



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2021

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

6th Day, Second Regular Session

Monday, December 20, 2021

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Sixth Day, Second Regular Session on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 10:12 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 Sheila Therese J. Babauta was absent and excused.

The Chair called for a short recess.

The House recessed at 10:14 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Ambrose M. Bennett
Mrs. Grace S. Vaiagae
Mr. Fabian Indalecio

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal:

Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 29, 2021

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 29, 2021

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 29, 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. 22-85

To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 7 of the Commonwealth Code by permitting private employers to exercise a voluntary veterans' preference in employment relating to veterans' relief; and for other purposes.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, and Donald M. Manglona)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

H. B. NO. 22-86

To amend 1 CMC Section 26018 Amendment of Vital Records.

REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, and Edwin K. Propst, and Leila H.F.C. Staffler)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE)

H. B. NO. 22-87

To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, to be known as the CNMI Equality Act or *Áktun Achá-Parehu* or *Alléghúl Aweewepagh* of 2021.

REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself*, (Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Richard T. Lizama, Edwin K. Propst, and Leila H.F.C. Staffler)
(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)

H. B. NO. 22-88

To amend 1 CMC §§8222-8223 to clarify the provision of official residences for eligible elected officials as well as implement a reasonable cap on the amount of utility charges allowed per month; and for other purposes.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, (Representatives Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)
(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)

H. B. NO. 22-89

To exempt pre-existing village and agricultural homestead structures, existing from January 1985 to January 2000, that are encroaching on public lands; and for other purposes.

REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, (Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Patrick H. San Nicolas)
(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES)

H. B. NO. 22-90

To create a “CNMI Road & Highway Regulatory Signs” account separate from the general fund; and for other purposes.

REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, (Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Patrick H. San Nicolas)
(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC UTILITIES, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS & WAYS AND MEANS)

The Chair directed the members to House Local Bills and recognized Representative Ralph N. Yumul.

House Local Bills:

Representative Ralph N. Yumul officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 22-28

To amend Saipan Local Law 22-6, Section 101(a) to restructure the local license fee imposed on all electronic gaming devices as defined in Title 6 section 3154(a) (4), located within the Third Senatorial District.

REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 22-13

To honor and commend the late Maya Kara for her relentless dedication and selfless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family on her untimely passing.

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

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Representative Celina R. Babauta: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Mr. Speaker *yan miembron i sanpapa’ na guma guini gi mina bente dos na House of Representative na leyeslatura, inkuenta ginen i sirudanun i Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ni ha imbra’rasia Saipan, Tinian, Luta yan i sankattan siha na isla espisiát mente taotao precinct 1 tatkilo na onru hu mitdi yan ancho na pribilehu para bai hu introdusi House Resolution 22-14.*

Representative Celina R. Babauta officially introduced the following resolution:

H. RES. NO. 22-14

Impeaching Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, pursuant to Article II, Section 8 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth for commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty, in violation of Article III, Section 19 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

REP. CELINA R. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*,
(Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairwoman Celina Babauta. I would like to share with the members that I will be creating a special committee on impeachment and will be appointing members. A memo will be pointing out on a later date. Thank you.

The Chair directed the members to House Commemorative Resolution and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

C. RES. NO. 22-5

To honor and commend the late Glicerio “Eli” Del Mundo Arago for his countless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself, (Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)*)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

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. 22-89: (11/10/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 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.*). Became **Public Law 22-12** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-90: (11/19/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, 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.*). Became **Public Law 22-13** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-91: (received 11/23/2021) **Executive Order 2021-22—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. 22-92: (received 11/23/2021) **Executive Order 2021-23—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. 22-93: (11/30/2021) Informing the House of his nomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the First Senatorial District.

GOV. COMM. 22-94: (11/30/2021) Informing the House of his re-nomination of Mr. Ramon S. Basa to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the Third Senatorial District.

GOV. COMM. 22-95: (received 12/1/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Janina Maratita, Policy Analyst, at the Office of the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-96: (12/7/2021) Informing the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (JGO) of its objection to the testimonial subpoena before the House-JGO committee. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-97: (12/10/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. L. B. No. 22-9, (*To amend Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 23 of 29 to rezone certain districts to “Mixed Commercial”; and for other purposes.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-7** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-98: (12/14/2021) Requesting the Legislature’s assistance in providing each CNMI retiree with a bonus amounting to \$500. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-99: (12/16/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22- 23, S1, (*To appropriate the sum of 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.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-04** [*For info*]

The Chair referred the following Governor’s Communications accordingly:

- *Governor’s Communication 22-93 referred to the Committees on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications & Judiciary and Governmental Operations (Deadline is on February 28, 2022 – 90 days to take action)*
- *Governor’s Communication 22-94 referred to the Committees on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications & Judiciary and Governmental Operations (Deadline is on February 28, 2022 – 90 days to take action)*

The House recessed at 11:11 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:18 a.m.

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. 22-61: (12/15/2021) Returning H. B. No. 22-53, HS1, entitled, “*To further enable recruitment, retention, and appropriate classification and compensation of Medicaid personnel; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on December 15, 2021. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 22-62: (12/15/2021) Returning H. B. No. 22-53, HS1, entitled, “*To establish a separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on December 15, 2021. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 22-63: (12/15/2021) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-02, entitled, “*Commending the life and selfless contributions of the late Glicerio “Eli” Del Mundo Arago, Honorary Consul of the Philippines for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to pay tribute for his many years of dedication and exceptional acts of distinguished service.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on December 15, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-64: (12/15/2021) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-03, entitled, “*To recognize and commend Gordon Ichihara Marciano for his significant contributions and years of selfless dedication to preserve, promote, and protect the indigenous cultures of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on December 15, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-65: (12/15/2021) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-04, entitled, “*Expressing support to implement the participation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the small community air service programs offered by the United States Department of Transportation.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on December 15, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-66: (12/15/2021) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-05, entitled, “*Approving the Governor’s request to create a new program and business unit for retiree bonuses and to reprogram \$1.3M dollars from the general fund for the payment of the retirees’ \$500.00 bonuses.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on December 15, 2021. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-67: (12/16/2021) Returning H. J. R. 22-11, HS1, entitled, “*To oppose any 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.*”, which was adopted by the Senate without amendments on December 15, 2021. [*For info*]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-61 to 22-65 so they may become property of the House.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Mr. Speaker can we have the Floor Leader repeat the motion please?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Floor Leader, repeat your motion.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Can we recess?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:19 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader withdrew his previous motion and offered a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-61 to 22-64 and 22-67 so they may become property of the House.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is regarding Senate Communication 22-66 transmitting for the House action Senate Joint Resolution 22-5 entitled, “Approving the Governor's request to create a new program and business unit for retirees bonus and to reprogram \$1.3 million from the general fund for the payment of retirees \$500.00 bonuses.” Mr. Speaker and colleagues, first of all, I'd like to extend our appreciation to the Senate for taking action on this legislation. Unfortunately, as we're all aware, any distribution of funds should begin in the House of Representatives and failure for those actions and anything that has to do with revenues that's moving from the Senate is deemed illegal under the constitution. It's the authority of the House of Representatives to move those funds. In addition to that, the Governor's letter to the Speaker and the Senate President had reflected that the specific accounts be utilized, which is the discretionary accounts for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and other accounts within the Department of Finance should be reprogrammed. Unfortunately, those documents were not provided to us. In addition to that in the letter, it says that there'll be supplanting or backfilling their accounts through ARPA funds. We all know that under ARPA, we cannot use any of the funds to address pensions, which in this case is being viewed as pension, a \$500 bonus to the pensions that our retirees are receiving this body is not against assisting the retirees. It's been very clear that this body has introduced multiple legislations in support of our retirees i.e. 19-21, 20-28, 21-76 that never left the legislative body. So, just in the analysis, the reprogramming of funds involves the reallocation of appropriated funds from one agency or the executive branch department program and function of other subject classes to another, which already entitled that they're moving funds through changing the planning of the budget act under 22-8 and so we need to address that. The request by the Governor, we do not know which programs or activities are affected in fiscal year 2022 enacted budget whose funding levels will be reduced to the level of \$1.3 Million Dollars. In addition, we do not know the fund status of these accounts as of the date of the Governor's letter to the presiding officers with the legislature. Alternatively, the Governor offered as mentioned to use appropriate discretionary funds of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, as well as funding sources from the Department of Finance. No financial information have been provided by the Governor to determine the amount of money available and the discretionary funds, as well as the funding sources of the Department of Finance. We do not know the fund status of these funds as of date, when the Governor's request was submitted to the presiding officers of the legislature. The Governor indicated to backfill these programs in the general fund that will be used for reprogram purposes using ARPA funds. No indication from the ARPA activities as to which activities will be used to reduce from the \$175 million spending plan for FY 2022, which is I

believe appendix, B. And with that if they were to supplant the money from ARPA, it would actually increase our general revenues, an additional \$1.3 million. So, we would still have to amend the budget. Anything above \$200,000 or below \$200,000 shall be submitted to the legislature to address the budget appropriation. So, with that being said, that additional \$1.3 million that will be supplanted into the budget act, 25% of that is obligated to go to PSS. So, that would still leave the account short by 25% to address the retirees \$1.3 million. So, with that being said, and the conclusion due to the lack of financial information, Mr. Speaker and members, to make the important decision of whether or not the general fund has the ability to pay the \$1.3 million on bonuses for retirees, I am requesting that we obtain the following financial information to make our assessment and decision-making. One, the actual general fund collections and expenditures, including encumbrances for the two-months ended November 30, 2021 as well as communitive surpluses or deficits for the past months of FY 2022. Number two, the fun status reports as of December 15th, 2021 for the activities in the general fund and ARPA that will be affected by the \$1.3 million reprogramming requests. Three, fund status report as of December 15th, 2021 of the funding sources under the Department of Finance in FY 2022 and lastly, a fiscal identify the base and physically identify the business unit number and the name of the program or activity for which the \$1.3 million worth or the retirees bonus to be accounted for FY 2022 so that the actual letter will be submitted to the legislature with the exact business units that we will be removing \$1.3 million to address the \$500.00 bonuses to the retirees. In addition to that, for the record that were \$1.3 million that will be supplanted back into the general fund is still short by 25% because we still need to address those monies to be heading to PSS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you colleagues for allowing me the time.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Any further under a Senate Communications? Recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Vice Speaker. So perhaps maybe we can as you Mr. Speaker, what is your course of action to proceed with this? I know there's so many concerns with regards to the Senate Joint Resolution and identifying what business units are the administration proposes to tap to provide in the amount of \$1.3. Do we squash this Senate Communication? What is the course of action moving forward? Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: For now, I'd like to keep it on the agenda for further review and Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Rep. JP Sablan. That's the reason why with our conclusion, there's a list of four needs and requests from the administration to provide this body so that they can identify the actual accounts that they will be taking the \$1.3 million and how will they be putting back the \$1.3 million to address the shortfall of that \$1.3 million going to the \$500 bonuses to the retirees. Again, nobody here has ever voted against the support of the retirees. We, as a body have introduced multiple legislations to address the needs of the retirees. So, we just want the actual information so that these business unit can be created properly and we know exactly which, line item, department or agencies, will be losing \$1.3 million and how they will be addressed with through ARPA and in addition that we have to make sure that the 25% ceiling increases for PSS because it'll change the ceiling numbers of the appropriations act of 2022. Is that clear?

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Vice for the clarity.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just echo my concerns as well about which the Vice Speaker did an excellent job laying out already about this Governor's request to create this new program and issue retiree bonuses. You know, unfortunately my impression, I think a lot of us may share this impression is that the Governor made this promise to retirees for \$500 for each of them for a bonus, but without actually checking to make sure that the funds were available in the first place and, you know, we now know ARPA comes, the American Rescue Plan Act comes with many restrictions. And one of my questions would be whether, you know, this proposal, this work around that he's now presenting to the legislature would even be feasible and if we can really use American Rescue Plan act funds to backfill as he put it the short fall that would be created by this reprogramming from the general fund and again, without us even knowing what the Governor would be reprogramming funds from which accounts would be affected it's really difficult for us and unreasonable to ask us to approve this without further information. So, thank you, Mr. Vice Speaker for laying that out. I completely agree with the additional requests for information that you've proposed and I hope to be getting that information from the administration as soon as possible. Thank you and I yield.

There was further discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-61 to 22-64 and 22-67 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Senate Communications 22-65 and 66 will remain on the agenda. Senate Communications 22-63 and 64 will be placed on today's calendar for action. Thank you, members.

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. 22-40: (10/26/2021) From Representative Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on professional business from October 30, 2021; and on personal business on November 6, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-41: (10/26/2021) From Representative Sheila J. Babauta informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from October 31, 2021—November 14, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-42: (10/28/2021) From Representative Staffler informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from October 31, 2021—

November 7, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-43: (10/29/2021) From Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official and personal business on November 1, 2021— November 16, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-44: (11/5/2021) From Representative Propst, Gaming Chair, submitting amended composition to the Gaming Committee appointing new Member, Representative Corina L. Magofna. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-45: (11/16/2021) From Representative Celina R. Babauta, JGO Chair, requesting the Speaker to certify statement of contempt to prompt the Attorney General to initiate prosecution of Ms. Frances “Kai” Dela Cruz, adopted by the House-JGO. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-46: (11/16/2021) From the Speaker, informing the Attorney General that the Speaker of the House has formally certified statement of contempt and that the Attorney General to initiate prosecution. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-47: (11/17/2021) From the presiding officers’ of the legislature, Speaker Villagomez and Senate President Hofschneider re: *Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination of Legislative Branch employees*. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-48: (10/26/2021) From Representative Manglona, W&M Chair, submitting amended composition to the W&M Committee appointing new Member, Representative Corina L. Magofna to serve as Vice Chair; and Representative Joel C. Camacho, Minority member. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-49: (11/1/2021) From the Speaker re: *Updating House Members on the House Standing Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs appointments*. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-50: (11/15/2021) From Representative Lizama, PUTC Chair, submitting amended composition to the PUTC Committee appointing new Member, Representative Corina L. Magofna. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-51: (11/22/2021) From Representative Yangetmai, Cannabis Chair, submitting amended composition to the Cannabis Committee appointing new Member, Representative Corina L. Magofna. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-52: (11/30/2021) From the presiding officers’ of the legislature, Speaker Villagomez and Senate President Hofschneider re: *Extension of Section 2 Legislative COVID Protocol Directive 2021-01*. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-53: (11/22/2021) From Representative Yangetmai, Commerce and Tourism Chair, submitting amended composition to the C&T Committee appointing new Member, Representative Corina L. Magofna. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-54: (12/3/2021) From the Speaker re: *Pursuant to House Rules establishing “Special Committee on Official Conduct and Ethics” and appointment of members to serve on established special committee [Rep. Donald M. Manglona, Chair;*

Members: Reps. Sheila J. Babauta, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Corina L. Magofna, Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Leila H.F.C. Staffler]. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-55: (12/6/2021) From the presiding officers' of the legislature, Speaker Villagomez and Senate President Hofschneider re: *AMENDED-Extension of Section 2 Legislative COVID Protocol Directive 2021-01*. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-56: (12/7/2021) From Representative Sheila J. Babauta informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from December 8, 2021—December 12, 2021; and on personal leave from December 13, 2021—December 27, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during her absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-57: (12/15/2021) From Representative Celina R. Babauta, JGO Chair, informing the Speaker that the House-JGO has voted to hold Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres in contempt for reckless failure to appear and testify pursuant to House-JGO subpoena thereby reporting instance of contempt to House for referral to the Attorney General, pursuant to 1CMC, § 1306(b), adopted by the House-JGO. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-58: (12/15/2021) From the Speaker, informing the Attorney General that the Speaker of the House has formally certified the instance of contempt to the Attorney General for prosecution pursuant to 1CMC, § 1306(b). [For info]

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Donald M. Manglona.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in regards to House Communication 22-54. I just wanted to inform the members that the committee is duly organized and one of the recommendations that were made during the committee last Friday was to include alternates in the event members shall recuse themselves for any conflict of interest. However, upon discussing with the Speaker with that recommendation, it was decided that it shall be on a case by case basis to also ensure that the alternates have no conflict as well as to limit the access to any confidential information that the committee may receive and so with that whenever a matter has been referred to the committee upon reviewing any conflict of interest, then we may make the recommendation to the Speaker to assign any member to fill in for that member who shall be recusing themselves So, any additional questions or concerns to the committee, I welcome your suggestions or recommendations and that's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairman Manglona. Any other further discussions under House Communications? Recognize Representative Denita Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: You know, I just want to announce, because maybe you guys missed it, but we have a new member in the Cannabis Committee and the Commerce and Tourism. Rep. Corina L. Magofna if you guys don't know her. All right, thank you.

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

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. 22-29: (received 10/28/2021) From the Department of Public Lands (DPL) submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-30: (10/28/2021) From the Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-31: (10/29/2021) From the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-32: (10/29/2021) From the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) submitting *CUC's FY 2021 Fourth Quarter Expenditure Report*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-33: (9/30/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (S-DOF) re: *Implementation of CNMI's new Financial Management Information System (FMIS)*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-34: (9/30/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (S-DOF) re: *US Treasury issues new guidance on Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for States, Territories, and Freely Associated States (9/24/2021) for broadband infrastructure projects (Application deadline for CCPF—December 2021)*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-35: (12/1/2021) From the Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) re: *Requests a list of purchased or leased (Government) vehicles made by individual Members*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-36: (12/7/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (S-DOF) re: *Reschedule appearance pursuant to issued subpoena to December 15, 2021*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-37: (12/8/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (S-DOF) re: *Coronavirus Relief Funds from CARES Act, U.S. Public Law 116-136*. [*For info*]

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Department Communication 22-37 from the Secretary of Finance to Congressman Kilili Sablan regarding Coronavirus relief funds from the CARES Act. You know, I would note there's been some back-and-forth communication between the congressional office and the Department of Finance and administration as to the status of these CARES Act funds and do we or do we not have \$21 million that remains unspent and that could lapse and be returned back to the federal government come December 31st. And you know, I would note that there is another response from the

congressional office, Miscellaneous Communication 22-84, that still seeks clarification on will these funds be spent or not. Have they been spent or not? And you know, the Secretary Finance's letter of December 8th is really not all that clear. And I would note too that our Ways and Means Chairman of the committee have repeatedly asked the Secretary of Finance for the expenditure report for the CARES Act fund. Not to mention all of these other federal streams of funding that are coming into the Commonwealth, but the CARES Act fund in particular, we have not seen the reports that we've been asking for. I remain concerned, like I think many of us are that the CNMI could be at risk of losing out on these \$21 million if we don't get some clarity and confirmation from this administration, as soon as possible, it's now December 20th, have we or have we not spent these funds it's still not clear and I think we need that clarity again as soon as possible. So, I understand that a Ways and Means is once again, submitting a request to the Secretary of Finance and you know, I would hope that there would be some briefing for this body shortly, ideally before the holidays. Thank you.

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

There was no further 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. 22-73: (10/22/2021) Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Saipan submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-74: (10/29/2021) Director of the Legislative Bureau (LB) informing all the House & Senate Members and LB employees re: *Off-island notice on official business and Notice of Delegation Authority from October 30, 2021—November 9, 2021*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-75: (10/29/2021) From the Infrastructure and Recovery Program submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-76: (11/1/2021) Acting Director of the Legislative Bureau (LB) informing all the House & Senate Members and LB employees re: *Notice of Delegation Authority of Mr. Jose A. Bermudes until November 9, 2021*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-77: (received 11/3/2021) Office of Personnel Management submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-78: (received 10/29/2021) Board of Professional Licensing and Health Care Professions Licensing submitting FY 2021 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-79: (11/18/2021) Director of the Legislative Bureau (LB) re: *Trip report on NCSL Legislative Summit*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-80: (11/29/2021) From the Director of the Legislative Bureau (LB) re: *Legislative Bureau Addendum to Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination of Legislative Branch Employees*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-81: (11/30/2021) Transmitting for disposition a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-05, entitled, “*To mandate that all PSS schools provide, free of charge to students, menstrual hygiene products; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on November 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-82: (12/1/2021) Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Delegate U.S House of Representatives re: *Request expenditure plan for remaining Coronavirus Relief Funds (\$21.7 million) which funds are to expire on December 31, 2021*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-83: (12/9/2021) From the Director of the Legislative Bureau (LB) re: *House Legal Counsels’ and House Legislative Assistants’ Official House Standing Committee Assignments*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-84: (12/10/2021) Robert J. Schwalbach, Chief of Staff, Office of Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Delegate U.S House of Representatives to the Secretary, Department of Finance (S-DOF) re: *Receipt of letter on the Coronavirus Relief Funds under the CARES Act, U.S. Public Law 116-136 (\$36.4 million); however Speaker Pelosi, House Speaker (U.S. Congress) and Congressman Sablan seeks clarification on the remaining unspent \$21.7 million (pursuant to data collected by the Federal Pandemic Oversight Agency) which funds are to expire on December 31, 2021*. [For info]

The Chair referred the following Miscellaneous Communication accordingly:

- *Misc. Comm. 22-81 referred to the Committees on Education & Health and Welfare*

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced the two committee reports ready for action.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

S. C. R. NO. 22-32: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-81 entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 1202, to exclude local stimulus payments from taxation.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 22-81, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-32 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. 22-33: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-68 entitled: “To establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-68 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-33 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. 22-13

To honor and commend the late Maya Kara for her relentless dedication and selfless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our heartfelt condolences to her bereaved family on her untimely passing.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 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 resolution:

C. RES. NO. 22-5

To honor and commend the late Glicerio “Eli” Del Mundo Arago for his countless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-5 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

S. J. R. NO. 22-02

Commending the life and selfless contributions of the late Glicerio “Eli” Del Mundo Arago, Honorary Consul of the Philippines for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to pay tribute for his many years of dedication and exceptional acts of distinguished service.

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 adopt Senate Joint Resolution 22-02 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 Corina L. Magofna	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting “yes,” Senate Joint Resolution 22-02 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

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

S. J. R. NO. 22-03

To recognize and commend Gordon Ichihara Marciano for his significant contributions and years of selfless dedication to preserve, promote, and protect the indigenous cultures of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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 adopt Senate Joint Resolution 22-03 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 Corina L. Magofna	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting “yes,” Senate Joint Resolution 22-03 is hereby adopted.

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. 22-68

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

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to first express my thanks to the members of the committee and for this body for considering this bill to establish. A formerly established by law, a prescription drug monitoring program for the Commonwealth. The CNMI is one of the last jurisdictions to move in this direction and the purpose of this bill is

not just to create a database of prescription histories and practices, but really to provide an effective and efficient public health tool that providers, pharmacists, dispensers, public health officials can use to ultimately improve patient safety. We worked very closely with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation in drafting and reviewing this bill. The program, there is already a program in place at CHC. They do have funding. They are working with the centers for disease control, but this takes it to the next necessary step, which is to formally establish the program by law, within the administration of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation. The bill draws on best practices and legislative models from other jurisdictions. The idea, the primary purposes of this tool is to identify potential misuses or overdose risks as well as to monitor and report prescription practices in the Commonwealth and develop interventions, effective interventions to prevent and treat prescription drug misuse or addiction and again, the ultimate goal is to improve patients. We did solicit public comments and receive public comments and we conducted several public meetings of the Health and Welfare Committee during which we reviewed the comments received, and also had a chance to do question and answer and receive presentations from the overdose data to action program that is currently running now at the CHC. So, I would ask for your support for this legislation and if any members have any questions, I'd be happy to address them. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Representative Tina Sablan. Leader Demapan did you have your hands up earlier? Okay. Floor is still open for discussion on House Bill 22-68. Any further discussions? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to pass House Bill 22-68 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 Corina L. Magofna	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting “yes,” House Bill 22-68 is hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-81, HD1

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

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just also want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman Manglona and the members of the Committee on Ways and Means for working on this bill and bringing it to the floor today. I also want to thank the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Secretary of Finance and the Division of Revenue and Taxation for providing information to the committee to further refine the bill and to ensure that all the legal technicalities were addressed. One of them is the removal of the provision to exempt NMTIT from the taxes that are levied against the taxpayers and because of certain restrictions that had to be removed, but at the end of the day the true intent of the bill is to ensure that the recipients of this stimulus payment, which was in effect to stimulate the economy and to give our people additional resources during this time of economic hardship. There are people who filed zero taxes and those are the people who severely would not be able to afford any form of taxation. And so, with the support of the Committee of Ways and Means and I asked for the support of the full body to pass this bill. We can ensure that our taxpayers the citizens of the CNMI are not burdened by an unforeseen taxation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Angel Demapan. Any further discussion. Okay. Ready? Clerk, please call the role.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to pass House Bill 22-81, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Celina R. Babauta	yes
Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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 Corina L. Magofna	yes
Representative Donald M. Manglona	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas	yes
Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler	yes
Representative Denita K. Yangetmai	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-81, House Draft 1 hereby passes the House. Thank you, member and that will be it

on today's Bill Calendar and Resolution Calendar. We now move down to Miscellaneous Business. Floor is open. Recognize the Vice Speaker.

No action taken for the following legislation:

S. B. No. 22-18, SD1, HD1

A Bill for an Act to waive the Northern Marianas College tuition for a veteran with 30 percent or greater service-connected disability; and for other purposes. [See S. C. R. No. 22-28]

H. B. No. 22-7

A Bill for an Act to provide clarity relative to the crime of promoting prison contraband, or otherwise known as the Contraband Reform Act of 2021; and for other purposes. [No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of February 19, 2021 and March 16, 2021]

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleagues. Just want to bring up a concern that was brought up last week and over the weekend regarding the Department of Corrections. So, we all know that there's a few officers that had tested positive and some inmates that have tested positive COVID-19 and their manpower is dwindling pretty quick. They've actually got assistance from the Department of Public Safety. I believe 10 to 20 individuals were officers were sent to assist the Department of Corrections, unfortunately, many of those individuals also caught the COVID-19 virus. So, their manpower's additionally depleted again. So, they're running not even skeleton crew right now. They're really scratching the grounds right now in regards to manpower. A lot of their people who are able to go home for a couple hours, but have to go back to report back to the office because of the inability to service with the manpower that they have. So, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I think the rightful committee should look into this issue and maybe look at the opportunity if there's a financial assistance coming through the request of this body or to the Speaker's office on the \$500 for the retirees bonuses that maybe we can request also additional, maybe some sort of an emergency hiring for the Department of Corrections to assist them in their situation right now. Unfortunately, we have to provide those services. They have a grant that they have to abide by and with the shortage of manpower, I don't know if we're going to be able to even live up to the grant expectations because of the lack of manpower that they're facing over there. So, I just would like to share that colleagues to each and every one of you and especially you Mr. Speaker, as the head of our House. Thank you again members.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Any further under Miscellaneous Business. None? I'd like to take this opportunity since I don't foresee calling a session within this week or next week to wish all of you and your families, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, a Happy Holidays. May you all enjoy, stay safe and wish you all really the very best this upcoming year 2022 and that also goes to our viewing public and our people of the Commonwealth, both living on island and abroad. Thank you. Floor is still open for Miscellaneous Business. Ready? I recognized Representative Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you too. Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Floor is still open. All right. We'll move down to announcements. No announcements. All right. We'll move down to adjournment and I recognized the Floor Leader.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this is honestly the first session where we have the spirit of the holidays by not debating each other. So 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 11:58 a.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. 22-26: To authorize, establish, and regulate casino gambling within the Third Senatorial District. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on October 29, 2021.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on October 29, 2021:

H. B. NO. 22-82: To adopt the village delimitation and name master map for Saipan as the sole village delimitation and name master map of Saipan and to provide for the Office of the Mayor of Saipan to be the primary custodian for maintaining and preserving the master map and for the Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division to be the secondary custodian; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*) on October 29, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 22-83: To enact a whistleblower protection provision for respective employees reporting on prohibited personnel practices; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 29, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 22-84: To repeal and reenact 2 CMC §4323 and 2 CMC §4324(c) to mandate the Department of Public Lands (DPL) to review all past and pending claims and to grant such title to qualified persons; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, (Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on October 29, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H. L. B. NO. 22-26: To authorize, establish, and regulate casino gambling within the Third Senatorial District. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on October 29, 2021. [ADDED-10/29/2021]

H. B. NO. 22-27 To appropriate \$4,000,000.00 from fees collected pursuant to Public Law 20-10; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, (Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on October 29, 2021.

H. RES. NO. 22-12: To honor and commend the CNMI Wildland Fire Crew 36 for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting the California wildfires. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, (Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, 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. Yumul) on October 29, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None