

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

TWENTIETH DAY

September 15, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Twentieth Day, Second Regular Session, on Friday, September 15, 2000, at 11:34 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), fourteen members were present. Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Antonio M. Camacho, Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero and Dino M. Jones were excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Twentieth Day of our Second Regular Session. All members absent are excused.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Days, Second Regular Session journals.

The motion was seconded.

12th Day (8/25/00), 14th Day (8/30/00), 15th Day (8/31/00), 16th Day (9/5/00), 17th Day (9/6/00), 18th Day (9/7/00), and 19th Day (9/8/00), Second Regular Session

There was no discussion raised.

The motion to adopt the 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Days, Second Regular Session journals was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-272: A Bill for an Act to amend 9 CMC Division 2, 2209; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Martin B. Ada and seven others
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-273: A Bill for an Act to delegate power and function acquiring public right-of-way; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 12-274: A Bill for an Act to combine Citizenship Day with Covenant Day by amending 1 CMC Chapter 3, Article 1 §311; repealing 1 CMC Chapter 3, Article 2, §323; to designate a day in September to remember the efforts of Dr. Mau Piailugh in awakening the cultural significance of traditional sailing in our culture by adding a new Section 323 to 1 CMC Chapter 3, Article 2; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and two others
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. L. I. NO. 12-6: A Legislative Initiative to propose an amendment to Article III Section 4 of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Constitution.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-82: A House Resolution recognizing the outstanding work and spiritual guidance performed by Fr. Mathew Blockley for the parishioners of San Joes Church (Oleai) and to thank him for all the work he has done for the parish.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter

H. R. NO. 12-83: A House Resolution urgently requesting the Bureau of Census in the Department of Commerce to make a determination relative to the population threshold of the islands north of Saipan for purposes of complying with the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Constitution Article II Section 2 and Section 3; and for other purposes.

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. C. R. NO. 12-165: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-17, entitled, “To provide a tax credit to employers who hire and employ handicapped or disabled individuals; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage in the form of HB 12-17, CD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-166: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-192, entitled, “To encourage the establishment of more postsecondary educational institutions in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-167: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-237, entitled, “To amend Section 1 and Section 3 of Public Law 11-100 to reappropriate \$500,000 appropriated for Tatachog Library; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-168: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-245, entitled, “To amend the Auditing Act to avoid duplication of actions by the Office of the Public Auditor and the Division of Revenue and Taxation; to repeal 1 CMC, § 7831; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage in the form of HB 12-245, CD1.I*

S. C. R. NO. 12-169: Reporting on House Resolution No. 12-63, entitled, “Requesting the Undersecretary of Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Honorable August Schumacher, to extend the Federal Crop Insurance Program to farmers and ranchers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends adoption of the resolution.*

(The starting of this session was not recorded and the following begins:)

The House recessed at 11:47 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. This is on the adoption of the Committee Reports. Recognized, Representative Hofschneider.

Rep. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being involved, Mr. Speaker, in the close scrutiny of Northern Marianas College in the last Legislature, it gives me no other option but to be ambivalent about introducing another postsecondary education institution. However, we have a tendency to be myopic in view, when we only address ourselves and compare and judge ourselves, or we use ourselves from within the Commonwealth. To use it as a barometer to gauge ourselves in terms of progressiveness against one another or within ourselves and that is the basic problem that lies in most institutions, not only postsecondary institution at the Northern Marianas College, is whenever you question the policy or the progressiveness of education development, they resort to looking at what they have accomplished from within rather than comparing in the developmental phases of education, from the nearby jurisdiction or comparable to some standard that is far higher than from within the Commonwealth. And I am talking about why can't we be proud of having a two-year college to begin with, let alone the four-year college program. We have not even made the infant step towards a two-year or awarding a two-year degree, an AA degree, and yet, we develop into that sense of awarding a four-year college degree, because of looking from within rather than looking at comparing Kapiolani Community College for instance, which awards a two-year degree, and they have in fact progress far more in terms of the delivery of educational quality to every individual that steps into that college. It is unfortunate and fortunate, this is the hypocrisy about this intention, if we don't pass this legislation then we fail to address to provide an impetus, a push for Northern Marianas College to really look from within themselves and look at comparing themselves against other education institutions. This legislation however, inviting a private company to come in and establish in the Commonwealth will in fact be a competition in itself. And as we all subscribe to the republican view, the best regulation is competition. Let competition thrive and that will be a self regulatory body when you have another college competing for the same student body because one department is not doing what they were suppose to be delivering or doing. When the private sector begins to thrive then the reality of Northern Marianas College perhaps may in fact begin to instill in the Board of Regents and the management of the Northern Marianas College. The unfortunate thing is that a diversion infinite number of student body moving towards the private sector if and when this private institution will accept local student, will be a reality towards, maybe lack of attention towards Northern Marianas College. I think it is appropriate that we invite competition through this legislation however, caution must be taken in that the future members of the Legislature must continue to monitor how we deliver and use both public services and tax payers money. I think it is not a secret to anyone in this Chamber that when a private sector delivers certain service that is duplicated by the public sector, in most cases, nine out of ten times the private sector delivers better services than the public sector and that is the unfortunate thing. We have a bigger financial ability and more flexibility in terms of the law. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I guess I am only the member of this Chamber who participated in the enactment of the enabling legislation for the college in 1980. The intent of the enabling legislation was to create or establish a community college that was intended to accomplish just one thing -- to provide for training of our local people in the areas where we needed most, in the area of teachers, nurses, engineers, and trades. The college has failed in that

mission ever since they decided to change course and opted to become a four-year institution when they haven't even satisfied the original mission of becoming a full fledged two-year community college. I have written to the President of the Northern Marianas College last week to discuss the issues that we discussed earlier after we were inaugurated, because they seemed not to consider the concerns that the House asked as far as the direction of the college is concern. We made it very clear to them that we don't want scientist. We don't want the college to be producing scientist. We only need the college to produce teachers because we are lacked of teachers. They don't even have to look very far they can just look at the classrooms. We continue to lack of teachers. We continue to lack of nurses. Our people are complaining because they cannot understand the nurses that are working at CHC because they speak different languages. Just recently we have a bill to extend the authority that the Legislature has provided or given to certain agencies to hire nonresident skilled workers and this is another failure by the college not to provide these technical people that are needed in these agencies. So, we've got a problem. This bill is one of the solutions to the problem that we are encountering with the college. I hope that this bill will become law so that we can invite competition because competition is definitely a cure to our present problem.

Rep. Hofschneider: It doesn't have to be in academic areas, Mr. Speaker, it can be vocational we are in dire need.

Speaker Fitial: Commenting on your earlier statement about the constitutionality of this bill, it would be a joke for our Constitution to prevent Harvard, Stanford, or other colleges in the United States to come in and set up branches here. Any further discussion on the adoption of the Standing Committee Reports.

Several members voiced, "ready".

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-165, 12-166, 12-167, 12-168, and 12-169 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 for the placement and adoption of House Resolution No. 12-82 on today's Calendar.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Adoption motion?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, for the adoption of House Resolution Nos. 12-63 and 12-82.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-63: A HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNDERSECRETARY OF FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE HONORABLE AUGUST SCHUMACHER, TO EXTEND THE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM TO FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

H. R. NO. 12-82: A HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE PERFORMED BY FR. MATHEW BLOCKLEY FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF SAN JOES CHURCH (OLEAI) AND TO THANK HIM FOR ALL THE WORK HE HAS DONE FOR THE PARISH.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: I would like to offer an amendment to House Resolution No. 12-82?

Floor Leader Babauta: If there is no objection, Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of Rule IX, Section 11.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. You are recognized, Representative Peter.

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On House Resolution No. 12-82, page 2 of 2, line 17, after “San Jose Church;” remove the “(;)” and insert “(,)” and add “Cardinal Sin;”.

The motion was seconded.

Floor Leader Babauta: Clarification from the mover.

Speaker Fitial: State your clarification.

Floor Leader Babauta: Shall we include the first name or just the...

Speaker Fitial: His first name is “Jaime”.

Rep. Peter: Cardinal Jaime Sin.

Speaker Fitial: And he is not a Carolinian.

Rep. Peter: Thank you.

The motion to adopt the oral Amendment offered by Representative Malua T. Peter was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: We are voting on the main motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-82, House Draft 1.

Floor Leader Babauta: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: We are voting on the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-82, House Draft 1, and House Resolution No. 12-63.

The motion adopt House Resolution Nos. 12-82, HD1 and 12-63 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution Nos. 12-82, HD1 and 12-63 are hereby adopted. I would like to inform the members that after recess, I would like to invite Father Blockley to come up so we can present him the Resolution.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-17, CD1; House Bill No. 12-192; House Bill No. 12-237; and House Bill No. 12-245, CD1.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Passage.

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-17 under Standing Committee Report No. 12-165.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-17, CD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE A TAX CREDIT TO EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE AND EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Pangelinan?

Rep. Pangelinan: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would like to bring to your attention in terms of this Bill, especially on Section 2, Division 1, subsection (e) defining individual with disability. It did not include individuals diagnosed with cancer, HIV, or AIDS. When we are talking about other disabilities, these are the individuals with possibly longer life activities. But when you are diagnosed by cancer, HIV or AIDS, your life activities are so threatened, there is a limitation on how far you can go and this should be treated as also people with disabilities. I don't see why we should ignore the fact that these are real people with real disabilities and they should be included in all legislations that can benefit from this. I would like to amend this, an oral amendment, Mr. Speaker and colleagues if...

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader, would you please effectuate a motion to allow a Floor Amendment?

Rep. Peter: Mr. Speaker, before we do that...

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, since we will be passing numerous bills, I would like to include Bills that appears on today's Calendar with that, a lump sum motion of suspension of Rule IX, Section 11.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On line 13, page 1 of the Bill, doesn't that cover Representative Pangelinan's – so we have to list the...

Rep. Hofschneider: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your point of clarification, Representative Hofschneider.

Rep. Hofschneider: For that particular section, it attributes disability to mean mental and physical, but there are individuals in the Commonwealth with physiological impairment. For instance, you could be on dialysis you don't have a physical impairment, it says that physiologically impaired. Your physical ability is in tack. Your mental ability is in tack. Physiologically, you cannot perform arduous tasks. You cannot be under the sun, you cannot work like any normal person from 7:30 to 4:30, because of your physiological dysfunction. That is one example that could fit Representative Pangelinan's concern.

Speaker Fitial: Are you saying physiological is not physical?

Rep. Hofschneider: No. Because you could be in tacked physically. Physical impairment is for instance, dismemberment, loosing indexes, an arm, a leg amputee, but your physiological is in tack, your mental is in tack, the reverse is true. Your physical can be in order, your mental is in order, yet, physiologically like a dialysis patients for instance. A young person on dialysis has all the physical and mental quarters in tack the physiological portion has impaired that person tremendously in terms of performing a duty.

Rep. Peter: Mr. Speaker, page 2, (F)...

Speaker Fitial: Pardon?

Rep. Peter: Page 2, line 11, “(F) Requires multiple services over an extended period of time...”, it does include cancer disease. Doesn’t that cover the concern of Representatives Pangelinan?

Rep. Hofschneider: May I answer that?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Pangelinan, do you have a Floor Amendment to propose?

Rep. Pangelinan: Again the term, Mr. Speaker, to respond to Chairwoman Peter, how do we define cancer disease? My Amendment would be under Section 2, Division 1, to develop a “Subsection (3) to include individuals diagnosed for cancer, HIV or AIDS.”

Rep. Peter: Can you call for a short recess, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Yes. Just one minute recess.

The House recessed at 12:00 p.m.

RECESSED

The House reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to withdraw my original motion and therefore offer new motion for the passage on House Bill No. 12-17, Committee Draft 1, on First Reading only.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: Anymore discussion the Bill?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

The motion to pass House Bill No. 12-17, CD1, on First Reading was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-17, CD1, passes on First Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-192 under Standing Committee Report No. 12-166.

The motion was seconded.

H. B NO. 12-192: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

Speaker Fitial: Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-192 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	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	excused
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	excused
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. Pangelinan: I cast my vote “yes”, but still this Bill does not guarantee for any postsecondary institution to meet our demand for more teachers, more nurses and trade skills. Thank you.

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. 12-192 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-237 under Standing Committee Report No. 12-167.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-237: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1 AND SECTION 3 OF PUBLIC LAW 11-100 TO REAPPROPRIATE \$500,000 APPROPRIATED FOR TATACHOG LIBRARY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, this is an old issue that has resurfaced again, and I have a couple of questions. The most important question is, is this money coming from the bond money?

Speaker Fitial: The answer is, “yes”.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, I refer to the bond indenture it specifically limits the usage of the bond proceeds for the purposes of public school facilities. Now, if we go beyond the context or the agreement, then the bond underwriters must address this issue. In the original legislation 119 that disbursed the full proceeds, it went towards a public school library in Rota, the wishes of the people of Rota is not in question. The method in which to achieve that may in fact be contradictory to the agreement from those bondholders, which will in fact injure the Commonwealth credibility and may in fact propose a legal question towards the violation of that agreement. If the \$500,000 is coming from the same proceed and it is to be used outside the context of public school system facility, then I can honestly tell you now that that has been brought up in the past and have been rejected.

Speaker Fitial: Let us ask the Vice Speaker if he has any information that would enlighten?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker, can forward it over to the Chairman on Ways and Means since he was conducting...?

Speaker Fitial: The Chairman of Ways and Means is not here.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Education Committee.

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Ichihara?

Rep. Ichihara: Concerning the \$500,000? – Mr. Speaker, we have checked into this. This is the money that we've been questioning in regards to building a Public School Library at the Tatachog site and since Public School System did not have the deeded land to establish that, it cannot build that facility under that heading. Therefore, we would like to give back PSS this \$500,000 and do the expansion at the existing campus along with other facilities that needs improvement in Rota. That is the main intention of this \$500,000. We just revert it back to Public School System for Rota School.

Speaker Fitial: The question that Representative Hofschneider is posing to the Committee is, would this meet another obstacle with the bonding company?

Rep. Ichihara: Not according to the Public School System because we have checked into this... – expenditure authority that because they cannot build a public school library alone or for that matter on a land that does not belong to the Public School System.

Rep. Hofschneider: May I continue, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Rep. Hofschneider: If you read the Bill itself on line 3, unless we have other motives or the author have other motives in specifically identifying as Tatachog Library and not as Tatachog Public School System Library. This language violates the condition of the bond. Unless you amend it to reflect Tatachog Public School System Library it meets the text of the conditions of the bond. If you leave it to be Tatachog Library whether they have the title or not, it is irrelevant.

Speaker Fitial: Is that correct, Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Yes. I think we have to clarify on this language here on the Tatachog Library. Originally, the \$500,000 is strictly for PSS it is not for Tatachog Library. The \$500,000 as I recall the Bill that I introduced and there was an obstacle up in the Senate for the \$1,000,000 for Tatachog Library and Rota High School Library so the \$500,000 will revert back to PSS as originally proposed. So, I think we need to correct this Tatachog Library instead we put Rota High School Library.

Rep. Hofschneider: Can we just take a short recess and maybe offer a suggestion as to who we can get around this?

Speaker Fitial: If your concern is the nomenclature...

Rep. Hofschneider: No. It is the violation of...-- see when you transfer the expenditure authority back to PSS that does not relief that of the compliances section of the bond. Because all you are doing is legitimizing who to spent the money, but the purpose of the facility may in fact not be under the property of Public School System it be Tatachog Public Library, but the expenditure when constructive will be PSS that is even aggravating the violation.

Rep. Peter: But the \$500,000 is not for Tatachog Library it is for Rota Elementary and Junior High School.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: That is correct in the original.

Rep. Peter: Isn't that what the Bill is doing now, diverting back from Tatachog Library to Elementary and Junior High School Library plus additional classrooms and collateral equipment in Sinapalu Elementary School?

Speaker Fitial: That is true. Some will go to High School Library plus additional classrooms for Rota High School and also for collateral equipments for Sinapalu Elementary School.

Rep. Attao: I think the Amendment is in order, Mr. Speaker, it is revert back to PSS.

Rep. Peter: The \$500,000 originally appropriated for Tatachog. Are we in recess?

Rep. Pangelinan: Chairwoman Peter, there's a letter from Dr. Inos, supporting the intent of this Bill.

Rep. Peter: Yes. Because when they were to build the Tatachog Library that is when we are not in compliance with the bond agreement. This Amendment should

Rep. Attao: No. The Amendment is okay that it diverts itself. The problem here is the JROTC.

Rep. Peter: What is the problem with JROTC?

Rep. Attao: *Check-ha guine na page i program gi halom este.*

Rep. Peter: JROTC is within Rota High School.

Rep. Attao: (*inaudible*)

Speaker Fitial: Let us dispose of the motion. I think Representative Hofschneider’s concern is already addressed. If there is no further discussion, are you ready for the question?

Rep. Peter: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-237 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	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	excused
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	excused
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. 12-237 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Next, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I so move for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill 12-245, Committee Draft 1, under Standing Committee Report No. 12-168.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-245, CD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE AUDITING ACT TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF ACTIONS BY THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR AND THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION; TO REPEAL 1 CMC, § 7831; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

Speaker Fitial: Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-245, CD1, 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	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	excused
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	excused
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. 12-245, Committee Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Lastly, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Recess?

Speaker Fitial: Okay. I would like to entertain a motion to resolve into the Committee of the Whole if there is no objection, so we can present a Resolution?

There was no objection raised.

The motion to resolve into the Committee of the Whole was carried by voice vote.

The House resolved to Committee of the Whole at 12:38 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House reconvened to plenary session at 12:43 p.m.

Speaker Fitial: We are now back to plenary session.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Rosiky Camacho.

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Mr. Speaker, the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Committee will be meeting on Monday, at 1:30 in reference to House Bill No. 12-226 (Electronic Signature); House Bill No. 12-250 (Boating Industry of the CNMI); House Bill No. 12-267 (Texas Road); and the traffic lighting at the Price Cosco intersection will be discussed in the PUTC Committee. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Ichihara?

Chairwoman Ichihara: Education Committee meetings are on Tuesday's at 9:00 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: I would like to ask Chairman Rosiky Camacho to excuse Tinian and Rota for that day on Monday, we will be having the Youth Congress Election on that day.

Speaker Fitial: Right. Please be mindful of the election on Monday.

Floor Leader Babauta: Youth Congress, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: The Vice Speaker and I will be leaving for Nashville on Tuesday to attend the National Speakers Conference in Nashville. We will be away for four to five days, special announcement. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all the members already understand that the Youth Congress Election Day will be held on Monday and that would permanently be in schools including the voting for the precinct candidates that would be held there from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and would be continued at their respective precincts, designated areas from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and that would be after school hours. I kindly request the member's staff who are available to assist our coordinators on that day, managing the post and tabulating in the evening.

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Peter?

Chairwoman Peter: Mr. Speaker, Precinct III election site would be the Youth Learning Center in Lower MIHA and it is at 9:00 a.m. to...

Speaker Fitial: Two.

Chairwoman Peter: 9 to 2?

Speaker Fitial: That is what I saw in the paper.

Chairwoman Peter: I thought it was later?

Floor Leader Babauta: The precinct votes can also be cast at the respective schools that are designated. For those students that would be voting within their respective precinct for a Precinct Candidate, they would be allow to vote in their homeroom period, which is 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., then it will continue on. After 9:30 a.m. it will continue on back to their respective precinct designated polling places. So, like in Precinct II, it would be at the Multi-Purpose after school hours which is four o'clock that we...

Speaker Fitial: Chairman Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I just would like to inform Precinct I Representatives that the places for election are at Marianas High School between 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and there are already assigned members. St. Jude Social Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and there is also assigned members to be responsible, if not a Representative. St. Jude Social Hall between 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. another group of assigned members to be managing this place and then the tabulators between 7:00 p.m. – and also there are also assigned members to be responsible. There is none of these assigned members that are representative themselves or elected officials, but they can come down and visit the place to give more support. You are still obligated to come to the Committee meeting.

Chairwoman Peter: Mr. Speaker, for Precinct III, we need two more precinct candidates. We need to find two that could be write-in. We have one, Ulaulia Sablan Villagomez, so we encourage two for write-in and they should stay around to campaign for other voters to come in and write-in as well. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Okay. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Move to recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: Recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House recessed at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives