

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

TWENTY-FIRST DAY

March 10, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Twenty-First Day, First Regular Session, on Friday, March 10, 2000, at 3:04 p.m. in Mama'ti Café, Sunset Villa, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silent was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, Section 2(a), thirteen members were present; Representatives Jesus T. Attao, Diego T. Benavente, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Thomas B. Pangelinan, and Stanley T. Torres were absent, with Representative Benavente excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Twenty-First Day of our First Regular Session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the 19th and 20th Day, First Regular Session journals.

The motion was seconded.

19th and 20th Day, First Regular Session (3/8-9/00)

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the 19th and 20th Day, First Regular Session journals was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The 19th and 20th Day journals are adopted.

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-135: A Bill for an Act to amend certain sections and subsection of Public Law 11-15, The Marianas Visitors Authority Act of 1998; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Florencio T. DL Guerrero
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-136: A Bill for an Act to establish a CNMI Product Sell; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres
Referred to: Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary and Governmental Operations

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. J. R. NO. 12-6: A House Joint Resolution supporting the Governor's petition to the U. S. Federal Communication Commission to deny the application for the Consent of Transfers of FCC Licenses and Authorizations of GTE Corporation and Bell Atlantic Corporation.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho and seven others
Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations, and Communications.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATES COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

OTHERS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, earlier I advised the members to include Standing Committee Report No. 12-48, reference to House Bill No. 12-91, and also to incorporate Standing Committee Report No. 12-44 as Committee Substitute 1. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the adoption of the following: Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-44, Committee Substitute 1, 12-47 and 12-48.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 12-44, CS1: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-79, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to add new sub-section (i) to 1 CMC Section 8347, to authorize the retirement for person with cancer; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the Bill be filed by the House. (deferred 3/9/00)*

S. C. R. NO. 12-47: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-53, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC, Division 8, Chapter 3, Section 8131(a)(2); and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends passage in the form of H. B. No. 12-53, House Draft 1.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-48: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-91, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to regulate interest on Commonwealth inter-agency loans; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage on First and Final Reading.*

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-44, CS1, 12-47, and 12-48 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 for the passage of House Bill No. 12-53, House Draft 1, and House Bill No. 12-91 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Passage motion, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-53, House Draft 1.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-53, HD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 1 CMC, DIVISION 8, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 8313(a)(2); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There was no discussion raised.

The Status Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-53, H. D. 1, on First and Final Reading as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	absent
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. DLGuerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofscheider	absent
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes

Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	absent
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	absent
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-53, House Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I now move for the motion to pass on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-91.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-91: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REGULATE INTEREST ON COMMONWEALTH INTER-AGENCY LOANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There was no discussion raised.

The Status Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-91 on First and Final Reading as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	absent
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. DLGuerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofscheider	absent
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	absent
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	absent
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-91 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage on Second and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-73.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-73: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS IN SECTIONS 1, 2, AND 3, OF P. L. 10-88, AND 1 CMC 8341(D) AND 1 CMC 8344(F), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Jones, recognized.

Rep. Jones: Mr. Speaker, is this House Bill No. 12-73?

Speaker Fitial: Right.

Rep. Jones: Just one clarification, on Section 2, Expenditure Authority – I need the counsel's opinion on this –

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I rise into the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitial: The House is now in the Committee of the Whole.

The House resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 3:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE F THE WHOLE

The House reconvened back to plenary session at 3:26 p. m.

Speaker Fitial: We are now back to plenary session. We are still discussing the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-73 on First and Final Reading. What is the desire of the body? Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection on the floor, I would like to request that we defer this for further deliberation for clarification on Section 2.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-73 is deferred.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

Chairwoman Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The resignation of Representative Jones -- because of his help in the Committee, I would like to invite Representative William S. Torres to join the Health and Welfare Committee. That is the announcement, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Rep. Tony Camacho.

Chairman A. Camacho: Representative William Torres, we haven't heard if you accepted the invitation?

Rep. W. Torres: What can I do, I was already selected.

Speaker Fitial: Further Announcement? Recognize, Rep. Rosiky Camacho.

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Reminder of the Public Hearing on Monday, at 10:00 a.m. in Tinian at the Municipal Council's Office. You have to be at the dock by 7:30 a.m. for the 8:00 a.m. ferry.

Speaker Fitial: I think your suggesting that we call a session in Tinian at 2:00 p.m. on Monday. I just want to announce that there's a letter from the Chairman Don Young -- writing to the Speaker and his team -- to visit Washington, D. C., in April after the adjournment of the First Regular Session. I would like to inform you that I would like to get the final list of the delegation going to Washington as soon as possible so I can send it to Chairman Don Young. As most of you already know -- we will be meeting with the Senators and the Congressmen to discuss this federal takeover legislation and I have some information regarding the minimum wage. The U. S. Congress is concentrating on passing amendments here, this session. There are two minimum wage Bills, one is being sponsored by Democrats and one from the Republicans. The one by the Republicans includes the tax break incentives for retailers, small businesses. The one by the Democrat, they may sneak in the CNMI provision to extend the applicability of that omnibus Bill if passed by the CNMI. So, I just want to share that information with all of you. Representative Peter has a copy of that information. I will be monitoring the progress of these legislations and I will continue to share this information with you because we need to do something not only important, but very serious for our economic welfare. So, I believe we will be meeting with Chairman Don Young and some of the Congressional leadership with this visit to Washington, D. C., early next month. With that, I recognize the Floor Leader for the recess motion.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, just before I move for recess, I just like to advise the members that the Senate met and passed two House Bills without amendments and it will go back to the House for your transmittal. Just for information.

Speaker Fitial: Anymore deliberation before we recess? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to recess until tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. same venue.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives