



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, Second Regular Session

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Second Regular Session on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 10:24 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and eighteen members were present; Representatives Vinson F. Sablan and Edmund S. Villagomez was absent and excused.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We did receive communications from the Minority Leader and Representative Vinson Sablan. Both members are excused for today. So with 18 members present, we may move forward with this session. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two suspension motions to offer. First, I would like offer a motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8, which is our dress code. So offered.

RULE V. DECORUM AND DEBATE.

Section 8. Dress Code.

All members and officers appearing on the Floor of the House shall be suitably attired. Members shall wear business shirt and tie, and on Fridays may wear formal island wear.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: The next motion Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) so that the House amends its agenda to include unnumbered bills, resolutions and communications not filed within the Clerk’s office 72 hours notice. So move.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be pre-filed with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed in sufficient time to appear on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 72-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with for Special Emergency Sessions and Sessions called by the Governor in accordance with Rule III.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Again your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) with the following results:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Representative Francisco C. Aguon | yes |
| Representative Edwin P. Aldan | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Donald C. Barcinas | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | yes |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz | yes |
| Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Speaker Rafael S. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Alice S. Igitol | yes |
| Representative Jose I. Itibus | yes |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Janet U. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr. | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Vinson F. Sablan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker. All 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With 18 members voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) hereby is carried. Thank you, members. Now going down to our Order of Business, which is the Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the items, you may proceed to the podium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

One individual made comments pertaining to the following:

S. C. R. NO. 20-53: Reporting on H. B. 20-88, entitled: “To repeal and re-enact “The Education Act of 1988” as amended and as codified as 3 CMC § 1101 through § 1193; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 20-88, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-54: Reporting on H. B. 20-96, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and the functioning of the Public School System.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 20-96 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-55: Reporting on S. B. 20-03, SS1 entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §§ 2261(b) and 2262(a), to limit the public high school student representative to the Board of Education to one year and rotated appointment by public school; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. No. 20-03, SS1, HDI.*

Mr. Herman Guerrero, Member, Board of Education

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We will go ahead and move down to our Order of Business, item III, Adoption of Journals. Now recognize the Floor Leader.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

Second Day, Fifth Special Session Journal – July 6, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Second Day, Fifth Special Session Journal – July 6, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

First Day, Sixth Special Session Journal – July 28, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, Sixth Special Session Journal – July 28, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. We will go ahead and go down to item IV, which is the introduction of bills. Before we proceed let me just make some quick announcement. Today, first of all let me assure Mr. Guerrero, member for PSS that we did receive comments from PSS on those three bills that you have mentioned. Of course, we acknowledge your presence today, however for today’s session we are going to act only on one bill, but rest assure your three bills that you have mentioned we will entertain it on our next house session. I thought I’d mention that just for your information. So with that let me go ahead and now recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-108: To appropriate the amount of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00) to pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen – as authorized by Public Law 19-75.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, and John Paul P. Sablan)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. You still have the floor.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because this is a bill that is addressing funding shortfall as a result of Public Law 19-75. It so happen that some three-hundred sum employees did not get to be paid in accordance to Public Law 19-75 and so to make whole with the government's obligation pursuant to this statute. This bill would provide the necessary funding to ensure that all remaining employees eligible to active or inactive frozen at step 12 will get paid and the government will make whole its obligation. If there is no objection from the members, Mr. Speaker, I am requesting that the bill be placed on today's calendar for action.

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman. Appears to be no objection, but let me recognize the Floor Leader for the placement on such bill.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that I would like to make a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 this is the referral of bills and resolutions so that we place House Bill 20-108 on the Bill Calendar. So move.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no further discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 so that House Bill 20-108 may be placed on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: House Bill 20-108 is placed on today's Bill Calendar for action. Are there any other House Bills for introduction? None. We will go ahead and go down to item (b) House Local Bills. Recognize again Chairman Angel.

House Local Bills:

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-36

To appropriate the sum of One Million Dollars from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Third Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56, to assist various entities and various projects within Precincts I, II, III, IV and V.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. NO. 20-54: (8/2/17) Informing the House that \$1.4 Million is available for appropriation by the Legislature to pay the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees, whose wages were frozen at Step 12, as authorized by Public Law 19-75.

The Chair directed the members to item VII, Senate Communications and recognized the Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-35 to 20-51 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-35 (8/4/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-92 (To amend Section 302 (f) (9), to authorize reprogramming to fund the Early Head Start and Head Start centers; and for other purposes.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on August 3, 2017. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 20-36 (8/4/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-103, HS1 (To appropriate payment for the outstanding judgement and interest in land compensation cases.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on August 3, 2017. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 20-37 (8/4/17) Returning H. J. R. No. 20-2 (Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Kannat Tabla road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP); and for other purposes.), which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on August 3, 2017. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 20-38 (8/4/17) Returning H. J. R. No. 20-3 (Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Lau Lau Bay Drive under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP); and for other purposes.), which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on August 3, 2017. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 20-39 (8/4/17) Returning H. J. R. No. 20-5 (A House Joint Resolution 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-17-ST69-0001; the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M17-ST69-0203; and, the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. S17-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.), which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on August 3, 2017. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 20-40: (8/7/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-44, HD2 (To amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture Producers and Fishing to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on August 3, 2017. [For info-Will go to Governor]

SEN. COMM. 20-41: (8/7/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-8, HS1, entitled, “To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on August 3, 2017, in the form of H. B. NO. 20-8, HS1, SD1. [For action on Senate amendments]

SEN. COMM. 20-42: (8/7/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-16, entitled, “To amend 7 CMC 3101(a) to mandate when a jury is impanel to hear all felonies and misdemeanors charges; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate, with amendments on August 3, 2017, in the form of H. B. NO. 20-16, SD1. [For action on Senate amendments]

SEN. COMM. 20-43: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-10, SD1, entitled, To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 13, to add section 50225 to suspend the Qualifying Certificate Program in Saipan; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-44: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-28, entitled, To improve the developer infrastructure tax program by amending 4 CMC §§1932, 1935, 1936(a), 1939(a) and 1941; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-45: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-28, entitled, To amend 4 CMC §5555, to extend the sale of alcohol from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-46: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-30, entitled, To reduce unemployment among resident workers by encouraging them to work under contracts for services to the Commonwealth Government or for capital improvement projects that pay the employees under such contracts at least the prevailing U.S. minimum wage; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-47: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-45, entitled, To provide a limited exemption to register a right-hand drive vehicle after it is converted to left-hand drive and passes safety inspection; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-48: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-48, entitled, To amend 3 CMC § 1506 to change the position of administrative librarian to public library director; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-49: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-49, entitled, To establish regulations for the use of airspace of the Commonwealth and related activities; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-50: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-50, SD1, entitled, To amend 2 CMC §2122 to authorize the Commonwealth Ports Authority to develop and expand the air service to the Commonwealth; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-51: (8/7/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-54, entitled, To mandate all government corporations, autonomous agencies and regulatory agencies to submit their annual budget to the Office of the Governor which shall be included in the Governor's annual budget proposal; to establish a penalty provision for the failure of such government entities to timely submit their annual budget to the Office of the Governor; and for other purposes, which was passed by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For action*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-35 to 20-51 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: All Senate Communications are now property of the House. Just for the information of the members, I will still place all Senate Communications on the Bill Calendar. We will act on all Senate Communications that are on today's calendar on our next session. Clarification on that I will just leave it on Senate Communications and we'll act on it on our next session. Any objection to that?

Several members voiced "no objection".

The Chair directed the members to House Communications and recognized the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. NO. 20-52: (8/1/17) From Representative Jose I. Itibus informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal business beginning Saturday, August 5, 2017 to Saturday, August 12, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and sessions during his absence.

HSE. COMM. NO. 20-53: (8/3/17) From Representative Edmund S. Villagomez informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Friday, August 4, 2017 to Saturday, August 12, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence. During his absence, he designates Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao as Acting House Minority Leader.

HSE. COMM. NO. 20-54: (8/4/17) From Representative Vinson F. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning Tuesday, August 8, 2017 to Friday, August 11, 2017 and request to be excused from any meeting and session during his absence.

HSE. COMM. NO. 20-55: (8/4/17) From Representative Jose I. Itibus informing the Speaker that he canceled his trip that was scheduled for Saturday, August 5, 2017 to Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

The Chair directed the members to item X, Communications from Departments & Agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Chair announced the following Communications from Department and Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. NO. 20-5: (8/1/17) The Public School System submitting their expenditure report for the third quarter ending June 30, 2017.

The Chair directed the members to item XI, Miscellaneous Communications.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. NO. 20-4: (8/3/17) From Mayor David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan submitting the Fiscal Year 2017 Third Quarter and Year-to-Date Reports.

MISC. COMM. NO. 20-5: (8/3/17) From the Legislative Bureau Director Antonio P. Sablan submitting the Expenditure Report for the Third Quarter ending June 30, 2017 and Year-to-Date.

The Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again on item XII, Reports of Standing Committees we will entertain these reports on our next session.

S. C. R. NO. 20-47: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-71, entitled: “A Bill for an Act to make the Department of Lands and Natural Resources responsible for collecting the Managaha Fee and removing the Department of Public Lands as recipient of the Managaha Fees; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-71, HSI.***

S. C. R. NO. 20-48: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-86, entitled: “To establish the CNMI Product Seal Act of 2017.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 20-86, HDI.***

S. C. R. NO. 20-49: Reporting on H. B. 20-25, entitled: “To prohibit the selling and exporting of copper wire; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 20-25, HDI.***

S. C. R. NO. 20-50: Reporting on H. B. 20-85, entitled: “To establish higher mandatory sentences for crimes that occurs within 1,000 feet of tourist sites and recreational areas.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass **H. B. 20-85** in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-51: Reporting on H. B. 20-83, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §§ 2172-2173, to enable the Marianas Visitors Authority to strengthen qualifications for tour guides and tour operators, and to add a new Section 2174; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass **H. B. 20-83** in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-52: Reporting on H. B. 20-93, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §8250(e) by including the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to be exempted from the salary limitations imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act as amended.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 20-93, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-53: Reporting on H. B. 20-88, entitled: “To repeal and re-enact “The Education Act of 1988” as amended and as codified as 3 CMC § 1101 through § 1193; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 20-88, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-54: Reporting on H. B. 20-96, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and the functioning of the Public School System.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 20-96 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-55: Reporting on S. B. 20-03, SS1 entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §§ 2261(b) and 2262(a), to limit the public high school student representative to the Board of Education to one year and rotated appointment by public school; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. No. 20-03, SS1, HDI.*

The Chair directed the members to item XVI, Bill Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On our Bill Calendar we House Bill 20-108 and before I offer a motion for its passage first I would like to offer two suspension motion. With that, I would like to make a motion that we suspend Rule VII, Section 9. This is in reference to the committee reports. So move.

RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY

Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action.

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House. Such documents, testimonies or other evidence may be attached to committee reports as supporting documents.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 & 10.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and amendments shall be in order. At the conclusion of a debate the House shall vote on

passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule. *[Note: Rule IX, Section 9, amended by H. RES. 20-4]*

(b) The First Reading of a bill without amendment shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

(c) If a bill passes First Reading with amendment, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(d) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

Section 10. Second Reading of Bills

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that no further amendments shall be in order. *[Note: Rule IX, Section 10, amended by H. RES. 20-4]*

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following on First and Final Reading:

H. B. NO. 20-108

A Bill for an Act to appropriate the amount of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00) to pay for the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees whose wages were frozen – as authorized by Public Law 19-75.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to offer a floor amendment and I believe a copy of the floor amendment has been circulated to the members.

Representative Angel A. Demapan offered the following floor amendment:

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. B. NO. 20-108

H. B. No. 20-108 is amended as follows:

I. Page 1, line 8 to Page 2, line 2, is amended to read:

“Section 2. Appropriation. ~~“Notwithstanding 4 CMC §2308 and 1 CMC §7201(d), the amount of One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is appropriated representing gross revenue tax generated from the license holder under Article 1, Chapter 3, Division 2, Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code shall be used to pay the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees, whose wages were frozen at Step 12, pursuant to Public Law No. 19-75, which authorized, but did not fund, said payments. The expenditure authority shall be the Secretary of Finance.”~~

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendment, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this amendment.

DATE: August 8, 2017

OFFERED BY: /s/ Rep. Angel A. Demapan

Reviewed by: /s/ House Legal Counsel John Cool

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Angel A. Demapan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to our main motion. Further discussion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill 20-108, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Representative Francisco C. Aguon | yes |
| Representative Edwin P. Aldan | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Donald C. Barcinas | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | yes |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz | yes |
| Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Speaker Rafael S. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Alice S. Igitol | yes |
| Representative Jose I. Itibus | abstain |
| Representative Glenn L. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Janet U. Maratita | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr. | yes |

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|--|---------------------------|
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Vinson F. Sablan | absent (<i>excused</i>) |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | absent (<i>excused</i>) |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members voted “yes” and 1 member abstained.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With 17 members voting in the affirmative, House Bill 20-108 as amended hereby passes the House. Thank you, members. Again, that will be the only bill we are going to entertain. Moving down to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I sure thought I’d clarify why we did not act on the standing committee and in addition to that Senate Communications. Yesterday, we only got the Senate Communications yesterday and I thought members need more time to review on those bills. Further discussion on item XVII? Appears to be none. XVIII, Announcement?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The Chair also would like to announce that we are going to have another session within two-weeks. So I ask members to continue reviewing these committee report and those communications that came from the Senate. And of course in addition to – before the review since we only receive the communications from the Senate yesterday it also requires the OGA compliance and that is the added reasons why we wanted more time to also be in compliance with OGA. Appears to be none for announcement. Let me now recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: On that note, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn subject to your call.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The House adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 20-35: To impose a local license fee on all non-poker electronic gaming devices within the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 31, 2017

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 20-31: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheets 20 and 24 of 29 to rezone certain lots from “Village Commercial” zoning districts to “Mixed Commercial” zoning districts. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on July 28, 2017 and July 31, 2017:

H. B. NO. 20-97: To require all future road developments within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to include bicycle lanes as part of the package for road constructions and/or upgrades within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSE I. ITIBUS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Donald C. Barcinas) on July 28, 2017; referred to the Committee on Transportation.

H. B. NO. 20-98: To require that not less than 70 percent of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funding that is allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, shall be for the primary purpose of providing immediate shelter and supportive services to adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence and their dependents in accordance with 42 U.S. Code §10408(b)(2). Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017; referred to the Committee on Social and Human Services.

H. B. NO. 20-99: To amend 4 CMC §2308 to clarify that the casino gross revenue tax funds are separate from the general fund; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017; and subsequently placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 20-100: To establish a reserve fund to be used to meet the future needs of the Commonwealth. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-101: To amend 1 CMC §8364, as amended by public law 15-70, to allow annuitants to enroll in the commonwealth government health insurance program; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representative Donald C. Barcinas) on July 28, 2017; referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. B. NO. 20-102: To repeal and re-enact 4 CMC § 1508 (Reservation of License Revenue); and for other purposes. Introduced by BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 28, 2017; referred to the Committee on Gaming.

H. B. NO. 20-103: To appropriate \$16,296,263.89 to pay the judgment in Commonwealth vs. Lot No. 353 New-G et al, Civil Case No. 97-0266. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017; and subsequently placed on the Bill Calendar.

[Added – 7/28/17] H. B. NO. 20-104: Requiring mandatory sentences for third strike offenders in cases of serious and violent felonies. Introduced by REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 28, 2017; referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added – 7/28/17] H. B. NO. 20-105: 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 2018; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan) on July 28, 2017; subsequently placed on the Bill Calendar.

[Added – 7/28/17] H. B. NO. 20-106: To preserve and designate Lote 345 R 512, situated in Rota, as “Joaquin Mesngon Ogo, Tun Kindu, Sports Complex Arena; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-31: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheets 20 and 24 of 29 to rezone certain lots from “Village Commercial” zoning districts to “Mixed Commercial” zoning districts. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-32: To appropriate \$150,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2, as amended, to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Alice S. Igitol) on July 28, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-33: To appropriate up to One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Nine US Dollars (\$116,469.00) of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Second Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-34: To appropriate Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56 for FY 2018; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on July 28, 2017.

[Added – 7/31/17] H. B. NO. 20-107: To establish the Street Directory Commission; to update the Saipan master street naming map and complete the street numbering system; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 31, 2017.

[Added – 7/31/17] H. L. B. NO. 20-35: To impose a local license fee on all non-poker electronic gaming devices within the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 31, 2017.