

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

THIRTIETH DAY

March 21, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Thirtieth Day, First Regular Session, on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, at 10:30 a.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), seventeen members were present and Representative Dino M. Jones was excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Thirtieth Day of our First Regular Session. Representative Jones is excused. The secretary just advised me that he is at the hospital.

**ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, although the journal has been passed out, but it does not appear on the Order of Business, earlier I requested the members to insert the 27<sup>th</sup> Day journal for adoption on today's session, and with that, Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the 27<sup>th</sup> Day journal.

The motion was seconded.

**27<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session (03/17/00)**

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the 27<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session journal was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The 27<sup>th</sup> Day journal is adopted.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

H. B. NO. 12-150: A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §81551; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. David M. Apatang and two others  
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-151: A Bill for an Act to establish a Crop Insurance for framers in the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and six others  
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-152: A Bill for an Act to enact a new Banking Code for the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta  
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and TourismS

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

H. R. NO. 12-40: A House Resolution to consider Rota Island for the Unkai Distillery Company to establish a Shochu plant.

Offered by: Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**None**

### **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

**None**

### **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

None

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**None**

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE**



from the government in exchange for their private land and those who receive cash compensation from the government in exchange for their private land; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the Bill be passed by the House.

S. C. R. NO. 12-79: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-100, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to appropriate fund balances from Public Law 11-67; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the Bill be passed by the House in the form of H. B. NO. 12-100, House Draft 1.

S. C. R. NO. 12-29: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-36, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to establish an allocation formula for an appropriation of funds to the public schools in the CNMI; and for other purposes.”, and House Bill No. 12-27, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to support a Village-Based Education for the CNMI Public School System; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Education recommends that both House Bill Nos. 12-36 and 12-37 be filed by the House.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-76, 12-77, 12-78, 12-79, and 12-29 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-76, 12-77, 12-78, 12-79, and 12-29 are adopted.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

**None**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection from the members, I would like to recall the House action on House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, Senate Draft 1, that was deliberated on March 17<sup>th</sup> on the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of our First Regular Session on the Senate amendment. At the request of the author, Mr. Speaker, I so move to recall the House action on this House Joint Resolution.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Can we have a clarification, Floor Leader, be more specific as to the intent of the motion.

Floor Leader Babauta: The motion is to recall the House action on the acceptance of House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, Senate Draft 1.

Rep. Benavente: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your privilege.

Rep. Benavente: Can I ask the Floor Leader to tell us the title of the Joint Resolution and the reason for recalling it so that we don't have to wait and get copies of the Resolution?

Floor Leader Babauta: Sure. Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Proceed, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, a Joint Resolution to consider Rota for the Unkai Distillery Company to establish a Shochu plant, and the reason is, the Senate made an amendment on page 2, that sort of compel the company to commit itself to pay the entry level of equivalent to the US minimum wage, which the House primarily does not agree with the amendment because the intent was trying to lure fresh investment to the Commonwealth and particularly to the island of Rota, so that is the explanation, Mr. Speaker. So, we are ready, Mr. Speaker, with the motion.

Rep. Benavente: Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Are you satisfied – well, refer to page 13 of the 27<sup>th</sup> Day journal and you will see the House Joint Resolution adopted that day after considering the Senate amendment. Okay, we are now voting on the motion to place, to recall – what is the best term here, to recall or receive? -- Reconsider – to reconsider the House action on House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, Senate Draft 1.

The motion to reconsider House action on House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, Senate Draft 1, was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection, I now move to defer to the proper committee House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, Senate Draft 1.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: What would be the proper committee?

Floor Leader Babauta: Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, Senate Draft 1, is assigned to the Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations (FFR).

Rep. Hofschneider: Privilege, Mr. Speaker, may we applaud the presence of our Mayor and the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Guerrero?

Speaker Fitial: I would also like to include a recognition for my esteem colleague from the Second Legislature, the honorable former Vice Speaker Ben Attao. (Applause) Resolution Calendar, Floor Leader, I think we need to suspend the Rule to consider the Resolution just include by the Vice Speaker.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is no objection, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend Rule VII, Section 9, for the adoption of – short recess, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:50 a.m.

### **RECESS**

The House reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. We are under Resolution Calendar.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection, I move to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-40.

Rep. Attao: No objection.

Rep. Hofschneider: Second.

Speaker Fitial: Rule VII, Section 9 would place the Resolution on the Calendar without the benefit of a Committee Report. So, we are suspending Rule VII, Section 9, to allow House Resolution No. 12-40 to be placed on today's Resolution Calendar for consideration without a Committee Report.

The motion suspend Rule VII, Section 9, for the placement of House Resolution No. 12-40 on today's Resolution Calendar for action was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution No. 12-40 is now on the Resolution Calendar for consideration. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I now move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-40.

The motion was seconded.



The motion was seconded.

**H. B. NO. 12-101, HD1:** A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ACCOUNT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF AMBULANCE FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There was no discussion raised.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-101, HD1, on First and Final Reading as follows:

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

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-101, House Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading.

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Chairperson Malua Peter for taking action on such an important Bill that will alleviate funding problem for the Department of Public Safety as well as the Fire Division, so I commend the Chair and also the Committee for the speedy action on such Bill. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I just want to clarify the action the House just took on House Bill No. 12-101, it is, “House Bill No. 12-101, House Draft 1”. Further Bills on the Calendar, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage of House Bill No. 12-11 on First and Final Reading.





There was no discussion raised.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-100, HD1, on First and Final Reading as follows:

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

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-100, House Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Any more Bill on the Calendar?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection from the members, I wish to recall from the Committee Senate Bill No. 12-51, House Draft 1, under Standing Committee Report No. 12-59 and place it on today's Calendar for action, Mr. Speaker. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion?

Rep. Hofschneider: Ready on the motion.

Rep. Peter: What is the title?

Floor Leader Babauta: If I may, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Yes, you may.







There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the Floor Amendment offered by Floor Leader Babauta was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Now, we are back to the main motion to pass Senate Bill No. 12-51, House Substitute 1. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass Senate Bill No. 12-51, HS1, on First and Final Reading as follows:

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

Speaker Fitial: Senate Bill No. 12-51, House Substitute 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection from the members, can we go back to Item No. 4, Introduction of Resolution so that Representative Lee Torres can introduce a Resolution?

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered.

## **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

H. R. NO. 12-41: A House Resolution to honor and commend Mr. Roger Francis Brady upon his retirement from the CNMI Public School System after twenty-one years of dedicated and excellent service to the students of Marianas High School.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and one other

Speaker Fitial: Just for introduction or you want this Resolution to be considered today?

Rep. W. Torres: I so move if there is no objection.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: We need to go in recess for copies. Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:49 a.m.

### RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

### RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. Floor Leader, can you effectuate a suspension motion?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of House Resolution No. 12-41 on today's Resolution Calendar.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: We now have House Resolution No. 12-41 in today's Resolution Calendar for consideration. Adoption motion, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-41.

The motion was seconded.

**H. R. NO. 12-41:** A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND COMMEND MR. ROGER FRANCIS BRADY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF DEDICATED AND EXCELLENT SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-41 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution No. 12-41 is adopted.



The House recessed at 11:56 a.m.

**RECESS**

The House reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. We are still discussing the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-1, Committee Substitute 1, on First and Final Reading. Further discussion? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: I believe the original motion was the passage on Committee Substitute 1.

Speaker Fitial: That is correct.

Floor Leader Babauta: If the author, Mr. Speaker, wish for me to offer the amendment –

Speaker Fitial: That is the reason we went on recess because the author wants to conform his amendment.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Recognized.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer an amendment on House Bill No. 12-1, Committee Substitute 2.

The motion was seconded.

TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

H. B. NO. 12- 001,CS 2

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for Government Corporations for Fiscal Year 2000; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 101. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the "Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2000."

Section 102. Purpose. This Act appropriates local funds for the operations and activities of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, independent agencies and political subdivisions, and provides authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2000 commencing October 1, 1999 and ending September 30, 2000.

Section 103. Definitions. As used in this Act:

- (a) Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands includes:
  - (1) Legislative Branch, which includes the following:
    - (A) Senate
    - (B) House of Representatives
      - (C) Legislative Bureau
      - (D) Northern Marianas Youth Congress
  - (2) Judiciary Branch, which includes the following:
    - (A) Supreme Court
    - (B) Superior Court
      - (1) Family Court
    - (C) Law Revision Commission
  - (3) Executive Branch, which includes the following departments and offices:
    - (A) Office of the Governor
    - (B) Office of the Attorney General
    - (C) Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
    - (D) Department of Commerce
    - (E) Department of Labor and Immigration
    - (F) Department of Public Safety
    - (G) Department of Finance
    - (H) Department of Public Health Services
    - (I) Department of Lands and Natural Resources
    - (J) Department of Public Works
    - (K) Office of Personnel Management
    - (L) Public Defender
  - (4) Office of the Resident Representative to the United States
  - (5) First Senatorial District (the Senatorial district of Rota) which includes the following government offices and resident departments:
    - (A) Office of the Mayor
    - (B) Office of the Municipal Council
    - (C) Resident Department of Labor and Immigration
    - (D) Resident Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
    - (E) Resident Department of Commerce
    - (F) Resident Department of Public Safety
    - (G) Resident Department of Finance
    - (H) Resident Department of Public Health
    - (I) Resident Department of Land and Natural Resources
    - (J) Resident Department of Public Works
    - (K) Office of Personnel
  - (6) Second Senatorial District (the senatorial district of Tinian and Aguiguan) which includes the following governmental offices and resident departments:
    - (A) Office of the Mayor
    - (B) Office of the Municipal Council
    - (C) Resident Department of Labor and Immigration
    - (D) Resident Department of Community and Culture Affairs
    - (E) Resident Department of Commerce
    - (F) Resident Department of Public Safety
    - (G) Resident Department of Finance
    - (H) Resident Department of Public Health

