just passed today was one of the legislative measures that we supported and there are others in the pipeline under consideration that will be explored further during this round table. Colleagues, you are all invited and welcome to participate. That will be June 30, 9:00 AM here in the chamber. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Recognized Representative Celina Babauta.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon colleagues. It is the philosophy of the JGO Committee to prioritize bills that are referred to the committee. We are not nitpicking with the help of the Vice Chair, Vice Speaker, we have scheduled JGO meetings throughout the month of June and July to try and deliberate on the bills. We are being judicious and sensible in our deliberations of these bill, but it would help the committee extremely if the authors of the bill would attend the committee meetings and defend their bills and aside from that provide due diligence on their research, on these bills as we come to understand why and how bills are being proposed. I say that because some of the bills proposed are actually unenforceable, you know, so we're still deliberating on that. We're trying to fix the bills and make it better, but with the help of the authors, I invite you guys to come and attend the

JGO meetings and help us, work with us, the committee members to make these bills better, but as you can see some bills were actually passed out of committee and were voted on today. We have about 24 proposed bills that are in the committee and they are calendared for the upcoming two-months to be deliberated on and with your help, we hope to facilitate the passage of these bills through the JGO Committee. I can answer any questions you may have about any particular bills. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. I now recognize the Chairwoman of the Committee on Education, Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Chairman and good afternoon colleagues. We actually have an Education Committee meeting on Friday where we will be going through the two Senate communications, the one that was tabled from the last meeting and the most recent one. One is specific for something regarding NMTI and another one is regarding the PSS board, you're welcome to join any education committee meetings that we will be having. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Staffler. I now recognize Representative Richard Lizama.

Representative Richard T. Lizama: Thank you, Chairman and thank you members. Chairman with the PUTC. I've been attending a lot of this CUC board members meetings and of course you mentioned Rep. Demapan about the wells that they have in *Obyan* beach they do have good wells in the airport area and they just waiting for property designation there, the MOU Memorandum of Understanding to get those wells used by the CUC, but I do have two bills that just came to my desk last session and I'm waiting for their comments. Some comments are not really good, but you know. The committee will have a meeting – since our calendars are so tight now, so believe me or not, but we will do conduct our meeting early in the morning because that's probably the best. Right now, that's the only open slot is like 8 or 8:30 in the morning. That's about it, I can tell right now. So just be aware that there's two. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairman Lizama. I now recognize Representative Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Thank you, Speaker. I am the Chair for Commerce, Tourism and Cannabis and I forgot to thank you for your definition for tobacco, because that also defines what hemp is. People have been calling about hemp and the tax on hemp. Thank you. And so, we have several bills that we are waiting comments on the one on plastic bags, the alcohol online, and SAFE. And then we also have – we passed two today. Thank you, that's the one for CEDA and the one by Rep. Blanco. Yeah, Styrofoam. Thank you. Banning of Styrofoam. And, there was a lot of reading. Thank you. I'm learning a lot and I've been making a lot of mistakes also, so it's good. I send out comments on a different bill that does not belong to the committee, so mistake. Okay. That's it. Thank you. Thank you for the lesson.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairwoman. I now recognize Representative Vicente Camacho.

Representative Vicente C. Camacho: Thank you, Speaker. Hello colleagues. Right now, I really don't have any bills enacted at the moment, but I do have a couple priorities that I'm working with and one of them is the veteran's cemetery for Rota and Tinian projects. Actually, that was a project that I was working on when I was VA director once upon a time, back in 2011 through 2015, now that's a priority that I would like to see happen. My committee will be hearing about what my plans are on that. The other thing that I have on my priority list is the village commissioners, I would really like to speak on that just very briefly. This one, I'm still planning on this thing, I'm still doing my research, you know, my arguments for this. I think that this would be very interesting to put out here once again the village commissioner, I remember had been proposed back in 1998, but never made it out of the JGO Committee. So, I'm working on repropounding that again. Also, I had lunch with the outgoing commander for the joint region Marianas, along with the incoming commander, it was a very pleasant lunch, along with the bureau of military affairs. I am awaiting scheduling to have a tour with the committee out in Tinian. And also, the other painful issue that's I'm looking into is PUA. As the standing committee Chair for Federal Foreign Affairs, I kind of took that upon myself to see what I can do to put some control in all this matter. And other than that, that's it. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairman Camacho. We're still under miscellaneous so the floor is open. Recognized Representative Patrick San Nicholas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take this opportunity to thank all our good colleagues for passing House Bill 22-71 today. Once again, *si Yu'us ma'ase* and thank you so much, everyone. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Patrick. I just want to mention that our Chairman for Ways and Means had to step out due to a Rota delegation meeting that he's going to be attending. The Vice Chair Rep. Ivan, would you like to report on what's going on?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Yes, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There were about 15 house bills that were referred to the Ways and Means Committee 5 were passed. The committee appreciates the members support of HB 22-54, which was passed today. There were two bills, House Bill 22-53 and House Bill 22-6 were incorporated into House Bill 22-48 and 22-54, which we passed today. Three bills were tabled with the understanding from the authors. One of them is the GARVEE bond. Is that correct, Congressman Camacho? The other one. The other Congressman Camacho. Thank you. And, there's the contract worker fee revolving fund and tax amnesty bills. Those are my bills, which I had asked the members to hold onto. One bill has been addressed through funding to the municipalities from MVA. So, there is no need to suspend the hotel occupancy tax. The remaining four bills will be addressed by the end of the month. The first is the excise tax grace period, Congressman John Paul Sablan, the tax credit for food donations, I understand Floor Leader Yumul that's your bill? Oh, my apologies Madame Chair Babauta that's your bill. Finally, the infrastructure tax credits for cultural designs, I understand it's from Congressman Flores. Mr. Speaker and members that's about it on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Committee of Ways and Means. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Ivan Blanco. Okay. We're still under miscellaneous. Recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to clarify and shed some light on allegation and accusations out there on social media and other outlets that are supported by members of this leadership that several members, including myself have walked out on our last session. I want to set the record straight that I didn't walk out on our last session and that I have stepped out to answer an urgent call by a family member. There is no intention to leave the session and such accusation and misleading information is inaccurate on our last session. I want to also set the record straight that I hope this office seriously with sincerity as elected by my dear people precinct 2, and since my inception into office back in 2012, I've never made any attempt or walked out on any session as there is no reason to do. I've always told you, Mr. Speaker, that I respect your leadership as well as every Chairperson's leadership, but let's be reminded - let's all be reminded by our wonderful inauguration speeches about putting political lines aside, political differences aside, working in a bipartisan way for our people. Let's just do that and let's stop this petty political tactics and let's get to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Secondly, I also want to thank you for the update from every Chairperson. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative John Paul Sablan. I recognized the Representative Leepan Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. Speaker. Po'lo ya bai kuentos gi finu Chamorro sa guaha siha taotao-ta man ékungok. Guahu lökkue Mr. Speaker, ani hu hatsa kannai-hu gi under Miscellaneous pot uno na atikulu hun agang na ta fan recess. Mata'chong yo' guini duranten recess pues kahulo' yo' ya mahanao yo' para i kuation-ku under recess lao ti matto i guatdon este na chamber guatu gi ofisina-hu na ma convene ha tatte i sesion. I praktiko enao gue ta cho'cho gue ta kore're i kongresu/kongresa halom guini tatte para ta reconvene lao taya. Pues para bai ma lista pa'pa' na mamokkat yo' huyong. Taya yo' ni mamokkat sa ya-hu gumera, ya-hu dumibati. Lao enao para bai ma pasa lista huyong, ti ofisia-ku enao na klasi Mr. Speaker. Man ñata'ta' títanos niha enao siha ni man hu'huyong guenao gi media lao taya yo' fumaisen hafa na mamokkat yo' huyong lao ti mamokkat yo' huyong sa recess guini mamokkat yo' huyong ya para ta sigi este komondona na klasin aktibidat siña yo' lökkue bai sigi sumangan lao ti enao yo' na taotao sa ti ya-hu mañangan pot taotao. Ta fan ma cho'cho ta fan ma cho'cho. Ta fan dibati, ta fan dibati an makpo este I sesion ta fan amigo, amiga, man un familia sa taotao tano hit. Enao gue man ma fa'na'gue hit ta fan ha komplasi. Pues enao ma sangan Mr. Speaker na mamokkat yo' huyong, dispensa ti mamokkat yo' huyong recess ayu ni mamokkat yo' lao ti ma buska yo' gi ofisinao na para bai bira yo tatte. Pues enao ha Mr. Speaker para bai na klaru sa kada inana-hu karerao guenao huyong. Mafana'an yo' na ya-hu mamokkat gi duranten sesion lao ti enao ofisiat-ku lao komu ma dispacha mohón ya ma check yo' gi ofisinao na gaige ha yo' bai bira yo halom lao taya matto. Pues bai na klaru ha para hamyo miembros na ti mamokkat yo' huyong. I duranten recess ni mamokkat yo' huyong. Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. Speaker.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leepan Guerrero. On that matter, I did bring up – and this was my concern too, in the last legislature, when they updated our phones, unfortunately, we don't have access to the intercom like we used to where we could just easily dial that in and our phones are just on during session or even committee meetings. I spoken to our IT and we're going to look into how we can either get that going or have something up here so that when I do call a session, of course, we're allowed to step out and when I'm about to call back, I could just page all the offices. So yeah, I mean, I know some staff, have the session live on their computer or their laptops, but sometimes the audio is not loud enough like the intercoms we had in the past couple of legislatures. So, I did, you know, also share that

with people that – because I did get asked, why did you allow them to walk out? I'm like, "I didn't, it was recess. It was their right." One of the issues we're facing is we did upgrade our phones and we're still trying to figure out that feature to have that intercom availability in our offices. So, I just wanted to note that for the members. Thank you. A floor is still open for miscellaneous. Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am one fourth of the alleged walkout quad. And I just also want to set for the record that, I've already responded questions from the public, from our legitimate reporters and those aspiring to be reporters, but for the record, I just want to also state that I must have been first to leave this chamber. So, I don't know where everybody else went, but yes it was recess and I did go to my office and I did not make it here before the adjournment and obviously we were in miscellaneous during the recess and after the recess. So, it was adjourned shortly thereafter, but I do want to thank you Mr. Speaker, one of the legitimate reporters, informed me that you were interviewed and you clarified to that reporter that there was in fact, no walkout by any group of representatives in this chamber. So, thank you very much.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. The Representative Aldan. Any more under miscellaneous? I mean a Demapan, I'm sorry. Anymore under miscellaneous, Representative Sheila.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker It sounds like we need a retreat. So, I would like to recommend that we have a 22nd CNMI Legislature retreat or even gathering lunch/dinner. We don't really gather outside of this chamber and I think that would be very helpful with forming relationships, you know, talking off the record and really staying true to all the speeches that we made during inauguration. So that we can also see each other in different capacities as fathers and daughters and sons. I know that is something that this leadership has talked about and I just wanted to make that recommendation again for the record so that we can come together outside of the chamber. On another note, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would like to make a recommendation to the chair of the FFA Committee Rep. Camacho, I've just been informed that meetings have begun again about the CJMT the CNMI Join Military Training clans for live fire training on Tinian and on Pagan and you know, we have been informed that many trips and activities are happening on the island of Pagan and so I really would like for you to reach out to the Military Bureau of Military Affairs Director Glenna Sakisat and please offer your support or your assistance and see if you can attend the meetings, you know, to keep us updated on those plans. The NR committee is still moving forward with chartering a trip up to Pagan as a collaborative effort with other members in the community and so I would also like to offer that to you and your committee just so that you can have that opportunity if your schedule does permit to inspect or just view the islands of Pagan and see what is on the table when these kinds of negotiations are taking place. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Anymore? Representative Ed Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I wanted to just do a short comment with regard to the overtime of cabinet members that has appeared in the newspapers. The Attorney General has come out and has stated that letters have gone out and

that he's going to be, I guess, collecting on the overtime. Needless to say, if you think back for those of you who served with me in the previous legislatures that we talked about this quite often, in fact, it was not just on social media, but in newspapers and the editorials in privileged speeches here, many a time, it was brought up. And, I guess there's an old saying, "better late than never," but what is surprising is that instead of ensuring that cabinet members do not receive overtime moving forward, we are being asked to amend the law to allow them to receive the 2.5 overtime. And colleagues, please know the reason why I'm concerned about this is because I've heard comments that the legislature, we didn't do anything after Yutu. I'm sorry, but my colleagues, everyone that served, you guys know this, that you went out, not only to your respective precinct, but you went well beyond that. I'm not the only one. Obviously, there was so many of us that went out and we'd meet up and it was a time when we helped others worked on weekends, worked evenings. A lot of us didn't have power or whatever, but it was a collaborative effort. And I just asked this to you, my dear colleagues, how many of you received a penny of overtime? This is non-partisan. This was one body that went out and helped others in the face of a devastating, super typhoon one that we have hope to never see again, but I appreciate each and every one of you for your heart and your kindness in doing that, that is what public service is about your call to public service. You are here representing your constituents, the people of the Commonwealth. Certainly not for the money, because I swear if we were getting paid, what some of our cabinet, our counterparts appointed officials in cabinet were making right now, I think life would be pretty good. It'd be a lot better. I know it'd be better for my wife, but those are the sacrifices each and every one of us knew we would take when we came into office and when we pass in the halls or we do have conversations, we often talk about how tight our wallets are or our purses. These are indeed tough times and it is tough times for us as well, because we are not immune from giving out *chenchule* it's the truth. In fact, we're often hit up everywhere we go and we give what we can and we have talked about that, but I think our constituents know that whatever we give comes from the heart and speaking from the heart, I do want to say that my office continues to be open. I sincerely backup and support Rep. Sheila's comments about having a retreat or even a happy hour because in every single legislature that we've served in, we've always had some decorum, some sort of friendship that continues and I appreciate that. That includes, you know, when we have very heated battles and heated debates that we can still shake hands and move forward. So, I say that from the heart, I say that to my dear colleagues and I apologize if you had hurtful words put on social media or whatever, but I do want to move forward and I do hope we can continue to work together in the best interest of our Commonwealth. We are a separate branch from the executive branch and I hope that we can continue to support each other, especially when it comes to good legislation. Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Propst. Anybody else? Members ready? Ready? Okay. And we move down to announcements. Any announcements? Yes, Representative Angel Demapan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to do this in miscellaneous, but I'll turn it into an announcement because Rep. Leepan changed the mood there. So, for purposes of announcement, I just want to announce, really to share that some of the members of the Youth Congress are here, the Youth Congress passed three bills today. Congratulations, so percentage wise they're a little bit in the lead of us, but anyways, I brought

that up because it's going to come up to the House for disposition. So, just for Floor Leader especially to keep an eye out for their bills and bring some of them your hard work to fruition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Anybody else, announcements? Ready? Ready? Ready? Alight, we now move down to Adjournment. I recognize the Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. With that I offer a motion to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair. So move.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The House adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD 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. YUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 23, 2021.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on May 28, 2021:

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%). Introduced by 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) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 22-59: To rename the San Vicente Elementary School to “Moses Tydingco Fejeran Elementary School”. Introduced by REP. ROY C. A. ADA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by REP. ROY C. A. ADA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by 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. Yul) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by 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. Yul) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by 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. Yul) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by 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) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by 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) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by 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) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House 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. Introduced by

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 28, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

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. Introduced by REP. ROY C. A. ADA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 28, 2021.

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. Introduced by 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. Yul) on May 28, 2021.

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. Introduced by REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*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, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yul) on May 28, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None