



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

2nd Day, Second Regular Session

Friday, August 18, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Second Regular Session on Friday, August 18, 2017, at 10:22 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 sixteen members were present; Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan and Vinson F. Sablan were absent and excused.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d).

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.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members present voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) hereby carries. Going down to our Order of Business item II, Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the items you may proceed to the podium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two individuals made comments pertaining to the following:

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. 20-53: Reporting on H. B. No. 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. No. 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. No. 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

Ms. Michelle Atalig, (letter read on behalf of DPL Secretary Marian Teregeyo)

The Chair directed the members to item III, Adoption of Journals and recognized the Floor Leader.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

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

Second Day, Sixth Special Session Journal – July 31 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Second Day, Sixth Special Session Journal – July 31, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

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

First Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 8, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, Second Special Session Journal – August 8, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Alice S. Igitol.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Alice S. Igitol officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-109

To establish the Northern Marianas Cultural Center, a governmental Corporation, which shall be under the management and control of the Resident Representative for Indigenous Affairs, who is, and shall be responsible for the planning, development, establishment, operation, management and control of the Northern Marianas Cultural Center pursuant to this Act.

REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Angel A. Demapan, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Vinson F. Sablan*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-109 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-110

To clarify and strengthen the role and responsibilities of the Office of the Public Auditor.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-110 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-111

To amend 6 CMC § 3304 to make it a crime to alter any document bearing the court seal of a copy or the court seal.

REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-111 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Donald C. Barcinas.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: House Bill 111 is not in my agenda?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I believe the Clerk did pass a copy.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: It's not in the agenda.

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: The agenda has been amended to include all bills and communications.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: Thank you for that.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize again, Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-112

To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1 Sections 2101 (c) and 2112 to also exempt right hand drive vehicles of .50 ton or higher that will be primarily used for agricultural purposes; and for other purposes.

REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-112 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again, any movers of a legislation, please work with the respective chairs to ensure that your bill is expeditiously reviewed. So with that we will go ahead and go down to House Local Bills. Again, let me recognize Madame Chair Alice Igitol.

House Local Bills:

Representative Alice S. Igitol officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-37

To establish and mandate the use of a centralized reburial location for the treatment of human remains.

REP. ALICE S. IGITOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-38

To appropriate Two Million US Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-56; and for other purposes.

REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*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. 20-55: (received 8/14/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr., Administrator, Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse, Office of the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$60,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-56: (8/15/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Debra Kay Roth, Certified Substance Abuse Counselor for the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$55,000.00. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-57: (8/15/17) Submitting a copy of Mr. James Diego I. Benavente’s resume, Statement of Financial Interest and Police Clearance and Drug Test Receipt as

he is nominated to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing Saipan on June 21, 2017. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-58: (8/15/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Frances T. Demapan, who will be employed as an Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$54,000.00. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-59: (8/16/17) Informing the House that he signed into law House Bill No. 20-103, HS1, entitled, “To appropriate payment for the outstanding judgement and interest in land compensation cases.”, which became Public Law No. 20-04. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-60: (8/18/17) Informing the House that on June 21, 2017 he nominated Mr. James Diego I. Benavente to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, representing Saipan and regrets to inform that he will withdraw his appointment at this time. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-61: (8/18/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Gilbert Joseph Birnrich, Legal Counsel to the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$75,000.00.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Any comments or discussions on messages from the governor? Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reference to Governor’s Communication 20-60; does anybody know why the appointees have been withdrawn?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative. Let me allow the Clerk to respond to that. Thank you. As you can see on Governor’s Communication 20-60 the nominee did submit a letter withdrawing his nomination, however he did not specify the details of the reason.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Any other comment? Appears to be none. We will go ahead and go down to item VII, Senate Communication. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-41 to 20-61 so they may become property of the House.

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. 20-27, SD1, 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*]

SEN. COMM. 20-52: (8/10/17) Returning H. B. No. 20-45, HD1, (To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of

Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.), which was passed by the Senate, without amendments on August 10, 2017. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 20-53: (8/11/17) Returning H. J. R. No. 20-6 (To support the Petition for Certiorari and the appeal of the Ninth Circuit decision in *Davis v. CNMI Election Commission et al*, and support the notion that the term “NMD” as used by CNMI Constitution Article XII and Article XVIII is a political as opposed to a racial term.), which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on August 10, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-54: (8/11/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-4, HD2, entitled, “To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from the MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Tinian and Rota.,” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on August 10, 2017, in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-4, HD2, SD2**, to read: “*To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from the MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; and for other purposes.*” [***For action on Senate amendments***]

SEN. COMM. 20-55: (8/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-41, SD1, entitled, To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes., which was passed by the Senate on August 10, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-56: (8/14/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-6, entitled, “To Recognize and Congratulate Rezalina Davis Barcinas on Passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.”, which was adopted by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-57: (8/14/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-7, entitled, “Requesting the Marianas Public Land Trust to comply with the mandate of Art. XI, Section 6(f) of the NMI Constitution by annually submitting to the governor and the presiding officers of the legislature a report disclosing their financial affairs and the mandate of 1 CMC § 7206 by timely submitting the Trust’s annual budget to the office of the Governor for inclusion into the Governor’s annual budget proposal.”, which was adopted by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-58: (8/14/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-8, entitled, “To recognize and acknowledge Mr. David Deleon Guerrero Atalig and the San Diego Club for their generous contributions in assisting our CNMI Medical Referral patients in San Diego, California.”, which was adopted by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-59: (8/14/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-9, entitled, “To recognize and acknowledge the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women by recognizing the week of August 12th through August 19th, 2017, as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week”.”, which was adopted by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-60: (8/14/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-10 entitled, “To Recognize and Congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College

Graduate, Michael Dinglasi Hidalgo, on Passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.”, which was adopted by the Senate on August 3, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-61: (8/14/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 20-11 entitled, “Respectfully requesting the United States Postal Service to provide additional service windows in the Chalan Kanoa post office.”, which was adopted by the Senate on August 10, 2017. [*For info*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-41 to 20-61 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair referred the following accordingly:

*Senate Communication 20-41 referred to Public Utilities and Communications
Senate Communication 20-42 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-43 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-44 referred to Ways and Means
Senate Communication 20-45 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-46 referred to Ways and Means
Senate Communication 20-47 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-48 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-49 referred to Transportation
Senate Communication 20-50 referred to Transportation
Senate Communication 20-51 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-54 placed on the Bill Calendar
Senate Communication 20-55 placed on the Bill Calendar*

The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask your indulgence and the members if we can calendar House Bill 20-8, I believe this is a critical bill it has a major safety concerns about the use of cellular phones while driving. I think Section 1 of the findings of the bill clearly justifies that we need to vote on this bill. With the indulgence of the members I ask that we include this and place it on calendar for today’s action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Can I ask you again Representative what senate communication is that?

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it’s Senate Communication 20-41, returning House Bill 20-8, House Substitute 1. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Before I respond to that, let me recognize Chairman Frank Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for referring this to my committee on communications. This particular bill 20-8 as amended was sent over to the Senate and the Senate made a very sweeping change. It basically deleted a lot of the sections that we had found critical during our deliberations in the committee. Some of the changes made were law enforcements that were taken out as being exempt, the enforcement personnel that provide safety to the community. So, we believe with these sweeping changes that were made in the Senate, we need to bring it back in the house committee to clarify all these changes that were made. Again, I thank you for referring this to Public Utilities and Communications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Dela Cruz. Again, because the legislation originally from the House, I ask the mover to please work with the respective chairs so we can expeditiously review that legislation so that the full body can act on those changes if there is. Recognize Minority Leader.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Just for clarification. Any changes made in the committee level would result in the conference committee, right? Counsel or if anyone can answer that because it's been already passed by the House and ended by the Senate now it's being sent back referred to committee, any changes made now means we don't accept the Senate version and that would bring it to a conference committee should the body want to pass this.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Counsel?

Legal Counsel John Cool: If that's the recommendation of the committee and they decide to accept the amendment as is after reviewing them or if they do want to reject the amendment and go over conference committee.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Counsel for that clarification. Recognize again Representative Lorenzo.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Counsel, Representative Villagomez is asking if what is the proper procedure? Is it reject it and then refer it to conference committee?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Representative Deleon Guerrero, I was about to respond to that.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, I yield for now.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Maybe what we can do is I will retract my earlier referral to the committee and bring this to the Bill Calendar for rejection and from there we will appoint a conferee. Any objection to that? Counsel, is that in line with our rules?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes it is.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Is there any objection if I recall my referral and refer this to the Bill Calendar?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Chairman Frank any thought on that?

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: I’m okay Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So with that Senate Communication 20-41 will be placed on the Bill Calendar. Please make note that this bill once we get to entertain it we will make a motion to reject. Any other messages, comments? Going down to item VIII, House Communication. Clerk?

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 20-56: (8/9/17) From Representative Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth from August 9, 2017 to August 16, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-57: (8/14/17) From Representative Igitol informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning Monday, August 21, 2017 until Thursday, August 31, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-58: (8/14/17) From Representative Vinson F. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth from Tuesday, August 15, 2017 to Thursday, August 24, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-59: (8/11/17) From Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters from Thursday, August 17, 2017 to Tuesday, August 22, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence.

HSE. COMM. 20-60: (8/14/17) From the Speaker of the House to Mr. Gerald Deleon Guerrero, Special Assistant, Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management letter regarding North Korea’s threat to Guam.

HSE. COMM. 20-61: (8/16/17) From Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters from Thursday, August 17, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings and session during his absence.

There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced that there are nine items ready for House action.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, can we take a short recess?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:52 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:09 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Back from our recess. Prior to our recess we were on item XII, Reports of Standing Committees.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: State your privilege Chairman.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the indulgence of the members to reconsider our actions with regards to sending House Bill 20-8 to the calendar. Pursuant to Senate Communications 20-41 and I want to site a section in our official rules of the House namely, Rule IX, Section 13 and if you allow me Mr. Speaker let me just briefly read what Section 13 of Rule IX states. This is “Amendments Between the Houses; Conference Reports (a) If the Senate returns a bill or resolution to the House with any amendment, the House may concur in the amendment, disagree to the amendment, defer consideration indefinitely or to a date certain, or refer the amendment to the Committee of original jurisdiction.” So with that citing Mr. Speaker again, I ask and maybe we can reconsider our action and instead of moving House Bill 20-8 to calendar that we move it to the Committee

on Public Utilities and Communications. And I so move if this is appropriate at this time Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chair. First of all, two things we can do one and both of them you have stated. One is to refer it to the committee for the committee's action, the other one is to bring it to the Bill Calendar for rejection. I posed the question because there was no objection and that is the reason why we moved it to the Bill Calendar for rejection. I am not really sure if it is proper now for you to make that motion. Counsel, can I seek your guidance on that.

Legal Counsel John Cool: Speaker, you have the authority to reconsider your referral to the calendar and can withdraw that and refer to committee.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Counsel. And because we're trying to expeditiously act on these legislations and again if I may without any objection, I would like to reconsider my referral to the Bill Calendar and instead bring it back to the committee for the committee to expeditiously review the legislations. Any objection to that?

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Therefore Senate Communication is going back to the Committee on PUC, 20-41 and by doing that I think it is faster for the committee to act on that legislation. So with that, let me recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

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.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-47 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

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.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-48 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-49: Reporting on H. B. No 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.***

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-49 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-50: Reporting on H. B. No. 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. No. 20-85** in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-50 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-51: Reporting on H. B. No. 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. No. 20-83** in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-51 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-52: Reporting on H. B. No. 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.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-52 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-53: Reporting on H. B. No. 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.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-53 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-54: Reporting on H. B. No. 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.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-54 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-55: Reporting on S. B. No. 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, SSI, HDI.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-55 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

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

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9.

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 and 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. 20-61

A Bill for an Act to establish a Real Estate Code in the Commonwealth to regulate the industry.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Discussion on that motion? Recognize Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee on JGO wishes to offer an amendment to strengthen the bill. If the Clerk or Counsel can put it up on ELMO?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco offered the following amendment:

Floor Amendment

To: House Bill No. 20-61

Offered by: Representative Ivan A Blanco

AMENDMENTS:

1. Page 2

Delete Line 4 to Line 5: “§ 100103. Commission.” And “§100104. Member.”

2. Page 3

Delete Line 4 to Line 7: “§ 100103. Commission. Commission refers to the Real Estate Commission.” And “§ 100104. Member. Member refers to a member of the Real Estate Commission.”

3. Page 5**Delete Line 19** “Article 1. Real Estate Commission.”**4. Page 6**

- **Line 1 to Line 15**
 - Delete in its entirety.
- **Line 16 to Line 18**
 - After the word “The”
 1. **Insert** “Secretary of the Department of Commerce”,
And
 2. **Delete** the following languages “Director of Revenue & Taxation” and “If there is no Director, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall designate the Real Estate Commissioner”.

5. Renumber subsequent Sections accordingly

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 17, 2017/s/ Representative Ivan A. Blanco

The motion was seconded.

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to the main motion? Discussion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-61, 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative, House Bill 20-61 as amended hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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:

S. B. NO. 20-2, SD3

A Bill for an Act to establish the Office of Planning and Development; and for other purposes. *[See Sen. Comm. 20-11]*

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion, the Chair recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee on JGO wishes to offer a floor amendment.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Point of clarification.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognized. State your point Chairman.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to clarify whether the committee is actually making this amendment or is it the mover of the amendment, Congressman Blanco that is making the amendment? I don't know if the members of the JGO are privy to as whole make a certain amendment and I've notice that this had occurred earlier also. And I wanted to clarify whether it is the individual member that is making the amendment and not the committee members of JGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. I guess the individual proposed floor amendment. You may respond Chairman Blanco if you wish.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Dela Cruz. The amendments previous one and this one are offered by myself for clarification.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you so clarified. Further discussion?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: I am offering, individually –

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I believe you did that already. We just need the assistance of the ELMO.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Speaker if I may?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: I think copies were distributed to the members and I'm assuming that the Legal Counsel has a copy also.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: You may proceed Mr. Chairman.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

To: Senate Bill No. 20-02, SD3

Offered by: Representative Ivan A. Blanco

AMENDMENTS:

1. Page 13 to Page 19

- **Delete Section 4 in its entirety.**

2. Page 12**• Line 11 to Line 14**

- **After the word “deemed” insert “approved” and delete the following language “disapproved. The Legislature shall provide a written report to the Council explaining the reasons for its disapproval. The Council after considering the Legislature’s written report may resubmit the Plan for approval as provided in this section”.**

3. Renumber subsequent Sections accordingly.

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 18, 2017

/s/ Representative Ivan A. Blanco

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Legal Counsel John Cool

The motion was seconded.

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to the main motion. Further discussion? Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I’ve been reviewing this bill and I guess the concerns I have is the actual cost – what will this be costing us to have all these positions being filled? Obviously, we have several bills that were revenue generating bills to pay off land compensations – pay off other debts. This is actually going to be costing us. So I am concern, has there been a cost analysis as to how much this would actually be essentially costing the CNMI every year to have such an office of planning and development?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Propst. Chair, do you have any information as to the concern raised by Representative Propst?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Mr. Speaker, not at this time. For me to add on to his request, perhaps we should also look into cost of not having planning and development office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Go ahead Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you. That would be fine. I totally welcome that – the cost of not having it, but I do realize that one of the chief complaints of government is duplication of tasks. So with that said, we do know we have special assistance, several of them. Will special assistance be no longer needed if we are to have such an office. Once again, I

welcome that. I also welcome anyone to explain to us exactly how much this is going to cost. It is going to cost something. It's not free, this is not voluntary work. We are talking about positions that must be planned and paid for. And there are some ambiguities, on page 3 if you look at subsection 2172 Office of Planning and Development; Staff Organization. "The staff of the Office of Planning and Development shall be organized into such divisions, sections, or units as are sufficient to appraise, coordinate..." and so forth and it continues on. My concern is how many staff? How many staff are we looking at and does anybody have an answer to that? Is this going to be three staff members? Thirty staff members? Will this cost us an additional million dollars every year? I don't know. I would like to see some dollar figures attached to this so we have at least a clear picture as to what this is going to cost. We are looking at other bills that we want to give landing fees to pay off land compensation to help with the museum and several other things at the same time creating a new office that will be filled with people and it'll have to be paid for. This goes against the principles of most my colleagues that I thought we were always looking at ways to stream line and downsize government. I thought that was the principle of certain parties, but instead we're growing. So that is a concern. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Propst. There's no doubt that whatever we do there will be some cost to any, but let me assure you with this legislation this will ensure that as stated on section 2 of the findings and purposes, this will ensure that there is a need to improve the planning process here in the CNMI to increase the effectiveness of the government and by doing that this would also enable the government to ensure that we don't have more additional cost as what we've been getting it now. So again, this legislation will ensure that even to the point we're planning and other agencies making sure that their duties and responsibilities are all in accordance with cost measures. Again, members I ask that we consider this legislation so that we have this body in place to ensure that we cut down the cost of the government. Recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask this question and maybe the Legal Counsel can answer this. Counsel, are we creating an additional department within the government? Or how is this in regards to the constitutionality in creating offices, new offices, which we have exceeded a number of departments as allowed by the constitution. I believe it's fifteen and we have currently twenty-one departments total. So are we creating a new department within the government? Counsel?

Legal Counsel John Cool: No, we're not creating a new department in this case, we are placing this function within the office of the Governor.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: So we are just basically creating an office, an additional office within the Governor's office? Correct?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Correct.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Counsel and I yield for now Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Recognize again, Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: I just wanted clarification, Mr. Speaker. One of the findings and purpose it states here that the CNMI does not have a master plan outlining the comprehensive land use okay and it continues on to salvage communities and so forth, but Mr. Speaker didn't the Department of Public Lands just recently put together a contract for land use plan and contract a firm or company to do so?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I am not sure of that Representative Propst. Any member has any information on that? Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Department of Public Lands did issue out a – in fact awarded a firm to develop a land use master plan that would involve inventorying additional public lands that would be made available for future public facilities such as schools, cemeteries, hospitals, etc. So, I don't know if that involve developing economical development plan, I think it's totally separate. It's only to develop a land use master plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero and thank you for that clarification. Further discussion? Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-2, Senate Draft 3, 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	no
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	no
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 13 members voted "yes" and 3 members voted "no."

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With 13 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Bill 20-2, SD3 hereby passes the House. Correction SD3, HD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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:

S. B. NO. 20-9, SD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC Section 8117(i); and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-17*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-9, Senate 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative Senate Bill 20-9, SD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 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. 20-88, HD1

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. [*See S. C. R. 20-53*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-88, 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative House Bill 20-88, HD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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. 20-4, HD2, SD2

To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from the MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-54*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-4, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 2 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative House Bill 20-4, HD2, SD2 passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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:

S. B. NO. 20-10, SD1

To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 13, to add section 50225 to suspend the Qualifying Certificate Program in Saipan; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-43*]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been seconded, discussion on that motion? Recognize Chairman Frank Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may be a technical, but I think we need to clarify and correct the spelling that is on page 1, line 12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Counsel, can we consider that as technical?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Technical indeed. Further discussion? Ready? Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-10, Senate 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative Senate Bill 20-10, SD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. NO. 20-16, SD1

To amend 7 CMC 3101(a) to mandate when a jury is impanel to hear all felonies and misdemeanors charges; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-42*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-16, Senate 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative House Bill 20-16, SD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

S. B. NO. 20-48

To amend 3 CMC § 1506 to change the position of administrative librarian to public library director; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-48*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-48 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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.	abstain
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 15 members voted “yes” and 1 member abstained.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With 15 members voting in the affirmative Senate Bill 20-48 hereby passes the House. Before we proceed, can I just acknowledge the presence of our friend Mr. Bill Jones, welcome to your House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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:

S. B. NO. 20-28

To amend 4 CMC §5555, to extend the sale of alcohol from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.; and for other purposes. [See Sen. Comm. 20-45]

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to state that I am concerned about this bill and I've talked to several parents who are also concerned about it and people within our community. We already know that 10 pm is a reasonable time and there is concern about people getting out on the road after 10 pm going to buy more alcohol and we are concerned with road safety and other things. So I just wanted to point that out, I wanted to speak

on behalf of those constituents who did speak to me about this previously who were deeply concerned about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Propst. Further discussion? Recognize Chairman Angel.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just also want to raise a concern that the intent in the findings is about accommodating our visitors, but it's a blanket implementation to all stores whether or not they're close to the hotels that our visitors are lodged in. So, I would have been more inclined to support this bill had it been specific to convenient stores attached to the hotels. Just wanted to state that for the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman for your comment. Recognize Minority Leader.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. As you all know, being the author of Public Law 19-83 it hurts every time I see a bill that slowly chips away from it and this is another one. So, I just wanted to state for the record that I cannot support this bill.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: I share the same – I echo the same comment earlier. It just doesn't make sense. If you cannot plan on purchasing enough beer within eight-hour time that the store is open is really – just doesn't make sense at all. So just to say that I do not support this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Can I ask the Chairman on Commerce and Tourism what is your thought on this bill Chairman?

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, actually I was raising my fingers and you didn't notice me again, but –

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Apology.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: With that in mind, I think the intent of the bill actually is for the tourist. It sounds like we are so alarmed with the intent that we are only looking at the local side, but the author of this bill actually was referring to the tourist itself in this matter. We have our visitors coming at odd hours beyond the time that we have for this intention of the bill – the actually intention of them. What if our tourist comes in at one and see a store and wants to buy beer you know, the store would say we can't sell you the beer. So, how do we address this? I guess we cannot just say only for tourist not the local because that would be challenged by the Attorney General as unconstitutional again. So in that in mind, Mr. Speaker this is more for the tourist to allow them to purchase alcohol at certain time of the early morning. It's disappointing that maybe what we should be encouraging is to have the hotel to have a gift shop open and allow it only in the hotel for the tourist, but what if our local venture into the hotel and want to buy the liquor and take it out? With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I recommend that the House pass this bill in its entire format. With that, thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for that information and clarification. For the second time, recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think that it's great that our tourist want – they come in and they want to buy alcohol past 10 pm and we want to give them additional two-hours, but are we forgetting the fact that tourist have ample opportunities to buy all the alcohol they want. They could go to the casino twenty-four hours a day and get a drink any time. And since the tourist capital of the CNMI is within Garapan. I don't think getting a drink or alcohol is a problem. I do have a problem, however, if they are driving at past 10 pm because I don't see too many tourist at Lucky D Market or Ching Ching Market or other stores where me and Chairman Angel live, but I've been in there past 10 o'clock and I don't see any tourist. I do see us shopping for pampers you know Chairman, but we do go for other things, soda. In all seriousness, if tourist are so concerned – if we're so concerned about tourist, we've already addressed that because we have ample opportunity for them to drink as much as they want into their merry merriment, but we are looking at the safety of people on the road. Our roads are already dangerous because we have a lot of tourists that are driving that don't even know the rules of the road. So we want to add – give them a two-hour window to have alcohol while around the road to be drinking? That doesn't make sense it endangers everyone. Every single person that we represent so this is a huge concern. Is two-hours a big deal? It is to me and I think it is to the constituents who took the time to talk to me about this. I am deeply concern. You know we have given so much to tourism, we've turned a blind eye to all the things that come with it and now we are expanding the opportunity to buy alcohol at stores that are not even within the tourist districts. It makes absolutely no sense to me and it is absolutely ridiculous. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Propst. Let me recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do echo the concerns given by some of the members. When I pointed out during our leadership meeting, I have a concern with this bill. I want to factor in the First and Second Senatorial at least the First Senatorial District because I am not really sure how this would eventually work. We don't even have a major industry in Rota in terms of hotels and anything. So by providing this kind of – opening this window of opportunity for the stores to operate above the 10 pm, I don't think anyone in our district per se would go to the store and buy pampers or spam or anything for that matter other than alcohol and cigarette. So that is the area of concern that I want to point out with regards to this bill. I do respect the author and the bill and the intent of this bill. Again, I don't think I am following with this kind of legislation. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Chairman Edwin Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it's in regards to tourist – to try to cater the tourist, I just want to share that you have clubs open at 2 am some 4 am. So they should go to the clubs and spend their money there. For me, it's not good for our constituents to have this kind of gap because like everybody is saying here. When we do parties, we plan, beer is the top of the list. Make sure we get enough beer before 10 o'clock. So, I see no justification for just to catering tourist is not enough or me also to support this bill.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman. I also echo the members over here, but as this bill's really kind of like specifically to tourist. It's been coming to my attention that there's a lot of tourist that when their leaving island they go to Joeten and they buy Whiskey you know like those expensive Whiskeys and when they went over there and it's already 10 o'clock they just tell them they can't and that's a lost of revenue over there. I know the data we don't have it but it's been coming to my attention and they'll call me and they said that there's a lot of loss revenue over there when they turn those tourists. So, I guess this bill is really – yes it is addressed to the tourist where they wanted to buy the beer or those hard liquors and bring it with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Let me recognize Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About a few years ago we closed the bars at 2 am in the morning and recently we extended the hours to 4 am in the morning. I don't see what's with extending it to 12 for the sale of alcohol. I really don't. So, any other argument is not factual or become more emotional. The law of diminishing effect of economics is if you provide something more then its effect diminishes. When you restrict, for example alcohol sale, what happens when it's almost closing time, then you go out and buy more alcohol and drink more? When you have it at 12 or extend the hours, what's the rush? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me allow the Chair again on Commerce for the second time.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be mindful when they say our visitors what do you expect out of them to read out the laws that we have? Why don't we revert back the hours of the bars that close at 10 so that would pacify everything? We talk about drinking, we're the abuser Mr. Speaker. The locals are the one. Of course, the tourist don't know Ching Ching or Zhen Li Store because their new to the islands so the nearest store is around the hotels. So when we're talking about those stores – most of us travel to other destination, we don't know that there's Ching Ching Stores or Zhen Li Stores or what in their place. We find the nearest ones. So if we are saying this is really bad, we should examine ourselves because the locals are the ones abusing. We go to the bars and drink until closing, we go there and abuse it. Now that when it's the tourist it's bad because we're going to allow our locals to be buying alcohol. I've seen bars that sell alcohols to customers and exit the door with their cans and their bottles and leave the establishment. Who's controlling it? Where are the enforcement? So if we're trying to say that this is really bad for our locals we should reexamine the bars. Let's close the bars or best abolish, abolish the alcohol on this island and let's see who's going to be supportive with this intent. With that, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. We'll allow two more and then we'll close the debate and act on the legislation. There's two thing we can do, do an amendment and the other one is to act and vote on our conscious whether to support or not. Let me recognize Minority Leader.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you. I just want to add to or respond to Representative Ivan's comment about expanding it. I mean if you move it to 12, 12 o'clock will become the new 10 o'clock. With Public Law 19-83 although we made things strict, we did also

throw in stuff in there to extend the hours that's why some bars do have that license to operate or sell until 4 o'clock, but even some of those bars are not availing of that because they also see some problems in their establishments. I know because I would go out and then next thing you know 2 o'clock they're like "okay, last call" or 1:30 and I was like "yes, but you guys have a license to go until 4" "yes, but the managers are going to cut till 2" so there are issues. In terms of the bars going back to 10, I don't think it was ever 10 o'clock. Each license has a different type of class and depending on the license you get is the amount of time you can sell alcohol and we also included already the age limits to enter some of these establishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. Let me recognize one for the first time then we'll close. Recognize Chairman Barcinas.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas: I think every business establishment should be allowed to sell alcohol if they have that store up to the time that they close. So, I think you cannot regulate morality, buying beer is a personal chose or alcohol. I think we must educate the people so that they know the consequences of buying beer or alcohol and to make sure they don't drive while drunk, have somebody else drive for them. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. So, let me allow the Floor Leader to close and then we'll act on the bill.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is similar to what the Minority Leader is saying, so I want to ask the Counsel this question. Does Commerce have the authority to extend or perhaps give them licenses to operate beyond what's in the statute today and if so, under what circumstances? At least so the members are fully aware as to how these thing works. Thank you.

Legal Counsel John Cool: I am not aware of any authority that they have to extend the hours once they have been established by the Legislature.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: I am referring to like a permit or some kind of an extension in terms of the hour.

Legal Counsel John Cool: No, they can issue a special permits for serving alcohol and beverages for special type of purpose. I don't know if they can extend the hours. I'd have to go back research that.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: You may respond Minority Leader.

Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: I don't think the Department of Comment have the authority to extend the hours. Like I mentioned they have a special license that they'll issue if an establishment wants to have that license and it gives them the authority to sell the alcohol up to 4 o'clock, I think on Friday, Saturday or the weekends and special occasions like New Year without having to get special permission from the administration. Those licenses are available it just depends on the establishment that they're going to open or that you have to avail of that

license. I think it's probably their most expensive, if I'm not mistaken, license for that kind of stuff.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Counsel. Thank you, Minority Leader. I rest Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Let me now recognize the Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-28 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	no
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	no
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	no
Representative Angel A. Demapan	no
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	no
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	no
Representative Janet U. Maratita	no
Representative Edwin K. Propst	no
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 7 members voted "yes" and 9 members voted "no."

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. It appears we have more "no" votes on Senate Bill 20-28, therefore Senate Bill 20-28 is hereby defeated. Last on our Bill Calendar, Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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:

S. B. NO. 20-54

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. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-51*]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-54 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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 16 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Bill 20-54 passes the House. Floor Leader, I think we have one more and I guess that will be Senate Bill 20-45. Recognized.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

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.

(f) 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.

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 VII, Section 9 and 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:

S. B. NO. 20-45

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. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-47*]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Motion has been seconded. Discussion? Recognize Chairman Frank Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I wish to offer a floor amendment to Senate Bill 20-45.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz offered the following floor amendment:

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO S.B. NO. 20-45

S. B. No. 20-45 is amended as follows:

I. Page 1, lines 16 to 18, are amended to read:

“Notwithstanding 9 CMC § 2101 (b), any right-hand drive vehicle, other than a vehicle described in 9 CMC §2101 (c), in the Commonwealth as of February 1, 2017 may be registered after the following conditions are met:”

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 18, 2017

OFFERED BY: /s/ Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz

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 Francisco S. Dela Cruz was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to the main motion. Recognize Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Considering that it’s agricultural week, I wish to offer an amendment to the same bill.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment**S. B. 20-45**

I hereby move to amend current text to reflect the following amendment and renumber SB 20-45 accordingly:

I. Page 2 line 7 add the following text:

Section 3. Amendment. Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1, Sections 2101 (c) and 2112 are hereby amended to read as follows:

“§2101. Registration: Application.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any owner of a motor vehicle with right hand drive which legally entered the Commonwealth prior to December 30, 1991, and any owner of a right hand drive heavy equipment, .50

tons or higher primarily used for agricultural purposes, or construction vehicle shall be permitted to register the vehicle upon approval of the Department of Environmental Quality regarding vehicular emission control standards as found in the Commonwealth’s air pollution control regulations promulgated pursuant to 2 CMC § 3101 et seq., the Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act, and presentation of satisfactory evidence of ownership to the bureau. The Director of Public Safety is authorized to promulgate regulations to define the types of vehicles to be included in the definition of heavy equipment or construction vehicles.

§2112. Exemption for Right Hand Drive Heavy Equipment, Right Hand Drive Motor Vehicles (.50 tons or higher) primarily used for Agricultural Purposes, and Construction Vehicles Preserved.

Nothing in PL 11-12 shall be construed to affect the exemption for importation and registration of right hand drive heavy equipment, vehicles of .50 tons or higher primarily used for agricultural purposes, or construction vehicles granted pursuant to 9 CMC § 2101.”

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.

Dated: August 18, 2017

Offered by: /s/ Rep. Ivan A. Blanco

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ House Legal Counsel John Cool

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Counsel is that a – can you – are you offering an amendment?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Yes sir.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Let us have a short recess.

The House recessed at 12:25 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, members. Back from our recess. Prior to our recess, Chairman Blanco has the floor. Chairman, you may restate your motion.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco offered the same floor amendment prior to recess.

The motion was seconded.

The Chair recognized Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to ask what is .50 tons as compared to pounds? Normally, a standard sedan is about 2,000 pounds, but I guess my concern here is that anything that is higher than .50 tons is admissible per the amendment offered and so it brings me to the next question as to the use of such a vehicle and it states that it's to be used primarily for agricultural purposes. So, if you have a primary then you may have a secondary. So what is the secondary used for such a vehicle? And the way it seems it could be any kind of vehicle whether an SUV, a sedan, a pick-up truck. So, this would allow these types of vehicles to move around the CNMI at any given time, any given day, because the primary usage is for agricultural, but there could be other usages. Basically it would be the same as any US standard type of vehicle that needs the .50 tons or higher. And I know that our neighboring Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, China they also drive right-handed vehicles and it is easy to import these vehicles into the Commonwealth for use. The original legislation from the Senate calls for a vehicle that is to be converted from a right-hand drive to a left-hand drive vehicle and then of course certified by the motor vehicles division. Now what we're trying to do is we are trying to bring in these vehicles that are right handed vehicles to be used. Not to change from right-hand to left, but to use as they are right-handed drive vehicles. So somehow it sort of muddies the real intent of the legislation. It basically opens up the door for really any kind of activity for these vehicles to be used. I mean, I can probably start a small farm behind my house and say "I want one of those vehicles because I am doing farming." So it has always been the intent of this government to stay within the US standards, federal highway safety, federal transportation it has always been the intent and that is why back then we had to confirm to the US standard whether its emission or bumper integrity in the vehicles, those has to be met. Another question would be the vehicle identification number or the VIN it would have to confirm to US not a VIN from China or Korea or Japan and that's why we wanted to go through the process of emulating and mirroring the US standards in transportation. This really again opens up the door for right-handed vehicles to come in to the CNMI. I was hoping that the good Congressman would have introduced the bill that he had rather than piggyback and make an amendment to this right-hand drive conversion to left-hand drive conversion. So with that Mr. Speaker, I don't think I can support this at this time. With that I will yield for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. I also would like to respond to that, but let me allow first the mover on the two question that was posed by the .50 tons, how do you measure that?

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: So some vehicles are measured in – let me go back then – sedan is about 2,000 pounds – 2,000 plus pounds is close to a ton. So if you see there's this – I think they are using the flatbeds for construction, Hyundai I believe, those are around .50 tons to .75 tons. Dump trucks are about 1.75 tons or 2 tons those are used primarily for construction. Does that answer the first question Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Yes, you may continue on the second.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: May I request for the second question? What was the second question?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The concerns raised by Chairman Dela Cruz.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: If the author can repeat the second question, please.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So basically on a typical standard sedan it would be listed as a 2 ton vehicle. Normally trucks, dump trucks, heavy equipment's those are almost rated at 50 tons and so with the inclusion of a .50 ton this would accommodate less than a sedan. It could almost be a golf cart. It could almost be a riding mower or a four-wheeler. I guess the point I'm trying to get across is that we're almost like swaying away from the standards and what is the standards? The standards is the US that's where we are. We're trying again to move away from that and as we may have recalled back then we had like 50 or even 100 vehicles at one time all parked down there at dock at the area down there all right-handed from Korea. All of them were shipped out because they did not meet the US standards whether it be air remission or bumper integrity. The primary reason they were shipped out is because they were right-hand vehicles and this amendment does not provide any that these vehicles will be converted to left-hand drive that would somewhat meet the US standard. These vehicles would have to be certified by the US motor vehicles regulations. So these are the concerns that we have right now is trying to bring in all these vehicles that do not confirm to the US standard. And they do not meet such a standard. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Frank. You may respond Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to clarify that the argument by my good colleague Representative Dela Cruz omitted the right-hand vehicles that are allowed in the CNMI for primarily for construction purposes this one it includes for agricultural purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Further discussion?

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Ivan A. Blanco was carried by voice vote. There were several nay votes.

There was a division on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Ivan A. Blanco with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	no
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	no
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	no
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 13 members voted “yes” and 3 members voted “no.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With 13 members voting in the affirmative, the floor amendment provided by Chairman Blanco hereby carries. Back to the main motion. Clerk for the roll call.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Point of clarification?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: State your point Chairman.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: To Counsel. Counsel, yesterday’s leadership I brought up the issue on page 2, line 2 (b) “the vehicle is inspected by the Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicle and the Director determines that the converted vehicle is safe to drive.” My question is the Director a certified mechanic that can be able to determine whether the conversion is A okay or no okay?

Legal Counsel John Cool: I don’t know the qualifications of the Director, but what is most likely to be done is that their certification will be done by a dealer or a professional automotive expert at the request of the Department of Motor Vehicle.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Because there’s not language in here that says it must go to an inspection at a shop or wherever these inspections are done for this conversion that’s the concern that I have.

Legal Counsel John Cool: The way it’s worded the Director has to make the determination and he may require additional information, documentation, or certification on which he’ll base his final decision. If it’s done by a qualified mechanic that’s familiar with safety standards relating to left-hand drive vehicles and he’s able to examine them and certify that it’s still in compliance with the general motor vehicle safety act then for sure it would qualify. Otherwise, he just has to make a determination that the conversion has been done in a way that does not render the vehicle on safe to drive.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: That I understand John, but the point is the vehicle is inspected by the Director.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Chairman if I may. I think what they do at Motor Vehicle is the owner of the vehicle would first go to a vehicle inspection and when all of those papers are in compliance with the safety of the motor vehicle then the Director would certify based on the submissions of those requirements.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: I hope so Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make sure that you know we don't – the conversion I don't want to face this car in the road. I just want to make that when it's coming down the road it's not moving to the left, moving to the right. With that, thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So noted Chairman. Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-45, House Draft 2 on First and Final Reading:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	no
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	no
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 14 members voted “yes” and 2 members voted “no.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. With 14 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Bill 20-45, HD2 passes the House. Members, as discussed earlier that would be the last bill to be entertained for today's session. Going down to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business

No action taken for the following legislations:

S. B. NO. 20-41, SD1

To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 20-55*]

H. B. NO. 20-71, HS1

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. [*See S. C. R. 20-47*]

H. B. No. 20-86, HD1

To establish the CNMI Product Seal Act of 2017. [*See S. C. R. 20-48*]

H. B. No. 20-25, HD1

To prohibit the selling and exporting of copper wire; and for other purposes. [*See S. C. R. 20-49*]

H. B. No. 20-85

To establish higher mandatory sentences for crimes that occurs within 1,000 feet of tourist sites and recreational areas. [See S. C. R. 20-50]

H. B. No. 20-83

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. [See S. C. R. 20-51]

H. B. No. 20-93, HD1

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. [See S. C. R. 20-52]

H. B. No. 20-96

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. [See S. C. R. 20-54]

S. B. No. 20-03, SS1, HD1

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. [See S. C. R. 20-55]

The Chair directed the members to item XVIII, Announcements and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know Department of DLNR is not here, but I heard that there's an agricultural fare tomorrow. It starts in the morning if you have time let us support our farmers and ranchers.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Just a couple of announcement, we will probably have another session mid next week. After that session we will have session in Rota first week in September. So just for your information. Anyone for announcement? Let me recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we adjourn subject to your call.

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

The House adjourned at 1:01 p.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: NONE

THIRD 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.

*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on
August 8, 2017:*

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. Introduced by 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) on August 8, 2017; and subsequently placed on the Bill Calendar.

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. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on August 8, 2017.