



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

13th Day, Second Regular Session

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Thirteenth Day, Second Regular Session on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 2:16 p.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 nineteen members were present; Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero was 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	yes
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	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting in affirmative motion to amend the agenda hereby carries. So, with that we will go ahead and move down to item II, which is the Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the items in our Order of Business you may proceed to the podium. I also ask that you state your name for the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comment:

Ms. Mary Lou Ada
Mr. Glen Muña
Mr. Gus Noble

The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz officially introduced the following House Bill and requests that the bill be placed on the Bill Calendar:

H. B. 20-146

To apply the Casino BGRT subsidy to the Fuel Adjustment Charge and the actual electrical usage of CUC residential customers.

REP. FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Dela Cruz. Floor Leader, can you effectuate a motion to place House Bill 20-146 on the Bill Calendar.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 20-146 on the Bill Calendar.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions**

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

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

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section and to place House Bill 20-146 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. No. 20-147

To appropriate Twenty-Four Million, Twenty-Six Thousand, Fifty-Six dollars and 35/100 (\$24,026,056.35) from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §2308.

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. The bill will be referred to your Committee Ways and Means. I also respectfully ask that you and your committee members meet sooner rather than later so that we can act on the proposed measure. With that your bill will be referred to your committee. Any other member? Appears to be none. House Local Bill? Recognize the Floor Leader.

House Local Bills:

The Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bills:

H. L. B. NO. 20-51

To appropriate the Accrued Bond Interest Income collected for the First Senatorial District in the amount of Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Seventy dollars (\$18,670.00).

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

H. L. B. NO. 20-52

To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 in the amount of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00 USD); and for other purposes.

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

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker for the next introduction.

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-53

To appropriate the CIP Bonds Accrued Interest Income collected for the Third Senatorial District in the amount of One Hundred Seventy-One Thousand and Forty dollars (\$171,040.00).

REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. COMM. RES. 20-15

To Congratulate Frank “The Crank” Camacho on becoming the second resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to compete in the Ultimate Fighting Championship and also to honor him for being a great ambassador for our islands and role model to our youths.

REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Without any objection this commemorative resolution will be introduced as a Committee of the Whole. Also, this commemorative resolution will be placed on today’s Resolution Calendar.

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

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

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-112 and 20-113 so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-112: (12/9/17) Returning H. J. R. No. 20-7 (To support the efforts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and private sector in seeking legislative relief through amendments to U.S. Public Law 110-229 in order to continue the upward growth of the Commonwealth’s economy.), which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on December 9, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-113: (12/9/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-129, HD1, HS1, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §2308 to address concerns of the Settlement Fund Trustee and apply the Casino BGRT subsidy to the Fuel Adjustment Charge and the actual electrical usage of CUC residential customers.,” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on December 9, 2017, in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-129, HD1, HS1, SD1**, to read: “*To amend 4 CMC §2308 to address concerns of the Settlement Fund Trustee and reserve funds generated from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax.*” [***For action on Senate amendments***]

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-112 and 20-113 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader, can I ask you to effectuate a motion to place Senate Communication 20-113 on today’s Bill Calendar?

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 20-129, HD1, HS1, SD1 on the Bill Calendar for action.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

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

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

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 20-129, HD1, HS1, SD1 on the Bill Calendar for action was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XV, Resolution Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Commemorative Resolution:

H. COMM. RES. 20-15

To Congratulate Frank “The Crank” Camacho on becoming the second resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to compete in the Ultimate Fighting Championship and also to honor him for being a great ambassador for our islands and role model to our youths.

REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Recognize Chairman Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Is this voting to adopt?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Correct Chairman Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: I’ll yield for now Mr. Speaker. I’m just wondering if this commemorative resolution was presented to Mr. Frank?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: No not yet. There’s two things we can do, we can do that before we act on the commemorative resolution or we pass the commemorative resolution today and we’ll present the resolution to him on a later date.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: So, it’s correct that they place this on commemorative instead of the plain resolution?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Yes.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. John.

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes, that’s what they did.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Representative Aldan. Ready?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-15 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.

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 accept and pass the following House Bill on First and Final Reading:

H. B. NO. 20-129, HD1, HS1, SD1

To amend 4 CMC §2308 to address concerns of the Settlement Fund Trustee and apply the Casino BGRT subsidy to the Fuel Adjustment Charge and the actual electrical usage of CUC residential customers. *See* [SEN. COMM. 20-113]

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 20-129, House Draft 1, House Substitute 1, 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	yes
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	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 19 members voting in the affirmative. House Bill 20-129, HD1, HS1, SD1 passes the House. Thank you, members. As

mentioned earlier we just acted on one House Bill and that would be it for today. We go down to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. Recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

No action taken for the following legislation:

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. NO. 20-47]

H. B. No. 20-113, HD1

A Bill for an Act to establish a criminal provision for pedestrians crossing a road, highway, or crosswalk while using a mobile electronic device; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-78]

H. B. No. 20-35, HD1

A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact 1 CMC §§ 8245-8248 to increase compensation for appointed officials and increase the salary ceiling; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-83]

H. B. No. 20-36, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC § 8357, to reestablish the special annuity for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-84]

H. B. No. 20-19

A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC §3156 (b) by requiring a hotel or resort attached to a golf course to have a minimum of eighteen (18) holes in order to be eligible to conduct electronic gaming activities as defined in 6 CMC §3156(a)(6). *See* [S. C. R. NO. 20-92]

H. B. 20-146

To apply the Casino BGRT subsidy to the Fuel Adjustment Charge and the actual electrical usage of CUC residential customers.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because we have our board chair and members of the board in our acting commissioner and members of the Public School System here. I'd just like to clarify of the \$24 Million Dollar appropriation introduced today, 50% of that appropriation is going to PSS in the amount of \$12 Million Dollars. Another highlight of the appropriation bill is that roughly around 15% of the appropriation or \$3.2 Million Dollars is going to support the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation specifically the hospital and another 12% in \$3 Million Dollars is going to further pay down the government's obligations to land compensation. So for brevity and for information to our guest from the school system here. We thank you for your patience, we understand that there was news earlier in the week that may have caused a lot of panic and concern, but this body is proud to present today's legislation giving you at least \$12 Million Dollars for this round of the supplemental budget and we anticipate to accommodate the rest of your request in the next identification that is transmitted by the Office of the Governor. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Demapan. Any other member? None. We will go ahead and go down to announcement? Recognize.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify. Are we having another session anytime soon or a joint session perhaps?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader and I am glad you mentioned that. Hopefully, we will have maybe one session and one joint session before the holiday before Christmas and that will be sometime early next week as soon as the product from the Ways and Means Committees are done with their jobs – with their works on the proposed measure that was just recently introduced we would like to act on that as soon as possible and also the joint session with the Senate. Further? Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Mr. Speaker. May I respectfully request that we expedite the information as far as the dates so I can make the necessary arrangement Mr. Speaker for the travel. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Perhaps that would be on Monday or Tuesday next week. Further? Appears to be none. Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: At this time 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 2:47 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: NONE

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 20-123: (11/2/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 20-63, HS1, (To require test firing of all firearms as a prerequisite for registration of a firearm.). [**Deadline: 1/1/18**]

GOV. COMM. 20-127: (11/22/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 20-8, HS1, SD1, (To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes.). [**Deadline: 1/21/18**]