



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2021

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, Fourth Special Session

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Fourth Special Session on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 2:11 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and eighteen members were present; Representatives Denita K. Yangetmai and Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero were absent and excused.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: With 18 members present it constitutes a quorum. Just a note, Rep. Denita is off-island on personal leave and that would reflect on House Communication 22-24 and colleague – Representative Joseph Leepan Guerrero is also on leave, which starts today, his communication will reflect in the next session. Thank you, members. We now move down to item II, Public Comments. The podium is open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments; the Chair directed the members to item III, Adoption of Journals and recognized the Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal:

First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 23, 2021

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 23, 2021

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 23, 2021 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

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

H. B. NO. 22-72

To amend Title 6, Division 4, Chapter 1, Section 4102(d)(i) of the Commonwealth Code.

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. For those of you that are –

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Mr. Speaker, if I may?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I apologize for that. Recognize Representative San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: This bill Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a report issued today in Saipan Tribune entitled “Domestic and sexual violence still vastly underreported in the CNMI.” Mr. Speaker, the article highlights the fact the barrier still prevent victims and survivors from seeking help to report the domestic and sexual violations especially in the LGBTQ community according to Ms. Kiki Igitol Benjamin of the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violation who was a panelist of Health and Welfare. The Committee Pride Talks panel reported the barriers including social anti-LGBT bias, racism, sexism and homophobia. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is incumbent upon us to pass this legislation to help break those barriers the reporting domestic and sexual violence regardless of sexual orientation. I would also Mr. Speaker would like to thank the Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Representative Tina Sablan and the committee members for hosting the first CNMI Pride Talks here in the House of Representatives. Thank you, Madame Chair and thank you Mr. Speaker. I yield back.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. House Bill 22-72 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. We now move down to House Local Bills and I recognize Representative Patrick San Nicolas.

The Chair directed the members to House Local Bills.

House Local Bills:

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

H. L. B. NO. 22-15

To prohibit the hunting of Micronesia Starling or *Paluman Sali* on Tinian until the Year 2025 and for other purposes.

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

H. L. B. NO. 22-16

To appropriate \$78,000 from revenues collected from poker fees for the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

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

H. L. B. NO. 22-17

To appropriate \$200,092 from the Second Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3731; and for other purposes.

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

H. L. B. NO. 22-18

To amend Title 10, Division 3 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting a new Chapter 15 to establish permitting requirements for aircraft and/or personal landings in the Northern Islands; and for other purposes.

REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself, Representative Joel C. Camacho*)

(Introduced by Representative Joel C. Camacho)

House Legislative Initiatives: None

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions:

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

H. J. R. NO. 22-7

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, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Celina R. Babauta*)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Just a little background. This is a joint effort we’re doing with the Senate and rather than introducing a separate resolution to the same language; the Senate President and myself have agreed to do a joint resolution coming from the House. Thank you, members. For the next House Joint Resolution, I recognize Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia C. Staffler officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced as a Committee of the Whole:

H. J. R. NO. 22-8

To honor and commend the Honorable Serafina Rosario King-Nabors for her dedicated service and remarkable contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Angel A. Demapan, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul*)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Staffler. Both House Joint Resolutions 22-7 and 22-8 will be placed on today’s Resolution Calendar for action. Yes, recognize.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker. Before we leave the introduction on resolution. I know that you mentioned earlier on House Joint Resolution 22-27 that you have communicated with the Senate President. I understand that you’ve introduced the same resolution as the House Resolution. So are we moving forward with the House Resolution along with the House Joint Resolution? Just for clarification for the record.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: From my understanding, we have the House Resolution as our record, but we’ll be moving forward just with the House Joint Resolution.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you for the clarification.

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

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. 22-41: (6/18/2021) **Executive Order 2021-13** – *RENEWING AUTHORITY—Order authorizing the Secretary of Finance to reprogram or transfer funds from accounts of any department, agency, office, board, commission, corporation, instrumentality or other entity of all branches of the Commonwealth Government in order to meet the threat of COVID-19.*

GOV. COMM. 22-42: (6/23/2021) To the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission re: *Equitable Adjustment to Annual Salary for Ms. Frances T. Torres-Salas.* [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-43: (6/25/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. No. 22-21, HS1, *(To repeal and reenact 3 CMC § 1132 to clarify that the State Board of Education has the authority to establish and amend the minimum instructional time for PSS; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law 22-02** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-44: (6/25/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-19, HD1, *(To repeal Title 4 Section 1709 of the Commonwealth Code in order to provide relief for working families by making them eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law 22-03** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-45: (7/2/2021) Submitting revision to Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (\$98,897,301 available for appropriation). *Note on Revisions: Vol. I (proposed gross budgetary resources); Vol. II (new grants received after April 1st and updated fund status as of May 31, 2021); and Vol. IV are revised to fully allocate the funds available to the Commonwealth under the American Rescue Plan. Vol III has remained unchanged.* [For info]

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

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Communication 22-45, if I can just seek clarification – is the letter from the Governor's Office allocating the full ARPA funding of half a billion dollars for fiscal year FY21 only?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Can you repeat that please?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: So, I missed where I read it, but it mentioned that they're allocating the whole amount of half a billion dollars to different reasons – purposes, but I fail to see where it specifically says whether it's for a particular fiscal year or for both fiscal years FY22 and FY23. If anybody knows any information on this could be clarification on that?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Blanco. First I'll recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you. The Chairman of Ways and Means correct me if I'm mistaken, but a portion of the ARPA funds have been distributed for the current fiscal year 2021 and then the remaining will be for fiscal year 2022, but we got to remember that these are outside sources and there's a date attached to it. The expiration date of the funds. I am not certain the exact date of the funds, but I know that they're non-lapsing funds for those that are being designated the funds at the present time for 2021. So, you could carry over funds for 2022 and I guess again, the expiration date; I am not a hundred for sure when they actual expiration date, but we all know that it's for two years. So with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope Leader that's enough for you?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: So clarified. Thank you, guys. Thank you, Speaker. I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Thank you, Representative Blanco. Chairman of Ways and Means did you want to add?

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Well, I just wanted to ask him. It seems like just for the operations alone, they've identified \$250 Million. Do you see that, Vice? \$75 Million for the current fiscal year and \$175 allocated for fiscal year 22, that can be found on page seven.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairman. Representative Blanco, so clarified?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Yes.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: All right. Thank you. Any further discussion under Governor's Communication? Ready? Okay.

There was no further discussion; the Chair directed the members to item VIII, House Communications and recognized the Clerk.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 22-22: (6/16/2021) From Representative Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be off-island beginning Friday, June 18, 2021 and return Monday, June 21, 2021 and request to be excused from any sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-23: (6/23/2021) From the Speaker informing the Governor of his re-appointment of Representative Ralph N. Yumul to serve as the House of Representatives

member of the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) set forth under 29 U.S.C §3117. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-24: (6/16/2021) From Representative Yangetmai informing the Speaker that she will be out of the office on personal leave beginning Thursday, June 24, 2021 and returning Monday, July 21, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during her absence. [*For info*]

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Department & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-22: (ELECTRONIC MAIL) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *Tourism Industry Update as of June 11, 2021* . [*For info*]

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. 22-38: (6/15/2021) From the Speaker of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress informing the House of the appointment of the Youth Congress Committee Chairs. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-39: (6/17/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-01, YCD2, entitled, “*To repeal and re-enact the CNMI Youth Congress Act; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on June 16, 2021. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-40: (6/17/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-02, entitled, “*To require all public schools within the CNMI: elementary, middle and high schools to teach at least one full year of the Chamorro and/or Carolinian languages; and for other purposes.*”, which passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on June 16, 2021. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-41: (6/17/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-03, entitled, “*To ban the use of plastic checkout bags; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on June 16, 2021. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-42: (6/17/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-01, entitled, “*Conveying the 18th CNMI Youth Congress’ condolences to the family of the late Honorable Simeon Evangelista Taisacan, Secretary of the 17th Rota Municipal Council and honoring his career in public service.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on June 16, 2021. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-43: (6/21/2021) From the Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA) submitting: *FY 2020—Annual Report*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-44: (6/25/2021) From the Legislative Bureau and the CNMI Youth Congress submitting: *FY 2021—Second Quarter Expenditure Report*. [*For info*]

There was no 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. 22-18: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-26, SD1, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC § 2263 to require a special election to fill a Board of Education vacancy; to clarify when an elected member of the board must resign from his or her PSS employment; to amend 1 CMC § 6502(f); and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass S. B. No. 22-26, SD1 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-18 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. 22-19: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-50 entitled: “To clarify the NMTI Trustee Nominating Committee provisions by repealing and reenacting 3 CMC § 12114(a); and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. No. 22-50, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-19 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. 22-20: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-27 entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §1407(b) to remove the 15-day grace period and to provide the Division of Customs with the

authority to promulgate and establish application fees for low-risk importer applicants; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 22-27, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to go on record to take this opportunity to thank the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by our good Chairman Donald Manglona. I understand that there are amendments made. I just want to go on record also that I have no objections on the amendments made by the committee and I stand ready to take a vote on the bill calendar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-20 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. J. R. NO. 22-7

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

The motion was seconded.

The Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 22-7 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members voting in favor, House Joint Resolution 22-7 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

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

H. J. R. NO. 22-8

To honor and commend the Honorable Serafina Rosario King-Nabors for her dedicated service and remarkable contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

The Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 22-8 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 22-8 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

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

BILL CALENDAR

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

S. B. No. 22-26, SD1

To amend 1 CMC § 2263 to require a special election to fill a Board of Education vacancy; to clarify when an elected member of the board must resign from his or her PSS employment; to amend 1 CMC § 6502(f); and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of Senate Bill 22-26, Senate Draft 1 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members voting “yes,” Senate Bill 22-26, SD1 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

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

S. B. No. 22-50, HD1

To clarify the NMTI Trustee Nominating Committee provisions by repealing and reenacting 3 CMC § 12114(a); and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of Senate Bill 22-50, House Draft 1 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members voting “yes,” Senate Bill 22-50, HD1 hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-27, HD1

To amend 4 CMC §1407(b) to remove the 15-day grace period and to provide the Division of Customs with the authority to promulgate and establish application fees for low-risk importer applicants; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the passage of House Bill 22-27, House Draft 1 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes

Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-27, HD1 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Privilege Mr. Speaker before we move down to Miscellaneous.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize your privilege.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just would like to ask the JGO committee regarding one of my bill 22-3. I introduced this bill back in February 19, 2021 on our first session and in the last session your committees encouraged members that have bills to at least attend their committees and try to justify the bill that they are introducing and I did this Mr. Speaker on the first session and up to this day this bill regarding this vehicle registration, we haven't gotten any to whether up to the board calendar for passing or anything, or any subcommittee from the JGO and I would just like to get an explanation as to what the status and is there any controversy regarding this bill? This is a recycled bill. It was passed in the twenty-one. I don't know why what's the reason it's holding up and at the same time, if everything works well, I would like to request from the Floor Leader if this can be placed in the bill calendar for the next session.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Joe Flores and if it's okay, I'd like to recognize the Chairwoman to respond. Thank you.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Representative Flores. We are proceeding cautiously in the JGO Committee. We're still waiting comments. I have spoken with BMV and they are not in support of this bill. If you could provide research and even the Attorney General's Office has written comments that – there's nothing that this bill proposes to fix. There's nothing broken with the current system and we are prioritizing certain bills. Even my bills are in my committee and I haven't passed it out of committee yet. So, it's not like we are, you know, picking sides or picking bills that we want to pass. Even my bills are still in committee and we are meeting every week. We've scheduled meetings regarding the bills and at this time the stakeholder most effected by that bill does not support it. They do not have the supplies to support that bill at this point. That's what they have told me. And I'm trying to get

their written comments and there's still, I don't know, what's their holdup, but they haven't provided me written comments, but I have spoken with them. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Representative Flores.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill actually is to try to make people have their registration coincide with the insurance. It's something to make it easy for everybody to coincide with the expiration of the driver's – the vehicle registration and insurance, if can see the motorist out there, I don't understand why motor vehicle is not going to be in support with this, because there's been a practice that motor vehicle that people register their cars and they have their insurance and as soon as they register their car, they go and terminate their insurance because their car has been registered already. And in doing this, it's like we're obligating the motorists to register the car in motor vehicle to be on line with all the, because it was registered out there to have it one year to be registered. And this will actually give the motor vehicle benefit to hire a person to do an investigative – to catch those motor vehicles who are unregistered because they already their motor vehicle would be set for one year. Now every motor vehicles that have been registered one year, but the insurance already registered or insured for six months. This bill is just to make it coincide for the whole year. There's nothing wrong with it. I don't see that motor vehicle is going to make revenue if the motorist wants to make their vehicles coincide in the year \$2500 additional. That's an option that is not mandatory but it's an option for the motors. And in that case, I would like to see it, we've been in the past, we've been passing bills with any other comments from the stakeholders. I don't know why we keep waiting for motor vehicle, let's just move on and let's put in the table, if it fails, it fails, but we're not going to keep waiting until Christmas. Thank you, I yield.

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

The House recessed at 2:43 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:56 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Okay members we're back from recess. During the recess we settled this issue regarding Representative Joseph Flores' privilege and it will be further discussed after this session. Thank you, members.

The Chair directed the members to item XVIII, Announcements and recognized Representative Donald C. Manglona.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, tomorrow will be the last scheduled date for the budget hearing which will close out all the four independent agencies. So, if I can get the members of the committee to clear their schedule next week so that we can go

over the entire budget that way – we’re hoping to get something done by Friday at all possible and so if any nonmembers is interested to sit in in any of the meetings next week to try to wrap your head around the changes that will be made and to clarify any questions you may have, you’re more than welcome to participate. It look like JGO has Tuesday and Thursday covered so it looks like we’ll try to schedule Monday, Wednesday and Friday to go over the entire thing. As soon as I get the time scheduled and the Counsel, the Fiscal Analyst are ready to proceed then I’ll share that with you by the end of the week. Again, nonmembers you’re welcome to sit in in any of these meetings. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Any further discussion? Recognize Representative Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: I would just like to extend the invitation from the NMTI CEO that the tour of their facilities is moved from the 16th to the 19th at 1:30 if you would like to attend, please let me know. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Staffler. Any further announcements?

Several members voiced “ready.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Alright, we move down to adjournment and I recognize the Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and that was a really smooth session today and thank you for the members for a smooth session. With that Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair.

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

The House adjourned at 2:58 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:

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. Introduced by **REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on June 16, 2021.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on June 16, 2021:

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. Introduced by **REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on June 16, 2021; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

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. Introduced by **REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on June 16, 2021.

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. Introduced by **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. Yumul) on June 16, 2021.

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. Introduced by **REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on June 16, 2021.

[ADDED-6/16/2021] 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. Introduced by **REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on June 16, 2021.

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. Introduced by **REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on June 16, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: