



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2022

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

3rd Day, Third Regular Session

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Third Day, Third Regular Session on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 10:04 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.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Good morning to those in the viewing public and to all of you in the gallery. Welcome to your House session and I'll call this Third Day, Third Regular session to order. Please rise for a moment of silence and may I ask that we keep our colleague Representative Ed Propst and his family in our prayers and also for world peace.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and sixteen members were present; Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Angel A. Demapan, Christina Marie E. Sablan and Ralph N. Yumul were absent and excused.

The Chair announced that Representative John Paul Sablan will serve as the Floor Leader Pro Tempore.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal:

*2nd Day, Third Regular Session Journal – February 22, 2022**The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.**The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the 2nd Day, Third Regular Session Journal – February 22, 2022.**The motion was seconded.**There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the 2nd Day, Third Regular Session Journal – February 22, 2022 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 bill was officially introduced by the author of the bill and was referred to committee by the Chair:***H. B. NO. 22-97**

To require Legislative Appropriation for all Non-Locally-Sourced Funds allocated for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

REP. CORINA L. MAGOFNA of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Ralph N. Yumul)**(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS)***The Chair directed the members to House Local Bills.****House Local Bills:****The following bill was officially introduced by the author of the bill:***H. L. B. NO. 22-30**

To make limited appropriations for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission for Fiscal Year 2022 pursuant to 10 CMC § 2581 [Tinian Local Law 21-9] and 1 CMC § 1405(a) [Public Law 11-17].

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)***House Legislative Initiatives: None****The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Denita K. Yangetmai.*

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Oh, that's right. Okay. I almost said that we have technical difficulties. Representative Yangetmai forgot her extra pair of eyes. So, she would like if any of the other co-sponsors would like to read. Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta officially introduced the following resolution on behalf of Representative Denita K. Yangetmai:

C. RES. NO. 22-9

To Congratulate and Honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2022 proclaimed as CNMI Women's Month and March 8th as International Women's Day.

REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you and if there's no objection Chairwoman Yangetmai if we can introduce this as a whole.

Several members voiced "no objection."

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: No objection. Okay. Thank you, members. Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. Commemorative Resolution 22-9 is hereby introduced as a whole of the committee and will be placed on today's Resolution Calendar for action.

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

C. RES. NO. 22-10

To honor and commend Mr. David Mangarero Sablan for his selfless dedication and countless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*, Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao)

Several members voiced "no objection."

The Chair placed House Commemorative Resolution 22-10 on the Resolution Calendar.

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. 22-112: (2/22/2022) Informing the legislature that he is withdrawing Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua's [representing First Senatorial District] appointment to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and will resubmit his nomination at a later date. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-113: (2/22/2022) Informing the legislature that he is withdrawing Mr. Ramon S. Basa's [representing Third Senatorial District] appointment to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and will resubmit his nomination at a later date. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-114: (2/28/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-26, HD1, (*To amend 3 CMC §2204(e) to remove the limitation of terms for members to serve on the Health Care Professions Licensing Board; and for other purposes.*). Became **Public Law 22-14** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-115: (3/1/2022) Informing the House of his (re-submission) nomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the First Senatorial District. [*Deadline: 5/30/2022*]

GOV. COMM. 22-116: (3/1/2022) Informing the House of his (re-submission) re-nomination of Mr. Ramon S. Basa to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the Third Senatorial District. [*Deadline: 5/30/2022*]

GOV. COMM. 22-117: (3/1/2022) Informing the House that he vetoed S. L. B. No. 22-6 (*To amend 10 CMC §12114 to provide for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission member's compensation.*). [*Deadline: 4/30/2022*]

GOV. COMM. 22-118: (3/1/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. L. B. No. 22-8, D1, (*To amend 10 CMC §§12104 and 12111, to allow legislative amendment to the Rota Casino Act and provide for a limited time to act on the confirmation or rejection of the Rota Mayor's appointment of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission members.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-07** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-119: (3/18/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-81, HD1, (*To amend 4 CMC § 1202, to exclude local stimulus payments from taxation.*). Became **Public Law 22-15** [*For info*]

Under discussion, the Chair recognized Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just wanted to thank the Governor for signing House Bill 22-26, HD1 into law. It is now Public Law 22-14 under Governor's Communication 22-114. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair referred the following Governor’s Communication:

- *Governor’s Communication 22-115 referred to the Committees on Public Utilities, Transportation & Communication and Judiciary & Governmental Operations*
- *Governor’s Communication 22-116 referred to the Committees on Public Utilities, Transportation & Communication and Judiciary & Governmental Operations*

There was no further 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. 22-77: (2/24/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-13, entitled, “*Requesting the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority to proactively work with the Office of the Governor in establishing a program using ARPA funds to provide financial assistance to businesses in the Commonwealth.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 3, 2022. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-78: (2/28/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-13, entitled, “*To recognize and commend Anthony Iglecias Macaranas for his meritorious commitment to serve as a distinguishable police officer in the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands and for his sacrifice for our country as a member of the United States Army on occasion of his retirement.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 3, 2022. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-79: (3/4/2022) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-61, SD1, entitled, “*To amend 3 CMC § 1331 to exclude federal and other non-general revenue funds received by the Northern Marianas College from the OPA 1% fee application and to delete the offset provision of the Northern Marianas College annual budget funded by the Legislature.*”, which was passed by the Senate on March 3, 2022. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-80: (3/4/2022) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-06, entitled, “*Requesting the Office of Personnel Management, the Secretary of Finance, and the Civil Service Commission, to work together to have the WGIS or Merit Increases assessed and processed for the civil service employees that were furloughed and later returned to work.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 3, 2022. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-81: (3/4/2022) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-07, entitled, “*Requesting Governor Torres and the Secretary of Finance provide ARPA funds to provide premium pay for the legislative members’ employees.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 3, 2022. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-82: (3/4/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-16, entitled, “*To adopt the Senate Impeachment Rules for the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 3, 2022. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-83: (3/10/2022) Establishment of Special Committee on the Impeachment Hearing and referral of House Resolution 22-14. *Members: Senators Karl*

King-Nabors-Chair; Justo Quitugua-Vice Chair; Francisco Q. Cruz; Victor B. Hocog; and Teresita A. Santos. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 22-84: (3/11/2022) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 22-09, entitled, “*Approving the Governor’s request to create a new program and business unit for retiree bonuses and to reprogram \$2.6M dollars from within the executive branch for the payment of the retirees’ \$1,000.00 bonuses.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 10, 2022. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-85: (3/14/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-19, entitled, “*To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2022 proclaimed as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8th as International Women’s Day.*”, which was adopted by the Senate on March 10, 2022. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-86: (3/17/2022) From Senator Paul A. Manglona on the matter relating to “Senate Impeachment Rules V6.1 Joey Edits”. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-87: (3/25/2022) Informing the House that the Senate confirmed Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the First Senatorial District during its 4th Day, Third Regular Session on March 23, 2022. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-88: (3/25/2022) Informing the House that the Senate confirmed Mr. Ramon S. Basa to serve on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the Third Senatorial District during its 4th Day, Third Regular Session on March 23, 2022. [*For info*]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-77 to 22-88 so they may become property of the House.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For Senate Communication 22-84 transmitting for House action for Senate Joint Resolution 22-9, “Approving the Governor’s request to create a new program and business unit for retiree bonuses and to reprogram \$2.6M dollars from within the executive branch for the payment of the retirees’...” if I may, Mr. Speaker, continue. I know Mr. Speaker, that it is clear that both houses, the Senate and the House support the retiree’s bonus. This issues, legal method both parties can agree on and also, which is the fastest method, which since the retirees have been waiting for over so many months, so many months. The rapprochement of the House is through an appropriation that relocates the HOT funds as stated by the mayor, which I, which I – the Mayor of Tinian, which I agree with the reallocation of HOT funds will have a devastating effect on the Municipality of Tinian and the tourist industry. Therefore, I cannot support their appropriation giving that there's a better and faster alternative. Also, an appropriation will obviously require the approval of the House, Senate and Governor and this will definitely be a longer method for the bonus to be disbursed. The Senate Resolution was reviewed and recommended by the Retirement Trustee, Attorney General

and the Senate Legal Counsel, as stated by the Secretary of Finance and it is the fastest method because the House approves, the Senate Resolution, the Governor will be able to pay the retirees. It is obvious that these claim by the majority of the House members, there is the Senate Resolution is insufficient as funds cannot be reprogrammed to an unfunded account, but according to the Planning and Budgeting Act and to all legal reviews, this authority is given through a joint resolution. Mr. Speaker and members, therefore, when the House approved the Senate Resolution then both houses give the Governor the authority, the new business unit for their retirees bonus and the authority reprogram funds into the account to pay the bonuses and this has been thoroughly vetted out by the Attorney General and has legal sufficient. Therefore, Mr. Speaker and members, I support the Senate Resolution. I will vote “yes,” to support the resolution to enable the Governor to process that retirees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. Any more for further discussion. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Representative San Nicolas for your message on Senate Communication 22-84. I believe the mayor's position when he had mentioned during the Senate session that the House version under 22-91 was touching the money under HOT tax for MVA, that's a misinformation. That's the general appropriations under 22-8 that we appropriated to MVA. The HOT tax is an outside source. It's a direct funding source to MVA, through the 5% of the hotel occupancy tax. So, they take 5% of the 15% of the hotel occupancy tax. That's a direct fund to their account. We don't appropriate those funds. Those are without fiscal year limitation funds. Those go directly to MVA through a Public Law 18-2. It's not the appropriations act that gives the HOT tax to MVA. MVA's \$1 million plus dollars that they got under 22-8 is a direct appropriation from the general fund. And speaking of the resolution 22-9 and 2-4 that the Senate had adopted no, sorry; Senate Joint Resolution 22-4 and 22-9 they're citing Senate Joint Resolution 19-4. Senate Joint Resolution 19-4 was giving the Governor an additional 50% reprogramming authority. During that fiscal year we gave the Governor 50% reprogramming authority, Senate Joint Resolution 19-4 was giving them the additional 50 to give the 100% reprogramming attorney for the remainder of that fiscal year. If you notice that joint resolution was adopted on September 25th of that fiscal year, which would essentially only give five-days of 100% reprogramming authority. And the 100% of reprogramming authority was to authorize the Governor to pay for the CNMI's 10% cost share of typhoon Soudelor. That's the reason why Senate Joint Resolution 19-4 was adopted. It wasn't creating another brand-new business unit that's unfunded. Failure to fund a business unit under the appropriations act or to an appropriations, you can't put money into those accounts it's a dead account. There's zero function to that account. Failure to have a dollar figure in there through an appropriations legislation and the only way that can happen is through the House. That's the reason why we pass 22-91 unanimously in this body. We also rejected the amendments made by the Senate on 22-91, SS1 and then we created the special committees. I mean, the sorry, the conference committee is appointed by the Speaker The Planning and Budgeting Act, if you look at 7204(a)2 it reads, “no funds may be reprogrammed to any account, which has been zero funded by the legislature or to any account for which the legislature has not made an appropriation.” We don't have a retiree bonus business unit. We don't have a retiree bonus account. Therefore, we can't do it by joint resolution, we have to do it by appropriation. And if you look at the screen, the next sentence under 7402(a)2, it says “any person who reprograms government funds or knowingly receives reprogram funds in contravention of this subsection shall be held personally liable for the amount of the reprogram accounts.” So we're

going to be reprogrammed \$2.6, plus the 1% million dollars into this via joint resolution. We as members of the legislature, all 29 of us that vote on this joint resolution will be personally liable to pay back the \$2.6 million dollars plus the 1%. In addition to that, all the thousand other retirees that received a thousand dollars will be personally liable to pay back the \$1,000. The only way this thing can be triggered by one individual. We got to remember that the settlement fund was created through a lawsuit of one individual to the retirement fund. If one person out there in the community feels that they should get a thousand dollars as well because the retirees got a thousand dollars, they can file lawsuit and that will make each and every one of us here personally, liable to pay back that \$2.6 plus the 1% that we all had agreed to appropriate. Plus the retirees that received a thousand dollars would be obligated to pay back the thousand dollars. So, let's just say that the joint resolution can create the business unit, without a dollar figure in that business unit it's not functional. And the Senate they're well aware of that. They're very, well-versed in the budget process and they know that if we unfunded business unit, we cannot utilize any of the funds. I mean, we can't use that business unit to trigger any action for it. And back to the HOT tax, we are not touching the HOT tax. Matter of fact, if you remember under the budget that we adopted or we passed and was signed into law 22-8, there's a class code number 61299 that has a total amount of \$5,723,088 in that account that would be able to address the \$2.6 million to backfill the monies that we're going to utilize under 22-91. If we want to do the conference committee or the 22-95 that we have on bill calendar for action today. The opinion that the Secretary of Finance was utilizing in regards to the Attorney General's Office, the Attorney General's, his opinion was reflective of the \$88 million that we got a loan from a FEMA. Those monies were as flexible as possible as anything can be flexible except for infrastructure. That's the only restriction for the \$88 million in the same message that the AG had sent to the SOF regarding the retirees bonus, he said that it's proper to have an appropriations bill rather than a joint resolution. The settlement fund until we see a document from the settlement fund that states that it's okay to do the settlement funds is not worried about whether the retirees get the bonuses at the thousand dollar bonus. All they care about is to make sure that this the central government pays the settlement fund for the cost it's going to take them to process this. So, the 7402 is very clear that if we act on it, we can be personally liable to pay back the \$2.6 plus the 1% and the retirees it's very clear under 7402, that if they received a thousand dollars, they would have to pay back the thousand dollars should someone file a lawsuit. HOT tax, we're not touching HOT tax at all. HOT tax is a direct appropriation it's a separate account from the general fund. So, I beg to differ with the good Mayor of Tinian. He's well versed of the budget process. He was a member of the House and he made a lot of good appropriation legislation during his time, but the HOT tax, definitely not touching the HOT tax. And like I mentioned, under ARPA 61299 has \$5.7 million dollars plus that can backfill the \$2.6 million dollars and he can address this through the 25% reprogramming authority that he has. Unfortunately, we have to create a business unit to an appropriations legislation to activate that business unit to be possible to move monies around. All we need is a dollar figure in there. Even \$1, if we want to move \$1 and allow the Governor 25%, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Any further discussion? I recognize Representative Donald Manglona.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Vice for elaborating on that, but just to give the members an idea of what the Vice Speaker was mentioning in regards to establishing a business unit and putting in a dollar figure. If you look at page 4, of the Schedule A of the Public Law 22-08 or even the amendment that I did in House

Bill 22-95, there's differences in the accounts for organizations where you will see a \$0 or a \$1 figure in either operations or personnel or both. Whenever there's a zero figure, that means that nothing can be spent out of that account. Nothing can be put into that account, unless the House makes that appropriation. Anything with a \$1 amount that you see on there is something that the Governor can put into and that's because this body appropriated that \$1 amount that the Vice Speaker was talking about. And so even if we proceed with Senate Joint Resolution 22-09. All it does is create a business unit that says retiree bonus, and then there'll be a zero for operations and a zero for personnel. Nothing can go into the account unless we appropriate the \$1. So even if, again, we were to approve Senate Joint Resolution, we would have to go back and do another House Bill to amend Public Law 22-08, which would put that \$1 in there and then allow the Governor to reprogram funds, but to skip the whole process and make it quicker. I pre-filed or we placed on calendar 22-95, which already identified the business unit, as well as the funds that will go into that business unit. And if this is really a concern for MVA, I'm surprised they're not here to argue for that for those funds. We've seen numerous times and we've heard from them and we're also going, I believe Commerce and Tourism has a meeting with them on Thursday, which she can address their concerns, but you know, all these funds that they've been receiving through ARPA you know, that's some of the stuff that they could use to help supplement their, operational needs. I mean, they've spent millions on the trip program and some of that, I'm sure it could be used to fund the operations and support of bringing back tourism into the CNMI. And so, with that, colleagues and speaker even if we were to act on the Senate Joint Resolution, we would still have to go back and appropriate, therefore, I recommend that we act on 22-95. 22-91 is still on the table. I mean, the Senate is more than welcome to appoint their conferees, but in the spirit of trying to move forward and trying to speed up the process, we also have 22-95, which I believe we'll be acting on today. And so, I hope that clarifies and makes sense of what the Vice Speaker had mentioned with business units and zero and \$1. And so, with that I yield. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Recognize Representative Leepan.

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, Mr. Speaker, my only interest is the retirees. I could care less about violation of the law. We've done that in the past. Other legislature in the past have done it. This is about the retiree. With the 22-95 that's on the agenda in the calendar; how certain is it for us to act on it and the Senate is going to sit on it again while the retirees are suffering? It's going to be going back and forth. The thing, the most proper thing Mr. Speaker, both house, sit down together and iron out the difference and push this out because the retirees are in need of this money. We're only here temporarily, but the retirees that deserve this money as promised, I do understand that the business unit must be created. When I hear colleague Manglona illustrated that budget should be – another budget – we never put a zero. We always put a dollar. I've been part of the Ways and Means Committee and that's always been the practice, but for now, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we can sit here all day, but the retirees are in need of this money. It's something that we need to consider because if we act on 22-95 and it sits at the Senate, we're going to be doing the blaming game again. Are we ready to be doing that? I don't think so. I'm more concerned about the retirees cause that's money that is theirs and they've provided their service already to this government for so many years. I think that we need to act on this quickly. If meeting with the Senate counterpart is the most logic thing, then let it be, but we need to fast track this because we can't wait any

longer and prolong this thousand-dollar bonus to the retirees because some of them are in need of these funds and I would appreciate Mr. Speaker, that you push this quickly. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leepan Guerrero. Any further discussions? Recognize Representative Patrick San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Senate Joint Resolution 22-9 has been vetted out and find legally sufficient. I don't know why that we cannot act on this. I don't know why. The Secretary of Finance, we need to call him and we will listen to what they're going to say. Listen to the Secretary of Finance, what he has to say about this. I yield, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. Any further discussion. Recognize Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Representative San Nicolas. Representative Leepan Guerrero, thank you for mentioning that it's important that both houses sit down and 22-91 actually has opened those doors. And I believe personally that if we do sit with the Senate, we should be done within like 15 to 30 minutes. This is not the budget as you are well aware, Representative Leepan that the budget process sometimes takes an hour, sometimes takes weeks to address the issue when it comes to conference committee, but this is a simple fix. We can actually address 22-91 in the conference committee and replace it with another legislation that both houses agree on and that should be pretty simple. I believe this the Speaker had already appointed its conferees over a month ago and we can address it, but the joint resolution, Representative San Nicolas sorry, I beg to differ 7402 is very clear of what the potential consequences might be. And we got to remind ourselves that the retirement or the settlement fund issue is not even a decade old. And if we're going to allow somebody from the outside to file a civil lawsuit against us over a thousand dollars that we're arguing that we could address in 15, 30 minutes with both houses, then let's do it the right way the first time. Let's not do it the wrong way, the first time just to put more consequences for the future generations that would have to face this issue down the road. We shouldn't be setting a precedent that's not good for the people after us. The 7402 is very clear, yes you're bringing up that the Senate Legal Counsel had said that it's okay. Well, we have also the House Legal Counsels and last I check each and every member here goes to our House Legal Counsel for legal sufficiency and legal review. And now we're going to discredit our House Legal Counsels for citing the statutes, the statute that would actually affect us personally, as members of this body if we act on this joint resolution. At the very least they're doing is protecting us. They want us to do the right thing the first place. So, we have 95 on bill calendar for action. We also have 91 that's ready for conferences committee. Let's work on that and we can sit with the Senate. I understand that there's another issue that's potentially hurting the ability to have a conference committee, but this conference committee, it will address only this legislation 22-91, SS1 and that's it. We're not going to talk about any other issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Vice Speaker. Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker. And thank you colleagues for starting this very, very important discussion. I know we all voted in support of the retirees in the last several sessions and there's no dispute that we all want and support what the retirees need,

especially in these hard times, but we also cannot dispute the language of the law, which is very clear especially with respect to personal liabilities. And I know that none of us would ever want to put our retirees in more harm's way with legal challenges like what happened once already that our great Vice Speaker has reminded us. And so, I really feel that if the conference committee would not happen in 22-91, we already have the solution in front of us with 22-95. And so I look forward to having the chance to vote on that today, because that will be the right solution to make sure that we are following the letter of the law because we should care about following the law. That is our only job as they say. And in final comments, I'd like to say that I'd like to urge the Senate to act on House Joint Resolution 22-12, introduced by Representative Tina Sablan in the January session, which would help everyone in our CNMI community that is suffering because of the challenges of this pandemic. That stimulus is something that's already been in their court since January. It is now the end of March and if we truly are concerned about helping our people, then maybe that's another place that we could act or that they could act because we've done our parts in following the rules that we all know that are there. Thank you, Speaker. I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Staffler. Representative Patrick, do you still want the floor? Okay. I recognize Representative Lizama.

Representative Richard T. Lizama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you my colleagues. As a retiree, I have experienced what they've just said, we've got to follow the law, taking some money away from the retiree after you give it to them is not nice. I was there 25% was a big money. So, let's not do a shortcut here. Let's do it right. Let's work, I encourage you to go up to the Senate and tell them to pass it. Why do we have to go back and forth? Yes, the retirees are waiting, we've got to do our part. We did it from the House. They are not doing what, even one and I, myself, I don't like what they're doing. So, I encourage you to go up to the Senate and tell them, "Please, let's pass this bill so we can give the retirees their bonuses." Thank you. I yield back Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Lizama. Any further discussion? Ready? Ready? Okay.

There was no further discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-77 to 22-88 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 are hereby accepted. Senate Communication 22-79 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Communications 22-80 regarding Senate Joint Resolution 22-06 will be placed on today's resolution calendar for action. Senate Communication 22-81 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Communications 22-84, would also be referred to Ways and Means, and I like to encourage the Chairman of Ways and Means maybe to call a meeting just to get further clarification on that. And the rest of the Senate Communications is for information purposes. Thank you, members. We now move down to item VIII, House Communications and I recognize the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 22-67: (2/28/2022) From Representative Christina M.E. Sablan informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on family medical and personal leave beginning February 27, 2022, and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-68: (2/28/2022) From the presiding officers' of the legislature, Speaker Villagomez and Senate President Hofschneider re: *Legislative COVID Protocol Directive 2021-01 (updated)*. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-69: (3/17/2022) Speaker's response to the notice to file a notice of appearance regarding the appointment of an Impeachment Prosecutor. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-70: (3/18/2022) From Representative Celina R. Babauta informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official government business beginning March 22—27, 2022; and on personal leave from April 11—14, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during her absence; in addition, Representative Attao shall serve as Acting Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations until her return. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-71: (3/21/2022) From Representative Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from March 22—31, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-72: (3/22/2022) From Representative Flores informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on March 25, 2022 on personal business and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-73: (3/23/2022) From Floor Leader Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official travel beginning March 22—27, 2022; and on personal leave from March 28, 2022 to April 4, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item IX, Communications from the Judicial Branch and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Clerk announced the following Communication from the Judicial Branch:

JUD. BR. COMM. 22-6: (3/2/2022) From the CNMI Judiciary re: *submission of FY 2023 Budget Request*. [*For info*]

The Chair referred Judicial Branch Communication 22-6 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Chair directed the members to item X, Communications from Department and Agencies and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Department & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-48: (3/16/2022) From the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) re: *FY 2023 Budget Submission*. [*For info*]

The Chair referred Department and Agency Communication 22-48 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 22-105: Notice of Appearance—that Gilbert J. Birnbrich, Legal Counsel to the Office of the Governor enters his appearance in the matter on behalf of Governor Ralph DLG. Torres in his official capacity and the Office of the Governor. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-106: (3/17/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of TALD Resolution No. 22-6, entitled, “*Requesting Governor Ralph DLG. Torres to allocate \$1,300,000 dollars from the ARPA Coronavirus State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the construction of the new Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services Building & Fire Station in Tinian.*”, which was adopted by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation on March 10, 2022. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-107: (3/17/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of TALD Commemorative Resolution No. 22-1, entitled, “*To commemorate the distinguished and honorable life of the late Elmo Antonio Untalan Hofschneider and to recognize his years of honorable service to the people of Tinian.*”, which was adopted by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation on March 10, 2022. [*For info*]

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced that there are five reports of standing committees ready for action.

The Chair called for a short recess.

The House recessed at 10:44 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess. We were under Reports of Standing Committee and I'd like to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under item XII, Reports of Standing Committee, first off is standing committee report number 22-38 and as discussed with your leadership, Mr. Speaker and because of Governor's Communication 22-112, informing the legislature that he is withdrawing – my bad – Governor's Communication 22-113 informed the legislature that he is withdrawing Mr. Ramon S. Basa's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission and simultaneously under Governor's Communication 22-116 informing the House that he's resubmitting the renomination of Mr. Ramon S. Basa. Therefore, for this reason Mr. Speaker, I make a motion that we refer Standing Committee Report 22-38, back to the committee on PUTC so move.

S. C. R. NO. 22-38: Reporting on the renomination of Mr. Ramon S. Basa to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing Saipan. *Your House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House confirms Mr. Ramon S. Basa's renomination.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to recommit Standing Committee Report 22-38 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next up is Standing Committee Report 22-39 and it's the same reason as Standing Committee Report 22-38, with regards to the nomination of Mr. Oscar P. Quitugua and based on the Governor's Communication 22-112 informing the legislature that he is withdrawing Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua's appointment to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and simultaneously under Governor's Communication 22-115 informing the House that he is resubmitting the nomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua. Therefore again, for this reasons Mr. Speaker, I make a motion that we refer back to the Committee on PUTC, Standing Committee Report 22-39 so move.

S. C. R. NO. 22-39: Reporting on the nomination of Mr. Oscar P. Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing Rota. *Your House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House confirms Mr. Oscar P. Quitugua's nomination.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to recommit Standing Committee Report 22-39 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. 22-40: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-4 entitled: “To amend the Department of Public Safety’s time period to produce police traffic and criminal investigation reports from 10 days to 3 days.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House file H. B. No. 22-4.*

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion the Chair recognized Representative Joseph A. Flores.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the author for 22-4, basically this bill, the reason why I introduce it is, it's been a practice in the Department of Public Safety that whenever there's an incident or any criminal activity that the officer responded, the police report takes time for them to produce. This bill is basically stating that at least the police officer would do a preliminary investigation report is whenever you get involved into an accident, at least they give you three working days or any criminal for you to get a copy of the incident report that there's an incident occurred from your side, so you can claim it to your insurance. So you can start doing the process. And if it takes more than 10 days or 15 days, there's been a practice, some people go down to records and try to obtain a copy and the police report is not done yet. So in having this will govern the department police officers to do at least the preliminary investigation within three working days. I do understand the Attorney General's opinion that there's never a time that they did not receive a report or the time that slaps or it's late. The reason behind that is every report has been forward to the Attorney General is an investigative report that's been done totally to investigate. This is only for preliminary investigation for you to start claiming any insurance processing. It's not because of the investigation. The investigation will follow up furthermore if the investigation is need to be processed more, that's why whenever you hear it's still under investigation that's when it comes after the three working days is for you just to get a preliminary investigation and start claiming your insurance. It's like, if you are a victim for burglary, you get a real police report and say – go to your insurance “I’ve been burglarized,” but if you're going to wait 15 to 20 days, it's the practice here in the CNMI, the insurance does not go any further until you provide them a police report incident. You're not having a police report, you're still waiting for it and there's times when there's an officer entertain you and he goes on leave and here you are waiting for your report. This will govern the police office before he goes out and leave at least three working days ample time to do a preliminary investigation is more than enough. As a retired police officer for 20 years, three days is more than enough. I've been a commander of traffic, always tell my personnel, you know, whenever you entertain a police report do it because if you come tomorrow, there's going to be other incident. You keep adding one plus one, plus two, end up we going to have a stress. You're not going to know which is first and then end up not doing that police report. Doing this is going to be mandated, “that hey I have to finish that report within two working days before I do anything.” And as far as the Civil Service Commission, we need to have a guideline for the Department of Public Safety, yes, there is an intern procedure that you have to do your report a few working days, but nowadays there's a lot of smart aleck officers out there say, “Sir, according to 9 CMC 1605, I’ve got 10 days even if you write me up with me within three days, it's useless because 9 CMC stating 10 working days. So, I have to produce within 10 working days.” But in this three working days, if you don't do it, I'm going to discipline you because you making the Department of Public Safety or even the people out there, getting a disadvantage of not getting a police report to cover their insurance or to get covered or

to get assistance from insurance to start moving their vehicle or start replacing the appliances whatsoever, that's been damaged for being a victim. So I'm asking Mr. Speaker, JGO to please reconsider this bill. It's a fundamental instrument for the Department of Public Safety. It's not because the department's going to try to continue suspending for us. It's just to discipline the officers to make sure that the police reports are done in a timely manner. It's not because we're going to use it as a tool for give them a suspension. There's a procedure in the Civil Service Commission. Before you get suspended, you've got to be given a written warning. If you still don't comply, that's going to give you a 30-day suspension. And after that, maybe they can give you 30 days if you're still not comply. So, this is so much, I think they misinterpret with this with the Attorney General and the Civil Service, Department of Public Safety, agrees to it because he's got to make sure that all police report are done in a timely manner. That's all Mr. Speaker. I would like to request if it were possible, move this to the Bill Calendar so we can vote it as a whole and if it dies, it dies. I'll be content that we got to remember some of us here to are victim, we try to pick up a copy of police report it's not done yet. Come back three days later, it's not done yet, come back ten days still not done yet. So having this, we leave here more to get three days, we will be expecting a police report within three days to start continue with our daily life with our coverage for insurance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Flores. Any member from the committee recognized Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Flores. You're right and you brought up a lot of great points and possibly the intent that the AG's Office and the Civil Service Commission had brought up my might be seeing in a different way. I believe we spoke a little bit about this after the committee meeting and you're right, that a lot of the cops are bringing up issues, according to 9 CMC. The only, the biggest concern that came from the Civil Service Commission and the Attorney General's Office was more that a lot of police officers will be disciplined on purpose, overloading them overloading specific officers that they just don't want in the force, and they would use this against them. They have decided that the Civil Service Commission under the Northern Marianas Administrative Code subsection 10-20.2-257, and the personnel's civil service rules and regulations disciplinary action and you mentioned that they can go that route, but unfortunately, they were totally against this legislation. I support your arguments and we even discussed this bill prior to the committee meeting, but the committee found that with the position from the Civil Service Commission and Attorney General's Office brought up a stronger point, the intent was to leave it in committee, but the committee members had voted that it'd be filed. So, the only action we can really take today is move to file this legislation or move it back to committee. We cannot move it up to the calendar and I leave it up to the members, but the committee's position is in accordance to the civil service commission's concerns and the civil service, sorry, he OPM's concerns and AG's concerns. The only other option is to send it back to committee, if you would like that option, I leave it up to the floor, the members, but at this point, the report is to file the legislation. If we act on the report, we'll be filing the legislation. Other than that, we can send it back to committee. And I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Any further discussion from the members? Recognize.

Representative Joseph A. Flores: Can we return it back to committee? Because I think, because yesterday I gave a call to Civil Service Director and I started to explain and she was seeing it in a different way, what I was explaining to her, but I haven't got any information says she's going to get back to me with her comment, maybe she might change it or maybe she might stick to it, but I will request to give it a little bit more time before we put this into file?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Okay. Let me call for a quick recess. Real quick.

The House recessed at 11:05 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were still under Standing Committee Report 22-40 under discussions and I'd like to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And after a lengthy deliberation and at the request of the author of the bill, I withdraw my previous motion and now motion that we refer back Standing Committee Report 22-40 back to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. So move.

The motion was seconded.

There was no further discussion and the motion to recommit Standing Committee Report 22-40 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. 22-41: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-20 entitled: "To amend Title 2, Division 2, Chapter 1 of the Commonwealth Code to grant the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) – Ports Police with law enforcement authority." *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 22-20, HSI.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-41 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. 22-42: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-39 entitled: "To amend Title 6, Division 6, Chapter 5. Witnesses, by adding a new §6503. Witness to Child Outcry of Abuse, and

for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 22-39, HSI.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-42 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. 22-16

A House Resolution to recognize and acknowledge Mr. Pedro Joaquin Tudela for his tremendous contribution in protecting, promoting, propagating and preserving our native plant species and natural environment in the Commonwealth and for his passion, devotion and commitment in his workplace.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-16 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

H. J. R. NO. 22-14 A House Joint Resolution to honor and commend Mr. Nick K. Nishikawa, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan for his utmost commitment, dedication and contribution towards the CNMI’s Tourism Industry since July 2008.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 22-14 with the following results:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 16 members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 22-14 hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

C. RES. NO. 22-9

To Congratulate and Honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2022 proclaimed as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8th as International Women’s Day.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

C. RES. NO. 22-10

To honor and commend Mr. David Mangarero Sablan for his selfless dedication and countless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 22-10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

S. J. R. NO. 22-06

Requesting the Office of Personnel Management, the Secretary of Finance, and the Civil Service Commission, to work together to have the WGIs or Merit Increases assessed and processed for the civil service employees that were furloughed and later returned to work.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 22-6 with the following results:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| 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 | 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 16 members voting “yes,” Senate Joint Resolution 22-06 hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

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

BILL CALENDAR

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

RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY

Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents

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

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

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

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

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

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions

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

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

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

Section 10. Second Reading of Bills

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

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

The motion was seconded.

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

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

H. B. NO. 22-95 A Bill for an Act to amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08) to establish a business unit and properly fund the Retirees’ Bonus; 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. Mr. Speaker, as I illustrated earlier. Again, acting on this 22-95. We know that 22-91 was rejected and sent to conferee committee. By acting on this, it's going to be rejected again, Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend Mr. Speaker, that we refer to this bill to the Committee on Ways and Means and have both Counsels the House and Senate meet to discuss and come up with a solution. I think if both Counsels the Senate and the House sits and address any concern, maybe this is the way to get this thing resolved because if we bought on this and it gets rejected again at the Senate, we're not moving forward. So, let's use our Counsel to mediate and come to an understanding in how quickly can we give this thousand dollars to the retiree. So with that, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to put this to vote, I will vote no, because it's not going to solve the problem. I think that the Counsel should be sitting with the Senate Counsel to come to a solution because it's going to end up the same way as 22-91 and that's my take on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leepan Guerrero. Any further discussions? Recognize Representative Patrick San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Mr. Speaker and members, there's no concern raised by the settlement fund with regards to manner in which the bonus is going to be paid. Which bring me to a very highly concerned that pushing this legislation to this House will end up like the previous attempt. Mr. Speaker, it's an exercise in futility and the retirees that will again be left hanging. So for House Bill 22-95 my vote is no. I yield Mr. Speaker and thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. I recognize Representative Donald Manglona. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleagues for airing your concerns. 22-95 is very similar to 22-91. The Senate had already, you know when they sent

it back, they agreed on the areas in which we were to withdraw from. The only concern, the only contention that we had was a 100% reprogramming authority, which they took out in the Senate Joint Resolution 22-09. So, this is the amendment to the 22-91 to address the 100% reprogramming authority. That was the main difference between 22-91 and 95. And so, even if we were to send this to the committee and have Counsels communicate with each other, why do we have to let the Counsels do it when we are open to do it with the Senate and their conferees. We might get the same action with the House Counsels and the Senate Counsels where each one will come back and say, this is not something that they can agree with. This is something that we're open to, but not the other side. And so, we're going to be back to where we're at today and that's having to go back and forth. If the Senate doesn't want to meet with the House conferees, for whatever reason our hope is at 22-95 and the appropriations and account that we've created through 22-95 will be something that the Senate can agree on and vote to pass it, not having to meet conferees or not having to meet with the House, but it's something that they can agree with. And when it gets transmitted to the Senate, they can easily vote on it and it goes to the Governor. And so even if we don't have, if we fail to meet us conferees then this is another approach that we can take that we hope that the Senate can agree to because we've already identified the additional \$500, which they proposed, which the Senate proposed and we support. It was just a matter of finding where to get those funds and I believe we did that in 22-95. And so, I encourage all the other members to support this legislation and his hope that the Senate can agree to the amendments we made 22-91 and I hope that, you know those who have concerns about it can as Rep. Lizama mentioned talk to your Senate counterparts and see what areas that they may have concerns with that we can answer prior to them acting on it when it gets transmitted. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Recognize again Representative San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Chairman. My concern is why didn't the House initiate this? Why, because we are the operating authority. We have that. We have that. Why didn't the House appropriate this? Why didn't the House initiate this kind of appropriation for the bonuses for our retirees. Why do we have to wait for the Senate to do a joint resolution and then it comes here, different story. It goes up there, different story. It comes down here, different story. It's been three months already. It's been three months or so that we are waiting for this to be disbursed for our retirees out there. One of our constituents down there in the island of Tinian passed away waiting for his \$500. He passed away. Knock on wood, God forbid that this kind of unfortunate events will not happen again. When are we going to disburse this? When are we going to give the retirees? Mr. Speaker, I yield. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. Representative Staffler you raised your hand earlier? Yes. Recognized.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker. I will keep it brief. I guess when I hear what you say, colleague, it makes me think about the budgeting process, which we are about to begin again in the Ways and Means and it makes me think that if this was a plan since the beginning, then it should have been included in the budget since ever since and it wasn't. And so now that it is coming up as in the process that it did, we have to follow this process to make it legal. If it was part of the original plan from the beginning then it would have been part of the schedule A and schedule B and schedule C that we received last year, but it wasn't. And so now

we are trying to find the right process to do it. And you're right. We all have been waiting for three months because the Senate has House Joint Resolution 22-12, which could address stimulus for all people, including the retirees and so we do support the retiree we just must follow this process so that we don't have to keep repeating and going in a circle. So thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Hold on, recognize Representative Magofna.

Representative Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleague San Nicolas. You raised a very good question, but I think the question should be directed to our Governor and not the Chairman of Ways and Means. It was the Governor who made the promise to the retirees. Why didn't he consider consulting with the legislature, with the House so that we can make sure that any of these issues would have been discussed and we wouldn't have to be going through all this back and forth with the Senate. So, I think the question should be addressed to the Governor. Why didn't he come and talk to the House and not go through the Senate Joint Resolution? Thank you.

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Hold on. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to chime in also on this discussion and debate. Let's go back in history. When the first Senate Joint Resolution came here, it is the position of this august body that having to give the retirees their bonuses is not through a joint resolution and it is still the position of this august body. And when we presented a legislation to the House, the Senate had all the time to entertain the house bill that we referred and transmitted to them and included more amendments. It came back to the House and we disagree with the a hundred percent reprogramming given to the Governor. Later down the line, we are now talking to the very Senate Joint Resolution now that is before us. And guess what? The Senate at agree and they took out the hundred percent reprogramming authority that they have amended our bill when we send it to them. So, what does that tell us? There are in agreement with us, with the issue at hand. Now our position here and it's still a position that a joint resolution is not the course of action or the proper course of action to provide bonuses to our retirees. It's amending our budget law and creating that unit and providing the – giving the flexibility to the Governor to put funds there so that we can release these bonuses. So, you know what? We should be protecting our institutional powers given by the constitution here in this very august body. We shouldn't be cheerleaders and cheer the Senate with their authority. Let's do the right thing members of this House. We are given that institutional power that any appropriation starts from here and not from the Senate. Let's abide to the constitution and please let's support this House Bill number 22-95. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. Floor Leader. Representative San Nicolas for the last time you. You yield. Okay. Any other member? I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Floor Leader for bringing up those points. It's true. And if the administration does believe that a joint resolution can move monies and act on a budget, then why don't we practice that come April 2nd. We get the money from the administration, the budget or proposal from the administration and we just pass it by a house joint resolution and have the Senate adopt that joint resolution so that

the administration don't have any say in how we appropriate the funds of the CNMI. If that's the process that we're going to believe that's the proper way of doing it, then let's practice. Let's do it April 2nd we'll get the budget this Friday. By Sunday, the House should have a version of how the money should be spent in the CNMI and the administration won't have a say whatsoever. If the agreement that a joint resolution can address the budget process, then let's practice this fiscal year for 2022. Let's not give them that option to line item the budget and just pass it by a joint resolution. If that's what they believe is a proper way to do it, then let's do it and not give them the opportunity to line item anything that we believe, and the Senate believes should function for the CNMI government, but we're better than that. We know that we have to fund every program. Matter of fact, the House over the years have sacrificed the legislative body to address the needs of other entities within the central government. Even the municipalities that legislators sacrifice themselves so the municipalities can get additional monies. So let's do this the right way. Obviously, the Planning and Budgeting Act, it's older than most of us in this chamber, but it's still active today. And there's a reason why they included those specific languages so that we protect ourselves and they know that the future generations will be able to address the financial situation through the House of Representatives. That's why we have a bicameral legislature. If we didn't have a bicameral legislature, then the Senate can introduce the budget. They can pass the budget, but we're a bicameral legislature. The purse is here in the House. We should do this the right way the first time and get it done and over wit. The Senate knows very well that we need the business unit to be created with a funding source in it. Ask them about the 25% monies that were addressing the retirees pre \$88 million FEMA loan. We had to include the business unit with a thousand dollars in the last budget of the 21st legislators showed that the 25% can be addressed through reprogramming authority. And they know that. So, if they're going to say that the Counsel is right in utilizing 19-4, look at 19-4 and understand 19-4. It gave 100% reprogramming authority for the remainder of that fiscal year, which was only five-days and that's to address a 10% cost share for the central government for typhoon Soudelor. That's not a comparable joint resolution as what Senator Joint Resolution 22-4 or 22-9 doing. 22-9 is allowing them to reprogram, create a business unit and use that business unit. You can't do that. We all know that. That's why we ran for the House so that the we can control the purse. We can address the issues of the central government. We make our decisions here in the House, through our budget act. It gets to the Senate it gets amended. What happens when we disagree, we go to conference committee and we address that. I'll bet any member here that if this was the budget and we were going to go to shut down in a week, we would be sitting down in that conference committee for 24 hours to address the differences. Why? Because it's going to affect us directly each and every one of us, if this was a budget legislation that we're worried about for every day, the government shut down, none of us will get paid. And most of our government employees won't get paid either because there's no true definition of what essential employees are. The saddest thing is the Legislative Bureau is going to be probably here with every single member and none of them are going to get paid. We went through this in the 17th Legislature. So, if this was a big concern, then we would have been sitting down 3, 4 weeks ago already addressing 91, but obviously it's not a serious concern because we came up with another joint resolution. So, we got to understand Floor Leader laid out the history. We all agreed unanimously that 22-4, wasn't the right way to do it. We all unanimously agreed that the hundred percent reprogramming authority shouldn't be there. Look at the record, we all voted to reject the version that the Senate sent down to the House. Senate Joint Resolution 22-9 agreed that they shouldn't get the hundred percent, but it's still the wrong vehicle to get the money to the retirees. We still need to go back and amend the budget law to include the business unit and put a dollar figure on it. And by including even we put a dollar in there, the governor still has 25% reprogramming authority. \$2.6

million of whatever, a \$90, \$104 million is not 25%. So, he still has that authority. So, let's act on the legislation let's get it up to the Senate. Maybe they agree because a hundred percent is not there anyways, anymore. So, let's do that. Let's, do our due diligence and do it the right way for the first round, not the second round or the third round or six months from now, but make sure for members of Ways and Means include that language in the budget act so that we don't have to be fighting over a joint resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-95 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | absent (<i>during voting</i>) |
| 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | no |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 14 members voted “yes,” 1 member voted “no” and 5 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 14 voting “yes,” 1 “no” and 5 absent, House Bill 22-95 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-20, HS1

To amend Title 2, Division 2, Chapter 1 of the Commonwealth Code to grant the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) – Ports Police with law enforcement authority.

The motion was seconded.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-20, House Substitute 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | absent (<i>during voting</i>) |
| 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 | 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 15 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-20, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-39, HS1

To amend Title 6, Division 6, Chapter 5. Witnesses, by adding a new §6503. Witness to Child Outcry of Abuse, 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 the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-39, House Substitute 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | absent (<i>during voting</i>) |
| 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 | 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 | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 15 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-39, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. Thank you, members. We now move down to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. Floor is open. Ready? Members? We move down to item XVIII, Announcements and I recognize Representative Donald Manglona.

No action taken for the following legislation:

H. B. No. 22-65 A Bill for an Act to amend 3 CMC §2822(f) to rename the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan as the Dr. Carlos S. Camacho Commonwealth Health Center. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 22-35]

H. B. No. 22-35

A Bill for an Act to add a provision to prohibit convicted felons from possessing firearms and/or ammunition; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 22-36]

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This announcement is in regards to the Ways and Means Committee and that by April 1st we should be getting the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023. And so, I would like to let all members or I guess the entire House know that, is there any organizations in which we have not met with in the past or if you if you know of any organizations or entities that would like to come before the committee to reach out to any of the committee members so that we can put them in our schedule in preparations for the upcoming budget hearings, which should begin next month after we adopt the concurrent resolution. And so, I know last fiscal year we focused a lot on the departments and so if there's any agencies that we've missed or if you know of any agencies that would like an audience with the committee members to let any of the members know so that we can include them in our budget hearings. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Chairman Manglona. Any other member? Ready? We now move down to adjournment and I recognize the Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now make a motion that we adjourn subject to your call as Chair. So move.

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

The House adjourned at 11:42 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: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on February 22, 2022:

H. B. NO. 22-92: To amend 4 CMC § 1205 (c) to add 500 Sails, Inc., as a qualified educational institution for purposes of the education tax credit; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 22-93: To amend 6 CMC §3107 to have permissible uses of consumer fireworks within the CNMI. Introduced by REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Sheila Therese J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 22-94: To amend certain sections of the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission Act; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joel C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Education.

H. B. NO. 22-95: To amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08) to establish a business unit and properly fund the Retirees’ Bonus; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Sheila Therese J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Edwin K. Propst, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 22, 2022; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

[ADDED] H. B. NO. 22-96: To limit the duration of an emergency contract to a specific period that does not extend beyond the emergency; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. RES. NO. 22-15: To honor and commend the late Manuel Agulto Tenorio for his lengthy service and extraordinary contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO 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, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, 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 February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the Resolution calendar.

[ADDED] H. RES. NO. 22-16: To recognize and acknowledge Mr. Pedro Joaquin Tudela for his tremendous contribution in protecting, promoting, propagating and preserving our native plant species and natural environment in the Commonwealth and for his passion, devotion and commitment in his workplace. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, 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 February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the Resolution calendar.

[ADDED] H. J. R. NO. 22-14: To honor and commend Mr. Nick K. Nishikawa, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan for his utmost commitment, dedication and contribution towards the CNMI’s Tourism Industry since July 2008. Introduced by REP. CELINA R. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, 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 February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the Resolution calendar.

C. RES. NO. 22-7: To honor and commend Anthony Iglecias Macaranas for his relentless service and selfless dedication to law enforcement in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, 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 February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the Resolution calendar.

C. RES. NO. 22-8: To recognize and acknowledge Japan Consul Kazuhiko Ono from the Consular of Japan in the CNMI for his outstanding contributions in helping to establish a strong relationship between Japan and the CNMI. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST 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, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, 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 February 22, 2022; subsequently referred to the Resolution calendar.

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 22-108: (1/28/2022) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 22-53, HS1, (*To further enable recruitment, retention, and appropriate classification and compensation of Medicaid personnel; and for other purposes.*). [**Deadline: 3/29/2022**]

GOV. COMM. 22-109: (1/28/2022) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 22-55, HS1, (*To establish a separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages.*). [**Deadline: 3/29/2022**]