



House of Representatives

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

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SAIPAN, MP 96950

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August 22, 2022

Pursuant to the House Rules of Procedures and the authority under the NMI Constitution, the Speaker of the House of Representatives announces that the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene the following open and public meeting:

Meeting:	House of Representatives First Day, Fourth Regular Session
Date and Time:	Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 2:00 PM
Location:	House Chamber, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill

Copies of this notice, the official Session Call, and the agenda have been filed in the Office of the House Clerk, released to the media, and posted at the following locations:

Administration Building Entrance Hall
House of Representatives Entrance Hall
Senate Entrance Hall
Commonwealth Legislature website (www.cnmileg.net)

Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

22ND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HONORABLE JESUS P. MAFNAS MEMORIAL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

EDMUND SABLAN VILLAGOMEZ
SPEAKER

MEMORANDUM

DATE : 19 AUGUST 2022
TO : ALL HOUSE MEMBERS
FROM : SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ 
SUBJECT : CALL FOR THE 1ST DAY, 4TH REGULAR SESSION

Pursuant to the House Rules of Procedure and the authority vested in me under the NMI Constitution, I hereby call the **1st Day, 4th Regular Session for Thursday, 25 August 2022 at 2:00 p.m.** in the House Chamber.

cc: Senate President
House Clerk
LB Director
SAPLR
Media

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2022

SESSION DAY	CALENDAR DAY	TIME
1st Day, Fourth Regular Session	Thursday, August 25, 2022	2:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A Moment of Silence

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. ADOPTION OF JOURNALS – (1)

1st Day, Fourth Special Session Journal – July 18, 2022

4. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

A. House Bills:

H. B. No. 22-112

To amend Title 1, Division 8 of the Commonwealth Code by establishing a Veterans' Preference employment provision for the CNMI Government; and for other purposes.

Prefiled by: REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

B. House Local Bills:

C. House Legislative Initiatives:

5. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

A. House Resolutions:

H. RES. NO. 22-23

To commend Dina A. Tenorio in honor and recognition as the first female indigenous person from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as a certified commercial diver; and for her dedication and success as an innovative young entrepreneur in the CNMI.

Prefiled by: REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representative Edmund S. Villagomez)

B. *House Joint Resolutions:*

C. *House Commemorative Resolutions:*

D. *House Concurrent Resolutions:*

6. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 22-150: (7/21/2022) Informing the House of his nomination of Mr. Benjamin Huk Lunag Borja to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the Second Senatorial District. *[Deadline: 10/19/2022]*

GOV. COMM. 22-151: (7/25/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-33, D1 (*To appropriate One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from the Poker Licensing Fee Account (specifically under BU 3302); and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-08** *[For info]*

GOV. COMM. 22-152: (7/25/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-34, (*To appropriate One Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) from the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Reserve Account (specifically under BU 2301); and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-09** *[For info]*

GOV. COMM. 22-153: (7/25/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. L. B. No. 22-13, D1, (*To name the former Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) building at the Rota High School located in Liyo, Rota to "Sergeant Major Herman Manglona Atalig" in recognition and appreciation of his untiring and outstanding contributions to the CNMI Public School System and to the people of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-10** *[For info]*

GOV. COMM. 22-154: (7/25/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-28, S1, D1, (*To amend Saipan Local Law 22-6, Section 101(a) to restructure the local license fee imposed on all poker amusement machines located within e-gaming facilities or hotels and electronic gaming devices as defined in Title 6 section 3154 (a)(4) and 6 CMC §3156(b), located within the Third Senatorial District.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-13** *[For info]*

GOV. COMM. 22-155: (7/7/2022 received 7/28/2022) **Executive Order 2022-10 – RENEWAL–Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL–Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.**

GOV. COMM. 22-156: (7/27/2022 received 7/28/2022) **Executive Order 2022-11 – RENEWAL–Declaration of Major Disaster and State of Significant Emergency on the island of Tinian in response to the threat posed by toxic chemicals to the people of Tinian arising from the burning of the super typhoon waste and debris site on Tinian.**

GOV. COMM. 22-157: (8/10/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-35, D1, *(To appropriate \$140,000.00 from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Tinian Local Law 22-08** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-158: (8/10/2022) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-33-36, D1, *(To make supplemental appropriations for the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian for Fiscal Year 2022 pursuant to 10 CMC §2581 [Tinian Local Law 21-9] and 1 CMC §1405(a) [Public Law 1 1-17].)*. Became **Tinian Local Law 22-09** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-159: (8/8/2022 received 8/11/2022) **Executive Order 2022-12 – RENEWAL–Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL–Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.**

7. SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 22-105: (7/22/2022) Returning H. B. No. 22-80, entitled, *“To have the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) join the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) to improve and expand access to mental health care in the CNMI; and for other purposes.”*, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on July 22, 2022. [For info-Will go to Gov.]

SEN. COMM. 22-106: (7/22/2022) Returning H. J. R. 22-17, entitled, *“To recognize and acknowledge the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women and to thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 7th through August 13th, 2022, as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week”.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on July 22, 2022. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 22-107: (8/9/2022) Returning H. B. No. 22-20, HS1, entitled, *“To clarify the Commonwealth Ports Authority Ports Police’s authority, power, and recognition as a CNMI law enforcement agency.”*, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on August 9, 2022. [For info-Will go to Gov.]

SEN. COMM. 22-108: (8/9/2022) Returning H. C. R. NO. 22-2, entitled, *“To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2023, beginning October 1, 2022, and ending on September 30, 2023.”*, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on August 9, 2022, in the form of **H. C. R. NO. 22-2, SD1**. [For action on Senate amendments]

SEN. COMM. 22-109: (8/9/2022) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-52, SD1, entitled, *“To provide for quarrying controls and reclamation plans in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.”*, which was passed by the Senate on August 9, 2022. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-110: (8/11/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 22-26, entitled, *“To commemorate the distinguished and honorable life of the late Brian Manglona Mendiola and to recognize his years of honorable service and contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”*, which was adopted by the Senate on August 9, 2022. [*For info*]

8. HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

HSE. COMM. 22-91: (7/18/2022) From Representative Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters from July 19—July 23, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-92: (7/22/2022) From Floor Leader Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official and personal business beginning July 25, 2022 through August 9, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-93: (7/27/2022) From Representative Yangetmai informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on business from July 29, 2022—August 3, 2022 and on personal leave from August 4, 2022—August 17, 2022 (tentative) and request to be excused from any and all official functions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-94: (7/28/2022) From Representative Celina R. Babauta informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth for official and personal matters beginning July 29, 2022—August 15, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-95: (7/28/2022) From Representative Joel C. Camacho informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth for official business on August 1—August 3, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-96: (7/28/2022) From Representative Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on professional business from July 29, 2022—August 4, 2022; and on personal matters from August 4—August 6, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-97: (7/29/2022) From Representative Staffler informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from August 1—August 3, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all scheduled meetings or sessions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-98: (8/2/2022) From the Chairpersons of the House Ways and Means and the Health and Welfare Committees to Governor Torres on matters pertaining to the pressing funding needs of the CNMI Medicaid Agency for FY 2022. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 22-99: (8/11/2022) From Representative Flores informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth for personal business on August 15, 2022—September 15, 2022 and request to be excused from any and all official functions or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUD. BR. COMM. 22-7: (8/8/2022) From Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro to the Speaker submitting: *Proposed Rule of Admission 73-2, Title IX of the NMI Supreme Court Rules*. [Submitted 8/8/2022; *Deadline 10/7/2022*]

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-58: (7/28/2022) From the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) submitting *CUC's FY 2022—Third Quarter Expenditure Report (Unaudited)*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-59: (8/2/2022) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) re: *Fiscal Year 2022, Third Quarter Financial Report*. [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-60: (8/11/2022) From the Chairperson and the Acting Executive Director of the Commonwealth Casino Commission (CEC) submitting comments on H. B. NO. 22-111: To amend the compensation of the Casino Commission members. [For info]

11. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

MISC. COMM. 22-123: (7/14/2022) From Perry John P. Tenorio, Director, Legislative Bureau re: *Off-island notice and Delegation of Authority—Ms. Carla San Nicolas will serve as Acting Director from July 22, 2022—August 5, 2022*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-124: (7/19/2022) Transmitting for disposition a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-06, entitled, “*To require the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Lands, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to coordinate, procure, and install lighting systems at all public basketball and tennis courts in the CNMI; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on July 16, 2022. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-125: (7/19/2022) Transmitting for disposition a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-07, entitled, “*To amend 1 CMC §1610(c) to allow Youth Congress sessions to be held in the legislative chamber of the House of Representatives or the Senate, inclusive of venues in Tinian and Rota.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on July 16, 2022. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-126: (7/19/2022) Transmitting for disposition a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-08, entitled, “*To amend 9 CMC §2205(c)(I) and 9 CMC §2206 to change the driving learner's permit age to 15 and the duration of the learner's permit, respectively; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on July 16, 2022. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-127: (7/19/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 18-09, entitled, “*Commending the organization committee, officials, and athletes for an outstanding effort in organizing, facilitating, and competing in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, held on July 17—25, 2022.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on July 8, 2022. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-128: (8/1/2022) From the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Frances Torres-Salas) re: *Submission of OPM's review report for the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-129: From the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB) re: *2021 Annual Report of the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB or Bank)*. [For info]

12. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES – (2)

S. C. R. NO. 22-52: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-05, SS1 entitled: “To establish a Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. 22-05, SS1, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 22-53: Reporting on S. B. No. 22-17, SD1, entitled: “To establish mandatory presentation of valid personal photo identification for any debit card or credit card transaction made in person and any check cash exchange or purchase for all business establishments in the Commonwealth.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House file S. B. No. 22-17, SD1.*

13. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES – (None)

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (None)

15. RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Resolution	Subject	Action

16. BILL CALENDAR

Bill/Initiative	Subject	Action
H. B. NO. 22-84	A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact 2 CMC §4323 and 2 CMC §4324(c) to mandate the Department of Public Lands (DPL) to review all past and pending claims and to grant such title to qualified persons; and for other purposes. <i>[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 10/29/2021; 12/20/2021; and 7/18/2022]</i>	

17. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(ADJOURNMENT)

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on
July 18, 2022:*

H. B. No. 22-105: To offset FAC increases with revenue derived from the Liquid Fuel Tax. Introduced by REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 & REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications and House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 22-106: Relating to transient accommodations tax and regulation of short term rentals in the Commonwealth. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. No. 22-107: To amend 1 CMC § 7831 to provide for direct legislative appropriation to the Office of the Public Auditor, and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 22-108: To amend the Commonwealth’s family law statutes to provide for greater clarity in the administration of divorce proceedings and protection orders; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. CORINA L. MAGOFNA of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 22-109: To amend the Commonwealth Disaster Price Freeze Act of 1996 to provide for a flexible response to the economic challenge posed by the COVID-19 health emergency; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. CORINA L. MAGOFNA of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 22-110: To provide for expungement of the criminal records of certain marijuana- and firearms-related offenders. Introduced by REP. CELINA R. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 22-111: To amend the compensation of the Casino Commission members. Introduced by REP. CELINA R. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 18, 2022, and subsequently referred to the House Committee on Gaming.

H. RES. NO. 22-22: To honorably commend and pay just tribute to the life and legacy of the late Honorable Herbert D. Soll for his relentless dedication and countless contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 18, 2022, and with no objections on the floor, was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. No. 22-16: To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application No. B-22-ST69-0001; the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M-22-ST69-0203; and, the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. E-22-DC69-0001; to receive the funds requested therein, and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant Programs. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 18, 2022, and with no objections on the floor, was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. No. 22-17: To recognize and acknowledge the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women and to

thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 7th through August 13th, 2022, as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week”. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, *(for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)* on July 18, 2022, and with no objections on the floor, was placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: