



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2021

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

4th Day, Second Regular Session

Friday, October 1, 2021

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fourth Day, Second Regular Session on Friday, October 1, 2021 at 2:08 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 seventeen members were present; Representatives Richard T. Lizama and Christina Marie E. Sablan were absent and excused.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

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.

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 to suspend Rule III, Section 6 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	yes
Representative 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members voting “yes,” the rules hereby suspended. Thank you, members. We now move down to item II, Public Comments. The floor is open, please state your name and the entity you represent whether private or government. You have three minutes. Please proceed to the podium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individual made comments:

Mr. Gol Corpuz, President – Northern Marianas Insurance Association

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following House Journal:

Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 31, 2021

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 31, 2021

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 31, 2021 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

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

H. B. NO. 22-80

To have the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) join Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) to improve and expand access to mental health care in the CNMI; and for other purposes.

REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself*, Representative Edwin K. Propst)

(Introduced by Representative Edwin K. Propst)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE)

H. B. NO. 22-81

To amend 4 CMC § 1202, to exclude local stimulus payments from taxation.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS)

The Chair directed the members to House Local Bills.

B. House Local Bills:

The following bills were introduced by the author of each bill.

H. L. B. NO. 22-24

To re-appropriate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) specifically under Business Unit 1605; and for other purposes.

REP. CELINA R. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*)

H. L. B. NO. 22-25

To appropriate up to \$3,681,052.00 from the American Rescue Plan of 2021, Section 604. Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund allocated to the Second Senatorial District; 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 VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 22-66: (9/2/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Keisha Blaise, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-67: (9/2/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Leslie Ann Healer, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-68: (9/2/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Steven M. Mullin, Biologist, at the Division of Fish & Wildlife, DLNR to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-69: (9/3/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-11, D1 (*To re-appropriate \$40,000 allotted under Tinian Local Law 20-15, Section 2(g) to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board; and for other purposes.*). Became **Tinian Local Law 22-03** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-70: (9/3/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-14, D1 (*To re-appropriate \$62,996 under Tinian Local Law 22-2, Section 2(b); and for other purposes.*). Became **Tinian Local Law 22-04** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-71: (9/3/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-16, D1 (*To appropriate \$78,000 from revenues collected from poker fees for the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.*). Became **Tinian Local Law 22-05** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-72: (received 9/14/2021) **Executive Order 2021-17—RENEWAL—***Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL—Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.*

GOV. COMM. 22-73: (received 9/14/2021) **Executive Order 2021-18—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. 22-74: (received 9/14/2021) **Executive Order 2021-19—RENEWAL—Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL—Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.**

GOV. COMM. 22-75: (9/14/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Christian K. Johnson, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-76: (9/16/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Carl Allan F. Dela Cruz, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-77: (9/21/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, 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.*). Became **Public Law 22-07** [*For info*]

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

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 22-44: (8/31/2021) Informing the House of the Senate’s Conferees to the Conference Committee on H. B. NO. 22-74, HD3, SD1, entitled, “*To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2022; and for other purposes.*” [*Sen. Victor B. Hocog, Chair; Sen. Justo S. Quitugua Vice Chair; Sen. Teresita A. Santos, Member; Alternate Member: Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors.*] [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-45: (9/14/2021) Returning 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.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on September 14, 2021. [*For info-Transmitted to Governor on September 16, 2021*]

SEN. COMM. 22-46: (9/14/2021) Returning H. B. No. 22-28, HD1, entitled, “*To rename the structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the CNMI”; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on September 14, 2021. [*For info-Transmitted to Governor on September 16, 2021*]

SEN. COMM. 22-47: (9/14/2021) Returning H. B. No. 22-31, HS1, entitled, “*To authorize the Department of Public Lands to issue encroachment permits and charge fees for the use of the public lands located within 150 feet of the high-water mark.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on September 14, 2021. [*For info-Transmitted to Governor on September 16, 2021*]

SEN. COMM. 22-48: (9/14/2021) Returning H. B. 22-2, entitled, “*To amend the Commonwealth Code to authorize civil claims for child sexual abuse to be commenced at any time; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on September 14, 2021, in the form of **H. B. No. 22-2, SD1**. [**For action on Senate amendments**]

SEN. COMM. 22-49: (9/14/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-19, SD1, entitled, “*To require all gas service stations to provide to the public free compressed air, a gauge for measuring air pressure, and tap water; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on September 14, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-50: (9/14/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-20, SD1, entitled, “*To establish the Hunting Act of 2021 for the Commonwealth, and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on September 14, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-51: (9/14/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-22, SS1, entitled, “*To amend the provisions pertaining to village and agricultural homesteads in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and to specifically prohibit the Department of Public Lands from revoking a village or agricultural homestead permit after it is approved and issued because the applicant met all the requirements, including that the applicant has no interest in land at the time the permit was approved; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on September 14, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-52: (9/14/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-37, SD1, entitled, “*To amend Chapter 4, Division 6 of Title of the Commonwealth Code relating to bail proceedings.*”, which was passed by the Senate on September 14, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-53: (9/14/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-38, SD1, entitled, “*To amend Crimes and Criminal Procedure Code definitions of dangerous weapon and serious bodily injury.*”, which was passed by the Senate on September 14, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-54: (9/14/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-44, SD1, entitled, “*To authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to work with private business owners to install video surveillance cameras directed toward the public right-of-way in support of the CNMI’s reporting system; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on September 14, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-55: (9/21/2021) Informing the House that the Senate in its Emergency Session, on September 21, 2021, adopted CCR No. 22-1 and passed H. B. 22-74, HD3, SD1, CCS1, entitled, “*To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2022; and for other purposes*”. [*For info*]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-44 to 22-55 so they may become property of the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-44 to 22-55 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair referred the following Senate Communications accordingly:

- *Senate Communication 22-48 (H.B. 22-2, SD1) placed on the Bill Calendar*
- *Senate Communication 22-49 (S.B. 22-19, SD1) referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism*
- *Senate Communication 22-50 (S.B. 22-20, SD1) referred to Committee on Natural Resources*
- *Senate Communication 22-51 (S.B. 22-22, SS1) referred to Committee on Natural Resources*
- *Senate Communication 22-52 (S.B. 22-37, SD1) referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*
- *Senate Communication 22-53 (S.B. 22-38, SD1) referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*
- *Senate Communication 22-54 (S.B. 22-44, SD1) referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

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. 22-32: (8/31/2021) From Minority Leader Angel A. Demapan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal leave on September 1, 2021—September 8, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-33: (8/31/2021) From Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official and personal business on September 1, 2021—September 16, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-34: (9/9/2021) From Representative Lizama, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official and personal business on September 14, 2021—October 16, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-35: (9/17/2021) From Representative Flores, informing the Speaker that he will be extending his leave of absence from September 20, 2021—September 28,

2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-36: (9/24/2021) From Representative Christina M.E. Sablan informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on personal leave beginning September 26, 2021, and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions. [*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. 22-26: (8/16/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) submitting *FY 2021—Third Quarter Financial Report*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-27: (received 9/22/2021) From the Office of the Public Auditor submitting *OPA Report No. 21-03 on CNMI Medical Referral Services Office*. [*For info*]

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

- *Dept./Agcy. Communication 22-26 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Dept./Agcy. Communication 22-27 referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare*

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. 22-61: (8/31/2021) From the CNMI Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission (CCLPC) re: *Mandatory requirements according to Public Law 15-96 that mandates that the CCLPC provide all CNMI government agencies and make recommendation to the legislature on policies governing the usage of the Chamorro and Carolinian language in the government sector*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-62: (8/31/2021) From the LB Director re: *ARPA Expenditure Plan as allotted to the Legislative Bureau*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-63: (9/16/2021) From the Mayor of Saipan re: *Proposed legislation on adopting a Standard Saipan Village Delimitation and Name Master Map.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-64: (9/21/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of TALD Resolution No. 22-5, entitled, “*To honor and recognize Command Sergeant Major Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi for her distinguishable years of patriotic service and sacrifice for our country as a member of the United States Army.*”, which was adopted by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation on September 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-65: (8/3/2021) From the Sixteenth Chuuk State Legislature transmitting a certified copy of Joint Resolution No. 16-21-HJR-05, entitled, “*Expressing deep sorrow and extending sincere condolences on behalf of the people of Chuuk State to the family, relatives, and friends of the late Honorable Representative Ivan “Jimbo” Alafanso Blanco and to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) most especially the 22nd Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature for his untimely passing.*” [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-66: (9/20/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 18-03, entitled, “*Congratulating the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors for its successful Public Private Partnership destination enhancement of the Commonwealth’s natural sites, sports facilities and attractions and requesting the Council to include the Youth Congress as Public Private Partner.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on September 18, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-67: (9/20/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-02, entitled, “*Conveying the 18th CNMI Youth Congress’s condolences to the family of the late Honorable Hedwig Henry Atalig Hofschneider, Vice Speaker of the 5th CNMI Youth Congress and honoring his service as an educator and mentor to our island’s high school and college students.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on September 18, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-68: (9/20/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-03, entitled, “*Conveying the 18th CNMI Youth Congress’s condolences to the family of the late Honorable Ivan James Alafanso Blanco, House Minority Leader and Member of the 20th, 21st, and 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature and honoring his career in public service.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on September 18, 2021. [For info]

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

- *Misc. Communication 22-61 referred to the Committee on Natural Resources*
- *Misc. Communication 22-62 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means*
- *Misc. Communication 22-63 referred to the Committee on Natural Resources*

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. 22-27: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-3, SD1, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC § 2892(l) to exempt the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, as established by Public Law 20-92, from the oversight of the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass S. B. No. 22-3, SD1 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-27 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. 22-28: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-18, SD1, entitled: “To waive the Northern Marianas College tuition for a veteran with 30 percent or greater service-connected disability; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. No. 22-18, SD1, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that our good Madam Chairwoman had stepped out, but maybe perhaps any member of the Education Committee – I just wanted to find out with the bill if we can get an explanation with the concerns by President Galvin Deleon Guerrero and were those addressed by the committee level suppose on the bill.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Can I call for a short recess. Thank you, members.

The House recessed at 2:26 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:26 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess, Representative John Paul Sablan raised some questions and if it’s ok Representative John Paul can you restate your concerns?

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask perhaps from the Madame Chair or any member of the Education Committee with regards to concerns by our good President of the NMC (Northern Marianas College) and if we can get an explanation where these concerns embedded on the proposed legislation when the committee had worked on it. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker and thank you, Rep. Sablan. I'm sorry for a little bit of delay. I was rereading and rereading just to make sure. In the Senate committee report that originally asked for the NMC comments, it did include specific areas that addressed their concerns. Section 102 in the law, a tuition waiver for veterans included from the Senate committee report, the language that they asked for specifically that “the college shall waive tuition for eligible veterans as defined in Section 101” and that other than cost of tuition these other fees are not waived. It also explains that part C, “the waiver from the tuition does not apply to a veteran who at the time of registration is entitled to receive, but did not apply for educational benefits under both federal and local legislation.” So, that would mean they must exhaust their federal benefits and local scholarship benefits that may be used only for the payment of tuition. It goes on to say that if both federal and local benefits are used in a semester, but maybe those benefits are short, then the waiver can still apply in the same semester. So, in the Senate version, they actually did address those issues and I did ask for comments from NMC to say, “was this what you wanted?” and they said in the comments back that “we agreed with the original comments that we sent to the Senate.” And so that was one way that we addressed that issue, but we went a step further even, and included a Section D that “this waiver shall not apply to any courses from which the veteran is withdrawn after the withdrawal period or for any courses, for which the veteran has failed to receive a passing grade.” And so that way the accountability is back on the person to make sure that they, you know, meet the expectations of that and the scholarship won't be wasted. I hope that answers your question.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madame Chair for the very thorough explanation. I think perhaps some of us haven't had the opportunity to review the second communication that you have from President if you are able to share that with us and I yield for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative John Paul Sablan. Recognize Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you. It is included in the committee report dated August 27th. NMC did reply that they fully support the following position that were submitted in March of 2021. And if you look at the committee report, those areas were addressed. And so, we did not go further into that area because they confirmed that it was addressed. So, I hope that answers it. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Staffler. Any more discussions on the floor? Recognize Representative Celina Babauta.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to register a concern, Section 101 entitled “Definitions. Eligible veteran means a CNMI resident who is an active member of the United States Military who served in active federal service under Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States code.” I just wanted to register my concern that this will exclude the U S Army reservists currently serving in the CNMI.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Mr. Speaker, just a point of clarification to state my

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Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Sorry for cutting you off Rep. Babauta. I know that you're discussing the legislation itself right now. We're only on the committee report and if we do adopt the committee report, that'll be the right timing when we get to Bill Calendar to discuss the specific concerns, but till we address the committee report then we can start talking about the bill itself.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, and I apologize for cutting you off.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Okay. No problem.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. Any more discussions on the committee report. Ready?

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-28 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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Members under Resolution Calendar, prior to the session there was a discussion with the author and some concerns were brought up, so we will be leaving a House Joint Resolution 22-11 on calendar and will act on it at a later time.

H. J. R. NO. 22-11

To condemn the Government of Japan’s decision to dump nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean, oppose any other government’s actions related to nuclear testing, storage, and waste disposal in the Pacific, and reaffirm everyone’s fundamental right to a safe and healthy living environment.

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:

H. B. No. 22-3

A Bill for an Act to amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by requiring the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Mr. Speaker, before we debate the bill, is it okay if we take a short recess?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:34 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:42 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess Representative Ed Propst had the floor and I'll recognize Representative Ed Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Speaker. We've resolved our differences. Thank you. We're good. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: You don't want to put that on the floor? Just kidding. Any other member for discussion? Recognize Representative Celina Babauta.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And you guys have heard me go against this bill. We have heard today from the President of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association, I thank you, Sir for your comments. You know, my concern for one and I hope the association considers this is that what if, you know, in the future, they want to write six-month policies as other stateside insurances do. That's something for them to consider. Also, the author has touted that this is a revenue generating bill and how can he say that when this bill offers a significant discount to two or more vehicles and the fact that the Association President has supported this bill is all the more reason why we don't even need legislation. They could easily write it into their policies, but I want the president of the association to know that the JGO Committee, which had jurisdiction over this bill was never given the opportunity to debate and discuss the merits of this bill. The pros and cons that you speak of. We were never allowed that opportunity because the author requested the Floor Leader to exercise his authority, to yank it out of the committee. And so, it was yanked before we addressed any flaws of the bill and I will yield to the Association President because he has, you know, made the effort to come here and state the position of the association and he also mentioned that there was division in their association. So, I'm ready to yield to the president of the association, knowing now that I have

informed him that there was never an opportunity to deliberate on this bill and to address any concerns that the association may have had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. Any further discussion? Recognize the author.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the Chairwoman from JGO, she mentioned regarding me saying it's a generating revenue bill. Yes. It will be a generating revenue bill if a vehicle that the person has more than two vehicles he's going to make it coincide with the same year with those vehicles that will be generating because he will be paying \$25 in order for them to change the registration to make it on the same month that the vehicles is to be expired. That's where the generating comes in. As far as putting together with the expiration of the insurance and the registration that's the main purpose of this bill. The option is for you to put two vehicles in the same month. That's where you, if you can afford it, that's when you avail to it. If you don't want to do it, you don't have to do it, but it's there for you to have to do it. And also, her mentioning that the Committee of JGO never had the opportunity to hear the concern of the insurance. The insurance were never even informed regarding this. This bill was introduced since January. It was hanged up a couple of months ago. How many – it last more than 60 days. That's a lot of the ample time for them to look for the committee. I even came to their committee hearing and even present my comments. After that it didn't go anywhere. That's why I moved. I had it yanked it out so I can have it move forward and have this bill. This bill is generating bill. This bill was introduced last legislature on the 21. So, it's my goal to have this goal. I know this could be a policy, but even motor vehicle would not do it for what the customers are trying to do to have their registration and their insurance coincide the same day. So, doing this is like we're obligating it for them to do it. There's no charges it's just them putting the months together and have it expired the same day. The only charges that's going to be there is if you have more than two vehicles to coincide expiration date with the month that you prefer. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Flores. Any more discussion? Recognize Representative Celina Babauta for the second round.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact that it is optional is not revenue generating in my opinion, because if nobody wants to do it, there's going to be no revenue coming in. Also, the author has repeatedly said, this is a revenue generating bill and next time I hope that he can back it up with cost benefit analysis for the committee to consider. That is all.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. Any further discussion? Alright with no further discussion, Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to for the passage of House Bill 22-3 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	abstain
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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, 16 members voted “yes”, 2 members are absent and 1 member abstained.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 16 members voting “yes,” 1 abstention, House Bill 22-3 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. 22-2, SD1

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

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though the Senate decide to amend this House Bill 22-2, SD1, I completely have to support it because the AG recommended to remove the saving clause as placed in the bill. So with that Mr. Speaker, I’m ready to vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leepan Guerrero. Any further discussion? Ready members. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to for the passage of House Bill 22-2, Senate 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 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 17 members present voted “yes”.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting “yes,” House Bill 22-2, SD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

S. B. No. 22-3, SD1

To amend 1 CMC § 2892(l) to exempt the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, as established by Public Law 20-92, from the oversight of the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse; 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 to for the passage of Senate Bill 22-3, Senate 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 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 17 members present voted “yes”.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting “yes,” Senate Bill 22-3, SD1 hereby passes the House. That’ll be the last on our Bill Calendar. We now move down to Miscellaneous Business floor is open.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Members before we move on. I just want to announce that the house bill introduced by Representative Angel Demapan 22-81 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. 22-81 it's an unnumbered bill it will be coming your way. All right, so miscellaneous members recognize Representative Joel Camacho.

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speakers. I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee as well as the Senate for their leadership and getting the budget to the Governor's Office, which was signed into law yesterday. So, I thank you all for your hard work. I believe that is now Public Law 22-08. We can move forward for our people. Thank you again for your leadership.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Joel Camacho. Any further under miscellaneous? Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I really would like to recognize Ms. Samantha Maxine Laszlo. She will be leaving island tomorrow. She is a blooming, enthusiastic and a tad intense young professional, who just has contributed so much to the CNMI. She served as the Executive Director for CARE, that's the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts that led the rebuilding efforts after typhoon Soudelor. She was the Executive Director for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, connecting small businesses, corporate businesses, and nonprofits to the resources that they needed and she's also the sole proprietor of Max Impacts, Maxine Laszlo Consulting, where she helped more nonprofits for families and helped grow entrepreneurs and small businesses in the CNMI. I don't think she'll ever know how much good she has done for our community and she's my best friend and I just want to wish her, Sam and their cat Goose all the best and *un dánkolo na si Yu'us ma'ase, ghillisow* Maxine for spending the last five-years in the CNMI leaving this place a little bit better than you found it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta and yes, Maxine if you're watching best wishes in your future endeavors. Any more? Recognize Representative Donald Manglona.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we wait for the official transmittal of the budget from the Governor's Office; I just want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the House as well as the Senate for their commitment, their patients, their understanding, and their overall hard work for all the time that was put into putting this product together. Coming out from the committee, which I chair and being given this opportunity from Rota and to represent Rota, I felt that with the assistance of all your members, you know, we put on a product we felt that it was fair and considering the federal funds that the CNMI has received and so until we get the time to really review all of the line item vetoes, I will reserve my comments till then, but for now, I just want to thank all of you for your commitment and for your inputs and suggestions. And so with that again, thank you members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairman Manglona. Any further under miscellaneous. Okay. Under XVIII, Announcements. Any announcements? Recognize Representative Donald Manglona.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Members, we do have the *Bisita Luta* this next weekend. We welcome you. From what I heard, hotels are booked, but I think if you contact the Mayor's Office, they may be able to assist you with trying to get a room and transportation. And so not only does this coincide with the Fiesta on Rota, this is I think one of the signature events of MVA. And so, if you guys have the opportunity and time to visit the beautiful island of *Luta*, please you're more than welcome to come. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Any more announcements? None. Ready? Okay. I will be calling a session towards the end of the month. Just a heads up. All right. If there's a no more announcements, I recognize the Floor Leader for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The House adjourned at 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. 22-22: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 05 of 29 to rezone certain districts to “Mixed Commercial”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on September 23, 2021

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

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

H. B. NO. 22-78: To clarify the powers of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and make needed changes to the Commonwealth Code to support adequate development of the Cannabis Industry in the Commonwealth. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada,

Angel A. Demapan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Ralph N. Yumul) on September 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 22-79: To allow for right hand drive vehicles that are twenty-five (25) years or older to be imported and registered in the CNMI; and for other purpose. Introduced by Representative Donald M. Manglona on behalf of REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on September 23, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. L. B. NO. 22-22: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 05 of 29 to rezone certain districts to “Mixed Commercial”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on September 23, 2021 H. L. B. NO. 22-23: To appropriate the sum of One Million dollars (1,000,000.00) from the exclusive gaming annual license fees allotted to the First Senatorial District under 4 CMC § 2307(a); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on September 23, 2021.

H. J. R. NO. 22-11: To condemn the Government of Japan’s decision to dump nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean, oppose any other government’s actions related to nuclear testing, storage, and waste disposal in the Pacific, and reaffirm everyone’s fundamental right to a safe and healthy living environment. Introduced by REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*), Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on September 23, 2021; moved and placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None