- (I) Resident Department of Land and Natural Resources
- (J) Resident Department of Public Works
- (K) Office of Personnel
- (7) Third Senatorial District (Senatorial District of Saipan and the Northern Islands)  
which includes the following governmental offices:
  - (A) Mayor of Saipan
  - (B) Mayor of the Northern Islands
  - (C) Saipan Municipal Council
  - (8) All government corporations, as defined in 1 CMC § 7103(n), for which budget authority is herein provided including the following:
    - (A) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
    - (B) Mariana Islands Housing Corporation
    - (C) Commonwealth Ports Authority
    - (D) Commonwealth Development Authority
    - (E) Northern Marianas Retirement Fund
    - (F) Marianas Public Land Trust
- (G) Public Auditor's Office
- (H) Marianas Visitors Authority
- (9) All other public and quasi-public entities, boards or commissions incorporated or established pursuant to the Commonwealth Constitution or Commonwealth law and including the following agencies and instrumentalities:
  - (A) Public School System
  - (B) Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
  - (C) Board of Elections
  - (D) Board of Parole
  - (E) Board of Professional Licensing
  - (F) Chamorro and Carolinian Language Commission
  - (G) Civil Service Commission
  - (H) Northern Marianas College
  - (I) Worker's Compensation Commission
  - (b) "Independent programs" means government programs under separate boards established by law (unless receiving appropriations or budget authority under another heading), specialized general items of appropriations, and those non-profit corporations and associations or organizations established outside of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to which the Commonwealth Government provides financial assistance such as the:
    - (1) Agricultural Fair
    - (2) American Red Cross, CNMI Chapter
    - (3) Saipan Football League
    - (4) Government Utilities
    - (5) Special Annuity for Gov./ Lt. Gov.
    - (6) Covenant Section 902 Consultation
    - (7) Deficit Reduction
    - (8) Developmental Disabilities Planning Agency
    - (9) Joeten/Kiyu Public Library
    - (10) Marianas Bound (Karidat)
    - (11) Micronesian Legal Services Corporation
    - (12) Nat'l Conf. Of State Legislature
    - (13) National Governors Association
- (14) NMI Occupational Infor. Coord. Comm.
- (15) NM Protection & Advocacy Program
  - (16) Pacific Basin Development Council
  - (17) East West Center

- (18) Public Assistance Program Matching Fund
- (19) South Pacific Commission / PREL
- (20) CNMI Youth Congress
- (21) Retirement PL 11-25 (Poker)
- (22) Tax Task Force
- (23) Retirement (PL 8-31)
- (24) CNMI Boy Scouts
- (25) CNMI Girl Scouts
- (26) Little League Baseball - Saipan
- (27) Little League Baseball - Rota
- (28) Little League Baseball - Tinian
- (29) Claims against Judgments
- (30) Flame Tree Arts Festival
- (31) Close-up Foundation
- (32) Street Naming Commission
- (33) Ayuda Network
- (34) Custom's/User Fee
- (35) Pacific Islands Development Bank
- (36) **Manhoben Center (San Antonio)**
- (37) Commonwealth Museum
- (38) P C B
- (39) Domestic Violence
- (40) Humanities Council
- (41) APPU
- (42) Cops Universal Hiring Program
- (43) Neighborhood Watch Program
- (44) Council of State Government
- (45) Youth Learning Center
- (46) Saipan Softball Association
- (47) CARLA
- (48) **30% Bonus**
- (49) **Annual Leave Lump-Sum payment**
- (c) "Local funds" means locally generated revenues and revenues received pursuant to Section 702(a) of the Covenant.
- (d) "Operations" means appropriations for all lawful activities other than personnel.
- (e) "Personnel" means appropriations for the salaries, employer's contribution to the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund, overtime, night differential, hazardous pay and other employee wages and benefits.
- (f) "Position" or "Full Time Equivalent" (FTE) means the maximum number of persons that may be employed, pursuant to Article X, Section 7 of the Commonwealth Constitution but does not include Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) trainees, substitute teachers, summer trainees, teacher aides, physicians, licensed professional nurses and licensed allied health providers working part-time and paid only for instructional time, student teacher trainees, or short-term specialized instructors, such as visiting artists, performers, writers, and the like. For purposes of this exception, "part-time" means employment not exceeding 40 hours in any biweekly pay period, and "short-term" means not more than 90 instructional days employment within the Public School System during the fiscal year.

CHAPTER II. ESTIMATED REVENUES

Section 201. Estimated Revenues.

- a) Local Funds:
  - 1) Internal Revenue \$ 204,553,119
  - 2) Covenant Funds (Operations) -0-



















Rep. Benavente: Thank you. I wish to just bring up a proposal and idea to the members and see if I can get support from the members, to reduce the Legislative Allocation of \$155,000 per year as offered in this budget. Mr. Speaker, and members, just last week, I saw in the newspaper, that students for example are having to come to school late because of bus problems. I would figure that would be busing needs or bus maintenance needs, and while I appreciate the fact that PSS budget has been increased, I still feel that this Legislature should not increase its own budget when we see that other agencies budget have been reduced. We also at this time, should not be increasing our budget when we acted recently on a legislation reducing on the amount of scholarship for students under Public Law 7-32 or even eliminating the part-time scholarship program that was offered at one time at our own Northern Marianas College. We have made several steps in reducing our community's needs financially. I don't think that it is fair for us at this point in time, when we are still having some financial constraints as government that we increase our own budget. I have been informed that emergency vehicles at the Department of Public Safety, are somewhere either down or barely function because of maintenance problems and because of financial needs. I think that the priority that I would like to put forth is the need for our school children to get to school on time, and the need of PSS to get additional buses, or maintenance parts. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer an oral floor amendment and if it is possible, I would like to ask the Floor Leader to make the necessary motion for the suspension of Rules to allow me to offer a floor amendment?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I so move to suspend Rule IX, Section 11.

Rep. Attao: Second.

Speaker Fitial: Did you second that Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Yes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 11, for Representative Benavente to offer an oral floor amendment to House Bill No. 12-1, H.S.1, was defeated carried by the majority hands raised.

Speaker Fitial: The motion is defeated. Representative Benavente, you still can offer a written amendment.

Rep. Benavente: And I will need your support then, Mr. Speaker, to call for a short recess while I make a copy of the amendment?

Speaker Fitial: You have my support. Short recess.

The House recessed at 12:27 p.m.





















Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. So, you may proceed with your floor amendment, Representative Hofschneider.

Rep. Hofschneider: Very simple amendment, Mr. Speaker. Just put an asterisk “(\*) over the \$250,000 on class code 67000 and below the formation line, the asterisk shall read “\*shall only be used for operations.” That is a motion.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitial: Operations.

Rep. Hofschneider: ...”and not personnel” if further clarification is needed.

Speaker Fitial: Any second to that?

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the oral floor amendment offered by Representative Hofschneider to House Bill No. 12-1, CS2, HD1, was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Representative Pangelinan?

Rep. Hofschneider: Further, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: On the budgeting column, Mr. Speaker, I have information that the Superior Court have analyzed their budget and in the midst of the preparation and the presentation of the budget to the floor by the House, they have since employed people under the vacant positions that were allotted over to the Superior Court. By adopting this total appropriation would effectively negate the newly hired individuals under the Superior Court. Since the total appropriation is effectively lower than the continuing resolution by an amount close to \$262,000 and it is specifically under the personnel cost changes and not on operations. I believe the operation is kept intact. But effectively, the proposal on the Superior Court is lower than the continuing resolution.

Speaker Fitial: By how much?

Rep. Hofschneider: Roughly by \$262,000.

Speaker Fitial: Does your information include names of the people that are concern?

Rep. Hofschneider: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I do not have that.

Speaker Fitial: Can you create one?







Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Rep. Benavente: Yes, with reservation because of the legislative budget. Thank you.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente	yes w/reservation
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. DLGuerrero	yes

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, I hope the Chairman can clarify that with the Judges and work with the Senate, ‘yes’ on the budget.

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	abstained
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	yes
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes w/reservation
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-1, C.S.2, H.D.3, passes the House on First and Final Reading.

### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

Chairwoman Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Committee on Health and Welfare to take a 30 minutes lunch and return for the Public Hearing scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Chairman Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: Of what committee? Mr. Speaker and members, for the preemptive time, I guess this is the seventh time that we’ve tried to call a session accommodating all the members from the Senate and the House. The Saipan and Northern Islands had issued a notice, Mr.

Speaker, that on Thursday, March 23, 2000, at 8:30 in the morning, the Saipan and Northern Islands will convene its First Session for new officers and members. Thank you.

Chairman Jones: Time?

Speaker Fitial: 8:30 a.m., right here. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to recess until tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

The motion was seconded carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives