



TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL  
OPERATIONS**

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

**MARISSA R. FLORES**  
CHAIRWOMAN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-12  
DATE: APRIL 03, 2023  
RE: H.B. 23-22

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations to which was referred:

H. B. No. 23-22:

“To establish an investigative division of the Office of Attorney General, codify investigative subpoena power and improve the investigation of cases involving public corruption.”

begs leave to report as follows:

**I. RECOMMENDATION:**

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that H. B. No. 23-22 be passed by the House in the form of House Substitute 1.

HOUSE CLERK'S OFC

RECEIVED BY *SR.*

DATE *04/12/23* TIME *3:48 pm*

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## II. ANALYSIS:

### A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 23-22 is to establish an investigative division of the Office of Attorney General, codify investigative subpoena power and improve the investigation of cases involving public corruption.

### B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that pursuant to Article III, Section 11 of the NMI Constitution, the Attorney General is responsible for “representing the Commonwealth in all legal matters, and prosecuting violations of Commonwealth law”. As the Chief Legal Officer of the CNMI Government, it is this elected individual’s responsibility to prosecute all criminal infractions that threaten the well-being of our Commonwealth. Cognizant of the Attorney General’s responsibilities, your Committee also finds that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) are other investigative government agencies that are granted with investigative authority. Further cognizant of their own respective investigative efforts, it is the responsibility of the Attorney General to prosecute cases presented by the findings made by DPS and OPA. Your Committee finds that it would be of great importance to establish an investigative division within the Office of the Attorney General to assist the other investigative agencies’ findings and build a stronger case during trials.

Your Committee finds that public service is a tremendous honor granted to special individuals who are obligated to provide any service intended to address specific needs pertaining to the aggregate members of the community. Many of these public servants/officials, both elected and non-elected, are responsible for maintaining the integrity of our government and must hold themselves to a higher standard. As public officials, the commitment of bribery, extortion, and other illicit acts should not be tolerated while serving for the common good of our Commonwealth. Cognizant of such acts, your Committee finds that it is of great importance to provide the Office of the Attorney General with the necessary tools, specifically subpoenas, to investigate and prosecute such cases. In the event of a complaint made against a public official, the investigators of the Office of the Attorney General will need reasonable documents, information, and objects for investigative purposes on such matters. As the main prosecuting authority of the CNMI, it would be imperative of the Office of the Attorney General to exert their own investigative efforts for better prosecution in court trials.

Your Committee also finds that Attorney Generals in Texas<sup>1</sup>, Maryland<sup>2</sup>, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, and so forth, have their own version of an investigative division. These Offices understand the need to have an investigative division for investigative purposes. Similar to what is being proposed,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/divisions/law-enforcement/criminal-investigations>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IID/IID.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ag.hawaii.gov/about-us/divisions/#invest>

the other U.S. jurisdictions also tackle their own forms of public corruption along with other various crimes. Similar to the aforementioned jurisdictions, it is of great importance to allow for the CNMI Office of the Attorney General to gather the necessary information and witnesses needed for better prosecution against individuals who constantly betray our peoples' trust. As the lead investigative agency with prosecution authority, it is important to establish an investigative division to enhance all investigative and examination efforts.

It is the intent of your Committee to amend the proposed legislation to incorporate the comments made by the Office of the Public Auditor, Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Defender. Such amendments included removing language that required annual training for AG Investigators by OPA; extend subpoenas to consumer protection investigations; and to respect the witness' right to an attorney provided that (1) the attorney remains outside while witness is being questioned and (2) the witness can consult such attorney at any time requested by the witnesses. Therefore, your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 23-22 and recommends its passage in the form of House Substitute 1.

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

The Committee received comments from the following:

- Ms. Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, Temporary Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor (Written)

Mr. Deleon Guerrero does not support the proposed legislation for certain reasons.

- Honorable Edward Manibusan, Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Attorney General Manibusan supports the proposed legislation with amendments.

- Mr. Douglas W. Hartig, Chief Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender (Written)

Mr. Hartig does not support the proposed legislation.

D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 23-22 was introduced by Representative Marissa R. Flores on March 09, 2023 to the full body of the House and was referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition.

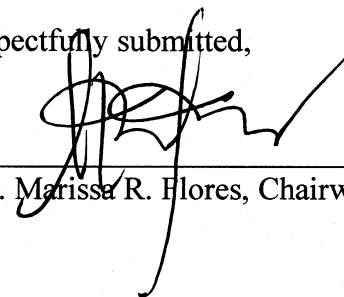
E. Cost Benefit:

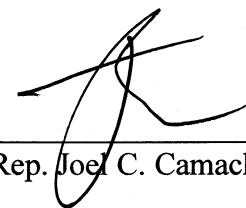
The enactment of House Bill No. 23-22, HS1 will result in additional cost to the CNMI government due to the fact the proposed legislation aims to create a new division within the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Such creation will require additional staff, training, equipment, and other resources needed to carry out necessary duties and responsibilities of such division. However, the benefits of creating a new investigative division within the OAG will heavily outweigh the costs by increasing law enforcement efforts.

III. CONCLUSION:


The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H. B. NO. 23-22 and recommends its passage in the form of House Substitute 1.

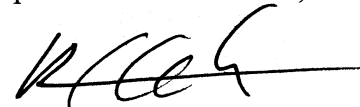
Respectfully submitted,


  
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Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Chairwoman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Vice Chair


\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Vincent R.S. Aldan, Member


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Vicente C. Camacho, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Manny G.T. Castro, Member

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Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

Reviewed by:

 4-11-23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
House Legal Counsel

Attachment:

- Letter dated March 20, 2023 from the Temporary Public Auditor;
- Letter dated March 22, 2023 from the Attorney General; and
- Letter dated March 23, 2023 from the Chief Public Defender.



# Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Website: <http://opacnmi.com>

1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

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March 20, 2023

## VIA EMAIL

Chairwoman Marissa Flores  
The House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
23<sup>rd</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building  
P.O. Box 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

### **RE: OPA comments on House Bill No. 23-22**

Dear Chairwoman Flores:

The Office of the Public Auditor ("OPA") is grateful for the opportunity to comment on House Bill Number 23-22 ("H.B. 23-22"). OPA commends the legislative attention to this important topic of investigation of crimes involving public corruption. Our office does, however, offer the following comments, concerns, and recommendations regarding the bill in its current form.

First, while the requirement for coordination between the Office of the Attorney General Investigation Division ("AGID") and OPA may appear beneficial, such a provision presents conflicts with OPA's statutory duties and obligations. Under 1 CMC § 7847 (b) OPA has a duty to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute the Attorney General when evidence indicates violations of Commonwealth or Federal law. Mandated coordination between the AGID and OPA would create a conflict when any investigation involved allegations or revealed evidence of misconduct by the Attorney General. Additionally, OPA investigative engagements are strictly confidential under 1 CMC § 7849 and 1 CMC § 8563. Mandated coordination with an outside agency would potentially violate OPA's duties of confidentiality. As an alternative to mandatory coordination, OPA recommends encouraging the use of agency task forces created by agreements between agencies with overlapping jurisdiction (such as AGID, OPA, and the Department of Public Safety) to dedicate resources to focus on public corruption.

Second, the provision requiring OPA to provide annual training to AGID investigators thrusts burdens upon OPA beyond its current capacity. While OPA investigators have received general investigative training and limited specialized training on financial crimes, our staff does not have the skills or capacity to provide training to others at this time. Such a provision would require OPA to redirect its limited resources, both budgetary and personnel, to acquiring additional skills and education to meet these new demands. As it is, OPA struggles to find resources to ensure its own investigative staff are properly trained and able to meet OPA's duty to investigate complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse of public resources. Under current budgetary limitations, OPA simply could not meet this additional requirement of providing annual training to the AGID.

Third, OPA notes the Office of the Attorney General already has an active Investigation Unit and its agents are already statutorily recognized as law enforcement officers under Commonwealth law. Thus, the creation of the Investigations Division by H.B. 23-22 appears unnecessary and potentially duplicative. Specifically, the Office of the Attorney General investigators are recognized by statute already as law enforcement officers under 6 CMC §§ 1434(b) and 10101 (y)(18). OPA will defer to the legislature and comments by the Attorney General as to whether statutory creation of the already existing division is appropriate.

Fourth, OPA suggests the largest current barriers to combating public corruption are the lack of suitable criminal provisions and the lack of a designated prosecutor within the OAG to focus on public corruption. Many crimes involving public corruption are either vestiges of the Trust Territory Code and/or carry penalty provisions out of synch with the seriousness of the harms perpetrated by instances of public corruption. OPA recommends pursuing an omnibus public corruption crimes act and legislative funding and designation of a prosecutor within the OAG to focus on public corruption, similar to the creation of the Office of Consumer Counsel which focused on protecting consumer rights in the Commonwealth, initially passed in Public Law 6-46.

OPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on H.B. 23-22. OPA believes the mandatory coordination under H.B. 23-22 presents conflicts with existing law and the training requirements placed upon OPA are beyond our office's current capacity. While OPA unequivocally supports efforts to encourage and enhance the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving public corruption, our office believes other measures might be more effective to achieving that end, as recommended above. OPA welcomes the opportunity to partner with your office to pursue other legislative measures to improve public accountability.

If you have any questions about OPA's comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, CPA  
Temporary Public Auditor

cc: Joseph Przyuski, OPA Legal Counsel  
Edward R. Cabrera, OPA Chief Investigator



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hon. Juan A. Sablan Memorial Bldg.  
Caller Box 10007, Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

**EDWARD MANIBUSAN**  
Attorney General

**LILLIAN A. TENORIO**  
Deputy Attorney General

**VIA EMAIL: [rep.floresm@cnmileg.net](mailto:rep.floresm@cnmileg.net)**

March 22, 2023

OAGHOR: 2023-16  
LSR No. 23-135

Hon. Marissa Flores  
Chairperson, House Committee on Judicial  
and Governmental Operations  
House of Representatives  
23rd Northern Mariana Islands Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

**Re: House Bill No. 23-22: "To establish an investigative division of the Office of the Attorney General, codify investigative subpoena power and improve the investigation of cases involving public corruption."**

Dear Chairperson Flores:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Office of the Attorney General on House Bill No. 23-22. The bill proposes to strengthen the authority of the Office of the Attorney General by providing support to the Attorney General Investigators in performing their investigative duties.

The bill as written is constitutionally sufficient. The Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") is established as an independent office by the Commonwealth Constitution and empowered to represent the Commonwealth in all legal matters and prosecute the violations of Commonwealth law.<sup>1</sup> Necessary to this power is the ability of the Attorney General to investigate violations of Commonwealth law, which encompasses both civil and criminal violations. The Attorney General's Investigative Division ("AGID") is a necessary component of the constitutional mandate to prosecute violations of Commonwealth law.

The Office of the Attorney General supports this bill with the following requested changes:

- 1) As the OAG is established as an independent office within the Commonwealth, its investigators should not be required to be trained by the Office of the Public Auditor ("OPA") nor should the AGID be required to coordinate with OPA on its investigations. These requirements may present an evidentiary issue in a trial of a case. The OAG believes these requirements should be discretionary by the Attorney General and handled on a case- by- case basis. The OAG requests deletion of this provision of the bill,

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<sup>1</sup> NMI Const. Art III, § 11.

**Civil Division**  
Telephone: (670) 237-7500  
Facsimile: (670) 664-2349

**Criminal Division**  
Telephone: (670) 237-7600  
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

**Attorney General Investigation Division**  
Telephone: (670) 237-7628  
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

**Victim Witness Advocacy Unit**  
Telephone: (670) 237-7602  
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016



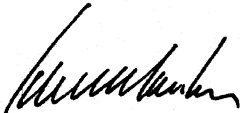
and instead to read: "The Investigative Division shall assign at least one investigator to prioritize work on complaints involving misconduct by public officials."

- 2) For Investigative subpoenas, the OAG requests that such subpoenas extend to consumer protection investigations.
- 3) The section on testifying should be more explicit that a witness has a right to have an attorney accompany them to testify, but that such attorney (1) must remain out of the room while the witness is being questioned and (2) that the witness has a right to consult with the attorney at any time upon request by the witness. As it currently reads, the witness will testify in private, but the warnings include that the attorney will be present. As the word "present" is not defined, it may be interpreted to mean alongside the witness.

Thank you once again for your continued support to the Office of the Attorney General.

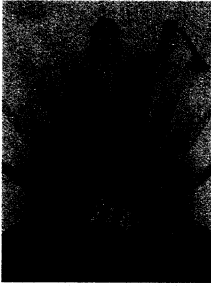
I am available to discuss further the issues raised in House Bill No. 23-22. Please feel free to contact me at (670) 237-7500 or email at [attorney\\_general@cnmioag.org](mailto:attorney_general@cnmioag.org).

Sincerely,



EDWARD MANIBUSAN  
Attorney General

cc: All Members, House of Representatives



**Office of the Public Defender  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Civic Center Complex • P.O. Box 10007 • Saipan, MP 96950  
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Representative Marissa R. Flores  
Twenty Second, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building  
P.O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

RE: H.B. 23-22 and H.B. 23-24

March 23, 2023

Dear Madam Chairwoman;

The Office of the Public Defender has several serious concerns and so would ask that H.B. 23-22 and H.B. 23-24 not be passed.

**H.B.23-22** creates an unchecked police department by creating an investigation unit, AGID, with the power of arrest. This agency is unchecked by the legislature or the administration. This is completely unnecessary and ill-advised. Currently AGO and OPA have oversight authority over DPS. But H.B. 23-22 creates a law enforcement agency with no oversight. Some states do have *a state wide investigative agency* but so does the CNMI. Here *it is DPS*. A state law enforcement agency over sees investigation throughout the entire state, just as DPS does throughout the Commonwealth. This new bill will eliminate the current checks and balances. If there were municipal police departments, such as a separate Garapan police department and Susupi police department or even Rota, Tinian and Saipan police departments then there may be a reason for an overseeing law enforcement agency. But this legislation creates a separate parallel agency with the same authority as DPS. However, unlike DPS, whose commissioner must be approved by and can be removed by the Senate or governor, *this agency has no oversight* beyond the AG. Any need for policing of the central government or legislature can already be done by the Public Auditor who already has investigators for that purpose.

This will be expensive to implement. If created it will need to be funded. This will have the effect of having to cut money from another department or agency or raising taxes. Maybe even cut the DPS budget so as to fund law enforcement. This really doesn't make sense.

There are ethical and conflict of interests issues. There are times in a criminal case when a defense lawyer will raise issues of DPS violating a person's rights against unlawful search and seizure or the unlawful taking of incriminating statements' When an Assistant AG defends a

police officer against such an assertion there is no problem. But this new bill would create a situation where the AG is defending the actions of a colleague and someone who acted at the direction of the AG. This will raise concerns. Maybe a special prosecutor should be appointed, but this will be expensive. And if the AG decided not to appoint a special prosecutor even the courts cannot act to see justice is served.

~~H.B. 23-22 is based on a faulty premise, is unnecessary and is subject to misuse. The Findings and Purpose are misleading. Drug overdose which may exist on the mainland do not exist here. There is no overdose death increase in the CNMI. This is really an excuse to create an end run for law enforcement to violate protected *constitutional rights* against unlawful search and seizure.~~

~~This proposal *will not save lives* by providing limited immunity during drug overdose situations but rather allow law enforcement to violate protected rights. To allege otherwise is disingenuous at best as the premise that lives are lost in the CNMI due to drug overdose increases is just plain false. I encourage anyone supporting this bill to contact DPH and see if there have been any drug related deaths other than alcohol.~~

~~As in Kentucky, a state with a similar law, a person who is in apparent need of medical attention is subject to search and seizure and then prosecution unless the caller is very specific as to the use of drugs and the effects on the distressed person. <sup>2</sup> Such a law is ripe for a search based on false pretenses and will discourage rather than encourage a fellow user from calling 911.~~

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bills. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or any of your fellow legislators about this or other pending legislation. If I can assist in this or any other matter in the future, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Douglas W. Hartig  
Public Defender

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Constitution 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendments

<sup>2</sup> Wilson v. Commonwealth, 628 S.W.3d 132 (2021)

**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MARCH 9, 2023**

**First Regular Session, 2023**

**H. B. 23-22, HS1**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To establish an investigative division of the Office of Attorney General, codify investigative subpoena power and improve the investigation of cases involving public corruption.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings.** Successful enforcement of criminal laws, especially  
2 those dealing with public corruption, requires timely and professional  
3 investigations. The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the authority of the Office  
4 of the Attorney General in investigative matters by establishing an investigative  
5 division for the Office of the Attorney General that can provide support in all  
6 criminal cases but focus on sensitive cases of public corruption. AG investigators,  
7 for example, may initiate cases at the direction of the Attorney General, assist  
8 prosecutors during trials, and support investigations by other agencies such as the  
9 Department of Public Safety or the Office of Public Auditor.

10           The work of AG investigators and investigators with other agencies is  
11 enhanced and supported through the issuance of investigative subpoenas focused

1 upon collecting relevant documents, information, objects and testimony. The bill  
2 establishes an express process for applying for investigative subpoenas and  
3 provides warnings and protections for witnesses who are called to testify or provide  
4 documents or records.

5 These tools are particularly useful in public corruption cases, when the  
6 collection of records and testimony is time sensitive. This bill should allow the  
7 Attorney General to act quickly in responding to complaints regarding all criminal  
8 matters but especially those involving misconduct by public officials.

9 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 1 (Government), Division 2, Chapter 3  
10 (Office of the Attorney General), of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended  
11 to add section 2158 to read as follows:

12 **“§ 2158. Investigative Division.**

13 (a) **Investigative Division.** There is within the Office of the Attorney General  
14 the Investigative Division, headed by a Chief Investigator appointed by the  
15 Attorney General. The Attorney General may employ and deputize such  
16 persons as needed for the purpose of this Division, subject to budgetary  
17 appropriation. The Attorney General shall establish rules and regulations  
18 governing the qualifications, investigative standards, reports and duties of  
19 persons working for the Investigative Division. The qualifications for  
20 employment as an investigator shall be consistent with those required of a  
21 police officer.

- 1       (b) **Duties.** Investigators within the Investigative Division shall provide support  
2           for the Criminal and Civil Divisions and shall have authority to serve  
3           subpoenas, arrest and perform all other functions lawfully authorized for  
4           police officers.
- 5       (c) **Investigation of Public Corruption.** The Investigative Division shall  
6           assign at least one investigator who shall prioritize work on complaints  
7           involving misconduct by public officials.
- 8       (d) **Investigative Subpoenas.** The following procedures for subpoenas for  
9           documents, information, objects and testimony shall apply only to the  
10          investigative stage of a criminal or consumer protection case. The Attorney  
11          General shall maintain a record of the application and issuance of  
12          investigative subpoenas.
- 13      (e) **Enforcement.** Failure to obey a subpoena may be prosecuted and punished  
14          as contempt. The information sought through an investigative subpoena  
15          must be reasonably related to the subject matter under investigation. No  
16          subpoena may be issued for purposes of harassment or any improper  
17          purpose.
- 18      (f) **Documents, Information or Objects.** Whenever the Attorney General  
19          shall have reason to believe that documents, information or objects exist  
20          with respect to any criminal matter being investigated within the jurisdiction  
21          of the Attorney General, the Attorney General may seek by subpoena, upon

1 sealed application with the Clerk of the Superior Courts, the production of  
2 such documents or records. The application shall include:

- 3 1. A statement that the application is material to an ongoing  
4 investigation;
- 5 2. A description of the documents, information or objects sought;
- 6 3. The name and address of the custodian of the documents,  
7 information objects;
- 8 4. A reasonable date and place for delivery of the documents,  
9 information or objects; and
- 10 5. whether a true and accurate copy is sufficient.

11 The Clerk of the Court shall issue the subpoena.

12 (g) **Testimony Under Oath.** Whenever the Attorney General, during an  
13 investigation, shall have reason to believe that a person has information with  
14 respect to any criminal matter within the jurisdiction of the Attorney  
15 General, the Attorney General may require by subpoena, upon sealed  
16 application with the Clerk of the Superior Courts, the attendance and  
17 testimony under oath of the person.

18 For a subpoena seeking the attendance and testimony under oath of a  
19 person, the application shall include:

- 20 1. The name and address of the prospective witness;
- 21 2. The date and place for the attendance and testimony;

- 1           3. The subject of the investigation; and  
2           4. A summary of the general scope of the inquiry to be made of a  
3           prospective witness.

4           Upon approval by the court, a clerk shall issue the subpoena. A witness  
5           required by subpoena to attend and testify under oath shall be given not less  
6           than 48 hours notice of the time and place of the taking of testimony, unless  
7           the notice shall unduly interfere with the conduct of the investigation and  
8           prior approval for a shorter period of time for the subpoena and notice has  
9           been obtained from the court.

10          The subpoena shall notify the witness of:

- 11           1. The matter under investigation concerning which the witness will  
12           be required to testify;  
13           2. That the issuance of the subpoena was approved by a court and  
14           3. Whether the witness is a target of the investigation.

15          (h) **Warnings.** Before any questioning under oath, a witness shall be notified  
16           that the witness has a right to consult with and to have an attorney  
17           accompany the witness at the time the testimony is taken and a right not to  
18           furnish or produce information which may tend to incriminate the witness.

19          (i) **Private and Recorded.** A person summoned to attend and testify shall  
20           appear and testify under oath before the Attorney General in private. The  
21           attorney for the witness, if any, shall remain outside the room while the



1 witness is being questioned. The witness, at any time, may pause  
2 questioning and consult with the attorney. A recording or court reporter  
3 transcript of the testimony shall be created and maintained by the Attorney  
4 General.”

5 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
7 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
8 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
9 shall not be affected thereby.

10 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
11 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
12 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
13 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
14 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
15 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
16 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

17 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
18 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 3/3/2023

**HOUSE BILL 23-22, HS1**

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Date: 3/3/2023

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores

/s/ Rep. Julie M.A. Ogo

/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ John M. Bradley

House Legal Counsel