In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President Francisco M. Borja issued a notice on September 12, 2016 announcing that the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, House of Representatives, and the Senate, and on the Commonwealth Legislature’s website at www.cnmileg.gov.mp.

The Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Fourth Regular Session, on September 15, 2016, at 2:10 p.m., in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Francisco M. Borja, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and all nine (9) members were present.

President Francisco M. Borja: With all nine members present this afternoon, we do have the necessary quorum to proceed with our Order of Business, but before we proceed to the Public Comments, if there is no objection from the members, I would like to call for a short recess so that we can – we have a resolution to present this afternoon and so that we can present that resolution. Any objection from the members?

Several members voiced, “no objection”.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, at this time, short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:11 p.m.

And

The Senate reconvened at 2:21 p.m.
President Francisco M. Borja: We are back to our plenary session. We are on line item B, under Public Comments. Is there anyone in the gallery who wishes to make any comment on the agenda today? For the record, please state your name.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Felipe Q. Atalig: Thank you Mr. President and distinguished Senators. Good Afternoon, for the record, my name is Felipe Q. Atalig. I speak before you today not in any capacity, but as a concerned citizen and presently I am employed by the CNMI Government. I am here to speak in support with the purpose and intention of Senate Bill No. 19-89. This particular bill, Mr. President, is to authorize certain government employees to continue to participate in the government group health, government life insurance after they have separated from their service. Mr. President and distinguished Senators, the intentions of this important bill certainly it is highly commendable and long overdue to recognize this certain government employees, the words certain government employees, is an account notation that they have been ignored and unremembered to consider for certain benefits that’s been accorded to the present retirees. Mr. President, some of these employees, they have serviced the government for 10 to 20 years and they are continuously paying their premiums for their life insurance and because of certain predicaments that falls within themselves, some of them were not able to continue, some of them were fired, some of them were threatened by some of officials and other [inaudible] that the Retirement is no longer going to be working and many of them have resigned. In particular, Mr. President, this particular legislation also included those preexisting health conditions, meaning that some of these employees may have been suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, kidney failure and etc., etc. Diabetes is a prevalent and a very common disease here. I submit to you, Mr. President, that no private insurance at the moment will be willing to cover this particular segment of government employees who have a preexisting health condition. If they are, maybe the premium will be extravagant and unaffordable to these people who are seeking for a better protection too from this body. We have seen, Mr. President, how hard the life is now for a family who doesn’t have any life insurance at all. Members of the family die, nothing. All the burden, many of these rely basically on the life insurance of these employees. In the absence of this, all the cost has been absorbed by the family. The consideration and enactment of this into legislation certainly will help alleviate the family. Mr. President, this particular legislation is at no burden to the government. The intention of this legislation, Mr. President, is absolutely to the employees who is willing and are qualified to be enrolled in this program. They are the ones to be paying all the premiums. Not only that they are going to be enrolled in this, Mr. President, but it is at no cost to this government. It is part of the economic development by generating extra revenues from this segment of employees. I like to personally, together with the other certain government employees, extend my deepest appreciation to the author of this legislation, Senator Quitugua, the outstanding committee of this, Chair, Senator Santos, and most of all this group that is going to look into this. Personally, I would like to say thank you to you Senator Arnold Palacios, Senator Jude Hofschneider from Tinian, Senator Quitugua, Chairman Terry Santos, my younger brother, Sixto Igisomar, Senator Paul, thank you and my nephew, Senator Frank Cruz. I ask you to kindly and adamantly support the intention and purpose of this bill. I ask you not in terms of blood [inaudible] but it is a sincere that I am asking you to please on behalf of this certain government employees, support the intention on this. To you Senator Mesngon, thank you very much for your support and finally, Mr. President, to you from both
Rota and Tinian, I thank you for every one of you in this chamber for having to consider this historical and important resolution. Thank you very much and Si Yu’us Ma’ase.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you Mr. Atalig for your comment. Any other member of our community who wish to make any comment or statement this afternoon? If none, we are moving down to line item C, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

NONE

President Francisco M. Borja: Messages from the Governor?

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon.

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. If there is no objection from the members, before we move down to the other item, I would like to move to suspend pertinent rules and to amend the agenda to include House Communication No. 19-235, to be placed on the Resolution Calendar for adoption and Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 on Final Reading and also to include this Senate Standing Committee Report No. 19-116 on the agenda for action, so move, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, there’s a motion on the floor to suspend all pertinent rules so that we can entertain House Communication No. 19-235, Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 and Standing Committee Report No. 19-116 and it has been seconded. Any discussion on that? Ready? All in favor of the motion to suspend pertinent rules or let me get a roll call on that. Clerk, can you call the roll for the suspension of all pertinent rules?

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend pertinent rules.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon yes
Senator Arnold I. Palacios yes
Senator Justo S. Quitugua yes
Senator Teresita A. Santos yes
President Francisco M. Borja yes

President Francisco M. Borja: With all nine (9) members voting yes, the Senate Rules are hereby amended - or suspended. Floor, anything further?
Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: That is it, Mr. President, for now. Okay, so we are back to line item D, Message from the Governor.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

1. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-292**: August 20, 2016 – Vetoed S.B. No. 19-42, SS1, HD1 - To amend 1 CMC §2806 prohibiting the Department of Public Lands from leasing any lands of the Commonwealth for any military live-fire or bombing activity; to require any proposed public land lease for any other military activity to be ratified by the CNMI people of Northern Marianas Descent at a general or special election and for other purposes.

2. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-293**: August 19, 2016 – Resume, statement of financial interest, police clearance and drug test results of Mr. Jovano Q. Taitano to serve as a member of the Professional Licensing Board to represent Rota.


4. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-295**: August 26, 2016 – Signed into law H.B. No. 19-2, HD1, SD1 – To create the Second Marianas Political Status Commission; to examine whether the people desire continuing in a "Political Union with the United States of America" pursuant to the Covenant; to determine if that continuation is in their best interest, or whether some other political status would better enable them to fulfill their aspirations of full and meaningful self-government; and for other purposes, became PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-63.

5. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-296**: August 30, 2016 – Re-appointment of Mr. Donald M. Hofschneider to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing Second Senatorial District.


8. **Gov. Msg. No. 19-299**: September 02, 2016 – Signed into law H.B. No. 19-54, HD1 – To authorize the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality: Division of Environmental Quality to set well water usage rates for commercial and other non-
governmental groundwater wells within the CNMI; and for other purposes, became
PUBLIC LAW NO. 19-64.

President Francisco M. Borja: Any member who wishes to make any comment on the Governor’s Message, on any of the Governor’s Message? If none…

The Chair recognizes Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you. I would like to inform the Governor’s representative in regards to appointments to expedite – inform the nominees to expedite their submission of their required documents to the Senate so that the EAGI Committee will act on it expeditiously. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you Chairman Cruz. Is there any other member who wishes to make any comment on any of the Messages from the Governor? If none, proceeding to line item E, Communications from the Judiciary.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

NONE

President Francisco M. Borja: Communications from Heads of Executive Departments.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS


President Francisco M. Borja: Any member wants to make any comments on the Executive Departments Message? If none, line item G, which is Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

1. Hse. Comm. No. 19-233: August 26, 2016 – Transmitting for Senate action House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-5 – To amend HCR 19-3, HD1 to increase the approve
revenues and resources of DPL for FY 2017, beginning October 1, 2016, and ending on September 30, 2017.

2. **Hse. Comm. No. 19-234**: August 26, 2017 – Transmitting for Senate action H.B. No. 19-196 – To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for FY 2017; and for other purposes.

3. **Hse. Comm. No. 19-235**: August 29, 2016 – Transmitting for Senate action H.J.R. No. 19-12 - To promote and give special recognition to the indigenous cultures, traditions, and heritage of the Chamorros and Carolinians in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during Cultural Heritage Month celebrated in September; and respectfully requesting the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG Torres to issue a proclamation for such celebration in the Commonwealth.


6. **Hse. Comm. No. 19-238**: August 29, 2016 – Transmitting for Senate action, H.B. No. 19-180, HD2 – To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Department of Public Safety and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and establishing a special account.


**President Francisco M. Borja**: Any member who wishes to make any comment?

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igisomar.

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar**: Thank you Mr. President. *i kuestión hu para bai na klaru ha sa ayu iyo-ta* earlier motion with the Clerk or Counsel, the earlier motion that we confirmed, moved House Communication No. 19-235 to the Calendar or did we just vote to amend the Senate Rules. *Hu tungo’ ha na kulang ha mensiona ha iyo-ta Floor Leader nai, lao ayu i voting bara bai na klaru ha kao did we vote na para ta move esta guatu gi Calendar?*

**Legal Counsel Jose Bermudes**: The motion is for both.
**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** Thank you Mr. President. Thank you, Counsel.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Any further comments? If none, we are moving on to line item H, Communication from the Senate.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE


3. **Sen. Comm. No. 19-133:** August 24, 2016 – Acting Senate President Mesngon recalling from the House S.B. No. 19-73, SS1 – To amend the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program, and for other purposes.


5. **Sen. Comm. No. 19-135:** September 02, 2016 – Floor Leader Mesngon’s off island notice.


7. **Sen. Comm. No. 19-137:** September 06, 2016 – Appointment of Acting Senate President, Senator Arnold I. Palacios.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Any member has any concern on the Senate Communication or wants to comment? Ready? Communications from the Washington Delegate?

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

**NONE**

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Unfinished Business?
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

President Francisco M. Borja: Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills, and Resolutions, Floor Leader.

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS, AND RESOLUTIONS

1. S.R. No. 19-50: Congratulating the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the occasion of its One Hundred Fifth (105th) National Day or “Double-Tenth National Day. (SEN. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS – 09/09/16)

2. S.B. No. 19-113: To amend 6 CMC § 2253(a) to limit the amount of licenses that can be issued to establish a shooting range in the CNMI; and for other purposes. (SEN. FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ – 09/09/16)

3. S.B. No. 19-114: To amend 2 CMC § 4435 (f) and to repeal 2 CMC § 4435 (h); and for other purposes. [NMHC] (SEN. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS – 09/12/16)

4. S.R. No. 19-51: To honor and recognize Mr. Edward M. Ayuyu, for his distinguished service and exemplary contribution to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. (SEN. PAUL A. MANGLONA – 09/12/16)

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, we have one, two, three, four on our agenda for the Pre-Filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills, and Resolutions and with these pre-filed resolutions and if any members would like to read out their pre-filed bills or resolutions, please do so at this time.

President Francisco M. Borja: Any member wants to read their pre-filed bills? Any? None?

The Chair recognizes Senator Francisco Q. Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you. I would like to introduce Senate Bill No. 19-113, to amend 6 CMC § 2253 (a) to limit the amount of licenses that can be issued to establish a shooting range in the CNMI; and for other purposes. Thank you.
President Francisco M. Borja: Any other introduction of bills? We are on line item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

The Chair recognizes Vice President Arnold I. Palacios.

Vice President Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to introduce a pre-filed resolution, Senate Resolution No. 19-50, relative to congratulating the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the occasion of its One Hundred Fifth (105th) National Day or “Double-Tenth National Day and Senate Bill, pre-filed bill, Senate Bill No. 19-114, to amend 2 CMC § 4435 (f) and to repeal 2 CMC § 4435 (h); and for other purposes. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Any other?

The Chair recognizes Senator Paul A. Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Mr. President, I would like to officially introduce Senate Resolution No. 19-51, honoring and recognizing Mr. Edward M. Ayuyu, for his distinguished service and exemplary contribution to the people of the CNMI.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you Senator Paul. Any other?

The Chair recognizes Senator Teresita A. Santos.

Senator Teresita A. Santos: Thank you Mr. President. If there is no objection by the author, if Senate Resolution No. 19-51 can be introduced as a whole? Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Any objection? Okay, if there is no objection, let the record reflect that Senate Resolution No. 19-51 is hereby introduce by the Committee of the Whole.

Vice President Arnold I. Palacios: Privileged, Mr. President.

The Chair recognizes Vice President Arnold I. Palacios.

Vice President Arnold I. Palacios: I would like to also ask, if there is no objection, that Senate Resolution No. 19-50 be also introduced as the Committee of the Whole.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, Clerk, let the record reflect that Senate Resolution No. 19-50 is hereby introduced as the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair recognizes Senator Paul A. Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Yes, Mr. President. I don’t know if this is the appropriate time, but I would like to ask the Floor Leader to maybe make an appropriate motion so we can place Senate Resolution No. 19-51 in today’s Resolution Calendar for the members to address. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Any objection?
The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon.

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon:** Thank you Mr. President. On Senate Resolution No. 19-51, I move for the adoption to place it on the Resolution Calendar, Resolution No. 19-51 introduced by the whole, so move, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Okay, there’s a motion on the floor for the placement of Senate Resolution No. 19-51 in today’s calendar and it has been seconded. All in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 19-51 is hereby placed on today’s Resolution Calendar. Floor, any other for placement?

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon:** That is the only resolution that the members were requesting to place on the calendar. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Senator Paul, are you willing to place or is that Senate Resolution No. 19-51? We are moving down to line item M, Reports of Standing Committee. Any Committee Reports?

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**NONE**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. **SCR 19-116:** From the Committee on EAGI reporting on the appointment of Ms. Esther A. Yatar to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to represent Rota. **Adopted**

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon:** Thank you Mr. President. If I may, I would like to move for the adoption on Senate Standing Committee Report No. 19-116 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Esther
A. Yatar to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission and appointed by the Acting Governor, Victor B. Hocog, so move, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** There’s a motion on the floor for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 19-116 and it has been seconded. Under discussion.

The Chair recognizes Senator Paul A. Manglona.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you Mr. President. I was not present during the hearing of the EAGI for Esther A. Yatar on Rota yesterday, but I would like to take this opportunity to express a concern with the nominee and that is just at this late in this year with this appointment when the election is just around the corner, that Ms. Esther Yatar actually is the Human Resources Administrator under the Office of the Mayor and the Mayor being the Chairman of the GOP party on Rota somewhat concerns me. I would vote for Esther, but I just wish that she was here and I want to express a point to her that when it comes to issues on Rota, that because she is coming in this late stage when we are just having the election around the corner that she refrains from actively participating on Rota matters so that we can remove all appearance of a conflict of interest. I hope that she takes that seriously because this conflict can be in the form of reviewing all the applications for registration and I know that the members of the Election Commission have that authority to decide and dispose of applications and even one member can say this person is not qualified. So, I hope that the Board of Election also can have a screening committee to actually look at all the documents and the staff makes the recommendation. I know that in the past, even one member can just look at an application and say, this one is qualified, this one is not qualified and so for that reason, that I wish if Esther was here, I would personally ask her so that the people of Rota can feel that the election is done in a fair manner because as you know, every election year it’s Rota that always has this election cases. So, I just want to avoid that this year and hopefully, you know, we don’t have a lot of this election challenges because of, you know, the manner or the way that the members conduct themselves in the election process which we know actually begins even months before the election on the registration process, the removal of names on the listings, and how they apply that. It really concerns me, Mr. President, because even with the Board of Election, I try to ask for a copy of failure to vote list. So, I don’t know whether they have a failure to vote listing in the Commonwealth, but that listing, I understand if you miss for example, two elections in a row, your name will be stricken out, but the Board, I don’t know how they are going to implement that now when it’s already late to reregister. So, people now might find in the next week or so that their names are out and they don’t have the opportunity to reregister. So, these are issues that the Board has to decide on and so we cannot take likely the authority that we give to members of the Commonwealth Election Commission and for that reason that I want the record to reflect that while I am going to be voting for Esther Yatar, I just hope that the members when it comes to making a decision on matters that might implicate them as having some kind of a conflict of interest, that they stay away from making that decision. So, I just want to state that for the record, Mr. President, and I am going to be asking the clerk for a copy of my statement today which I will provide to the Office of the Public Auditor because I know that they are actively working together with the Board of Election Commission on election matters. For the record, also since we are – I hope that I am not out of line, I want to state this afternoon that I have communicated with the Office of the Public Auditor with regards to the manner in which absentee ballot requests are sent to the voters off island. In the past, and this is something that maybe this body can amend and make it official in the books, is how they
ship off absentee ballots at the Election Commission. In the past, they would receive a request at their office and then when they bring it to the post office nobody can make an accounting of how many ballots were sent today, how many were sent two days ago, whose ballots were sent yesterday, whose ballots were sent two weeks ago, there is not of that, but I am glad that today that the auditor has implemented a process in which every single ballot that is sent off is accounted for with the name of those that are sent out and two persons accompany the ballot to the post office. I think that is a significant decision by the auditor and the Board of Election because the ballot is well protected from the post office all the way to the voter and from the voter back to the post office and from the post office to the Election Commission, but that portion in the beginning from the Election Commission to the post office has never been safeguarded until today which I hope that they are going to be doing. Another development that I ask and I am glad that it is being implemented is whenever students from off island, voters from off island, send in their absentee ballot request, they can get an update within 48 hours. They can log on to votecnmi.gov.mp and check whether their request is there already, received and being processed just by going online. I think that is important and I hope that they continue to do it throughout this process in the next two months so that our students off island do not have to keep calling and the lines are being held up at the office down there because many people are calling in to check is my name there, is my brother’s name there. You know, now hopefully if they need more manpower, they can let us know, they can assign people down there, but they need more people down there to process the request in a timely manner and so hopefully the students now can just go online and check. They can be assured that their ballots will be forthcoming. So, I just want to point that out. If I meet Esther, I will ask her to please as much as possible, refrain from addressing Rota matters at least for this election. It’s too late in the game. She is not familiar with what is going on because we want a fair process on Rota especially where we see a lot of election challenges. *Este ha, Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you, Senator Paul. Any other member? I just wanted to advise the members that please let your comment be on the Standing Committee Report or discussion. So, at this time, I recognize the Chairman, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee is ready to present the Senate Standing Committee Report No. 19-116. This is the appointment of Ms. Esther A. Yatar appointed by Acting Governor Victor B. Hocog on August 9, 2016 1 CMC § 6102 to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to represent the island of Rota. Mr. President, it is the intent of your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation to assure the appointment of Ms. Esther A. Yatar is in conformance pursuant to 1 CMC § 6102. Ms. Esther A. Yatar has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 7, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. However, your Committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Esther A. Yatar’s overall credentials. In addition, your Committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing and after much deliberation and based on the overall assessment of Ms. Esther A. Yatar’s credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your Committee is convinced that Ms. Esther A. Yatar possess the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to represent the island of Rota and in summation, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation recommends that the full Senate gives its advice and consent to confirm the appointment of Ms. Esther A. Yatar to serve as a
member of the Commonwealth Election to represent the island of Rota. Mr. President and the rest of the members, I ask that you support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 19-116. Thank you.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other member who wishes to make any – under discussion?

The Chair recognizes Senator Teresita A. Santos.

**Senator Teresita A. Santos:** Thank you Mr. President. I know that I affixed my signature on the Standing Committee Report on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation recommendation report, however, Mr. President, I would just like to put on record that I am going to abstain from voting on the nomination of Ms. Yatar by virtue of the fact that I have immediate family, including relatives, working under the Municipality of Rota where Ms. Yatar is the Human Resources Supervisor Manager which may raise the issue of a conflict of interest. Should Ms. Yatar, you know, not the Human Resources Manager or Supervisor, I would vote in favor of her nomination. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Any other under discussion? If none, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 19-116, Clerk, can you take the roll?

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt **Standing Committee Report No. 19-116.**

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<th>Senator Francisco Q. Cruz</th>
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<td>Senator Jude U. Hofschneider</td>
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<td>Senator Sixto K. Igisomar</td>
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<td>Senator Justo S. Quitugua</td>
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<td>Senator Teresita A. Santos</td>
<td>abstain</td>
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<td>President Francisco M. Borja</td>
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**President Francisco M. Borja:** With eight (8) members voting yes and one (1) abstention, the appointment of Ms. Esther A. Yatar to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to represent Rota is hereby confirmed. Any other Standing Committee Report?

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon:** That is about it, Mr. President, for now.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Moving down to line item N, Reports of Special Conference Committee.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**
RESOLUTION CALENDAR

1. **House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-4, SD1**: To approve additional revenues of the CNMI, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution and 1 CMC, Div., 7, for FY 2016, beginning October 1, 2015, and ending on September 30, 2016. Adopted as amended

2. **House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-5**: (See HC 19-233) Adopted

3. **S.R. No. 19-50**: – Adopted (COW)

4. **H.J.R. No. 19-12**: – Adopted

5. **S.R. No. 19-51**: – Adopted (COW)

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon**: Thank you Mr. President. We have one, two, three, four, five on the Resolution Calendar, Mr. President and the first one I would like to move for the adoption is House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-04 which is to approve additional revenue of the CNMI as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution and 1 CMC, Div., 7, for FY 2016, beginning October 1, 2015, and ending on September 30, 2016, so move, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja**: There’s a motion on the floor for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-04, any second?

Several members voiced, “second”.

**President Francisco M. Borja**: It has been seconded. Under discussion.

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igisomar.

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar**: Thank you Mr. President. Guaha iyo-ku question, Mr. President. Ti un lalalo’ an para bai faisen i Counsel kao siña hu atan este i page 2, i line 8 and 9 gi page 2 gi resolution? Counsel Joe.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider**: Mr. President, if I may. I know that there is a standing question from…
President Francisco M. Borja: Do you want a short recess or?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Yes, can I respectfully request for a short recess.

President Francisco M. Borja: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:55 p.m.

And

The Senate reconvened at 3:11 p.m.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, we are back to our plenary session and before we went into recess we were under discussion and I think I recognized Senator Sixto Igisomar.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. For now, I will rest my question for now. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, we are still under discussion.

The Chair recognizes Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Mr. President. Good afternoon everyone. I wish to offer an amendment to House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-04 in a form of Senate Draft One. I apologize, Mr. President. Under discussion, Mr. President.

Several members voiced, “second”.

President Francisco M. Borja: Yeah, there’s a motion for an amendment and it’s seconded. Can you proceed with your discussion?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Under discussion.

President Francisco M. Borja: Under discussion.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: The amendment on the title House Concurrent Resolution under this proposed amendment is to acknowledge for legislative appropriation for LEAC, CHC, or let me back track a little, Mr. President. I am sorry. To acknowledge availability of the earmarked funds collected pursuant to 4 CMC § 2308 for legislative appropriation for LEAC, CHC, Medical Referral Program, land compensation, judgments and PSS and if I may direct the members attention on page 2 to further read, on line 4, whereas, Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres in a letter dated August 1, 2016 has identified the projected gross revenue tax generated from Casino license holder in the amount of $47,000,000.00 and whereas, the funds collected pursuant to 4 CMC § 2308
remain in the non-lapsing account established by the Secretary of Finance until such time that the Legislature make and appropriation to use the funds for LEAC, CHCC, Medical Referral Program, land compensation judgments and PSS and I wish to indicate that the lines on page 2, from lines 12 to lines 14 is stricken. Moving further down to line 15, now, therefore, be it resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring that the earmarked revenues in the projected amount of $47,000,000.00 is available for legislative appropriation for the programs set forth in 4 CMC §2308. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you Chairman. We are still under discussion.

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igisomar.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just wanted to add on my comments along with the Chairman’s proposed amendment that I too agree to the amendment to clarify because there are – with respect to these funds, if we are to appropriate that the resolution is insinuating that such appropriation will be limited with Fiscal Year 2016 limitation which means we will only have 15 days left to use the funds and I do believe that our Chairman’s amendment will expand the availability of the funds as I believe there were some projects that were anticipated to be used by this particular available funds, but we are somehow limited to supposedly shovel ready projects which is again an impossibility to try and execute a shovel ready within 15 days. So, I just wanted to add on my favor for the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you, Senator Sixto. Any other?

The Chair recognizes Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Maybe this is just a typo error and if there is no objection, we can allow the clerk to make the necessary insertion of the whereas clause on line 8, page 2, to reflect 4 CMC if it’s appropriate to include § 2308 and also to further acknowledge on page 3, the inclusion of on line 6 as underlined and Ms. Larisa Larson, Secretary of Finance. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, Clerk can you take note on that. Okay, no further for the adoption on the amendment offered by Senator Jude, all in favor of the amendment say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. Back to the main motion which is for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-04, SD1. Ready for the vote? All in favor for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-04, SD1 say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”. 
President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-04, SD1 is hereby adopted.

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, we are moving down to line item No. 2, which I move for the adoption on House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-5, so move Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion is for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-5 and it has been seconded. Still under discussion. Any member? No one?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Ready Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Ready, for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-5, all in favor of the motion say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. House Concurrent Resolution No. 19-5 is hereby adopted.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon.

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. Now, Mr. President, we are on No. 3. I move for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-50, so move, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: There’s a motion on the floor for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-50 and it has been seconded. Discussion. No discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-50, all in favor say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.
President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 19-50 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader, any further?

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you. We are going down to line No. 4, which I move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 19-12, so move, Mr. President. House Joint Resolution No. 19-12 which reflects the House Communication No. 19-235 that was placed on the Resolution Calendar for today.

Several members voiced, “second”.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, there’s a motion for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 19-12, and it has been seconded. Discussion. Ready? All in favor of the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 19-12, say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. House Joint Resolution No. 19-12 hereby passes the Senate or is hereby adopted.

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. This will be the last on our Resolution Calendar. I move for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-51, so move, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, the motion is for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 19-51. It has been seconded. Any discussion? No discussion? All in favor of the motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 19-51 say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 19-51 is hereby adopted. Floor, any further?

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: That’s the last one, Mr. President, on our Resolution Calendar. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you Floor Leader. Moving down to line item P, which is the Bill Calendar under Final Reading.
The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon.

BILL CALENDAR

FIRST READING

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FINAL READING

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<tr>
<th>LEG. NO.</th>
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<tr>
<td>S.B. 19-73, SS1 RECALLED Passed [To recall]</td>
<td>To amend the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program; and for other purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.B. No. 19-89 as amended PASSED Rec.: 3:24 p.m.-3:36 p.m.</td>
<td>To authorize certain government employees and retirees to continue to participate in the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program after they separate from government service; and for other purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. No. 19-196, SS1</td>
<td>To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for FY 2017; and for other purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.B. No. 19-107, HD1 (See HC 19-230) PASSED</td>
<td>To establish designated fire lanes in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.B. No. 19-73, SS1 Reconsidered and PASSED</td>
<td>To amend the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program; and for other purposes</td>
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**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon**: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Again, I would like to let the members know that there is one, two, three that will oppose to move. The first one I would like to move for the passage is Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1, to amend the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program; and for other purposes, so move, Mr. President. If I may, Mr. President, first I would take back my first motion. It’s to recall the Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 which they referred from the House, so move.

**President Francisco M. Borja**: Okay, so the motion is for the recall on Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1. Okay, there’s a motion for the recall of Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 and it has been seconded. Under discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

**President Francisco M. Borja**: Okay, so we are voting for the recall of Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1. Clerk, can you take the roll?

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to recall Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1.

| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz | yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | yes |
| Senator Sixto K. Igiomar | yes |
| Senator Paul A. Manglona | yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon | yes |
| Senator Arnold I. Palacios | yes |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua | yes |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos | yes |
| President Francisco M. Borja | yes |

**President Francisco M. Borja**: With all nine (9) members voting yes, Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 is hereby recalled from the House. Floor Leader, you still have the floor.

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon**: Thank you Mr. President. I would like now to move for the other item on our Final Reading which is Senate Bill – I move for the passage of Senate Bill No. 19-89, which is to authorize certain government employees and retirees to continue to participate in the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program after they separate from government service; and for other purposes, so move, Mr. President.

**President Francisco M. Borja**: Okay, the motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 19-89 and it has been seconded and this is for Final Reading. Under discussion.

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igiomar.

**Senator Sixto K. Igiomar**: Si Yu’us Ma’ase Senate President. Guaha amendment malago yu para bai na halom guini lao an ti un lalalo’ bai faiSen Counsel kao esta – Counsel Bermudes, the
amendment is to elaborate on the coverage on who is authorized to have access to the life insurance policy after employment and I believe the bill currently in the way it’s written, it looks like it’s only to be available to people that were terminated or not renewed. So, the question is to allow that it should be all encompassing allowing anybody who is no longer employed and I gave my bill copy over to the Counsel. Mr. President, unless you – is it okay that we have a recess?

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Okay, short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:24 p.m.

And

The Senate reconvened at 3:36 p.m.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** We are back to our plenary session and we are still under discussion on Senate Bill No. 19-89 and Senator Sixto, you have the floor.

**Senator Sixto K. Igisomar:** Thank you, very much, Mr. President. I want to offer an amendment on the bill and the amendment will be on page 2, of the bill, line 17, and the new language that would be added to line 17 after the word contract, will read or the following will be inserted, are not renewed, terminated or for some reason, employees including elected officials exits government employment shall be provided an option and then it continues on line 18, in between the word option and to. So, if I may read the motion in its entirety to include the new language which, Mr. President, the language will read from line 16, government employees with at least five years of government service whose employment contracts are not renewed, terminated, or for some reason the employee, including elected officials, exits government employment shall be provided an option to continue their Commonwealth government life insurance coverage and so on, so move.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Okay, Senator Sixto has offered an amendment and it has been seconded. Any further? If none, all in favor of the amendment offered by Senator Sixto Igisomar say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Motion carries.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you. I just want to ask a question maybe for the Legal Counsel. What happens if a person retires 10 years ago, and I guess they want to participate. Is that some situation that is allowed under this new act? Somebody that is retired like 20 years ago, but now
wants to join in. This is life insurance no? That will not include that? *Sa ile’ekña na solu ma* terminate or *matai i* contract. So, it will just be for the newly terminated or released no?

**Legal Counsel Jose Bermudes:** Yes, because I guess when this kicks in and it’s elected into law it’s from that point forward nai. So, it’s the employees that are there and if they exit and they meet the five years then they qualify, but it’s not a retroactive provision for those who are no longer in service. *I think there is a similar bill, but that one is for health insurance.*

**President Francisco M. Borja:** Okay, so the amendment offered by Senator Igisomar to Senate Bill No. 19-89 is hereby adopted. Back to the main motion. For the passage on Final Reading, Senate Bill No. 19-89, SD1, Clerk, can you take the roll?

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass **Senate Bill No. 19-89, SD1.**

- Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: yes
- Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: yes
- Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: yes
- Senator Paul A. Manglona: yes
- Senator Steve K. Mesngon: yes
- Senator Arnold I. Palacios: yes
- Senator Justo S. Quitugua: yes
- Senator Teresita A. Santos: yes
- President Francisco M. Borja: yes

**President Francisco M. Borja:** With all nine (9) members voting yes, Senate Bill No. 19-89, SD1 hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor, any further?

**Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon:** Yes, Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, moving down on the calendar, I would like to move for the passage on Senate Bill No. 19-107, HD1 which is to establish designated fire lanes in the Commonwealth and for other purposes, so move, Mr. President.

Several members voiced, “second”.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** A motion for the passage on Final Reading, Senate Bill No. 19-107, HD1 and it has been seconded. Under discussion.

Several members voiced, “ready”.

**President Francisco M. Borja:** No discussion? Ready? Voting for the Final Reading on Senate Bill No. 19-107, HD1, Clerk, can you take the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass **Senate Bill No. 19-107, HD1.**
President Francisco M. Borja: With all members voting yes, Senate Bill No. 19-107, HD1 hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading.

The Chair recognizes Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon.

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, this will be the last on the agenda on the Calendar which is I would like to effectuate a motion for the passage and to reconsider Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1, so move, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: There’s a motion for the reconsideration and passage of Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1. It has been seconded. Under discussion.

The Chair recognizes Senator Justo S. Quitugua.

Senator Justo S. Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the bill that is called for passage at this time deleted the original bill, which has Subsection B, so now this bill contains only Subsection A.

President Francisco M. Borja: Thank you for that clarification. Any other under discussion?

The Chair recognizes Senator Paul A. Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: [inaudible] we just recalled this and we are passing the same numbering, 19-73, SS1? Oh, this is with the House. Okay, okay, I thought we are recalling from the Governor, but we are recalling from the House. Okay, I stand corrected.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, any other discussion?

The Chair recognizes Senator Sixto K. Igisomar.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Dispensa Pres. Ya este nuebu, este ta’lo para ta cho’gue JQ, táigue i B no, it’s only A? Okay, thank you.
President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, if no further discussion, for the passage – reconsideration on Final Reading, Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 before we vote, I recognize again, Senator Sixto.

Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: Dispensa Pres. JQ, dispensa yu. Para hu repa´ para na dos na A. Anai ilêkmu na taya B, under manu na section gi sa hu a’atan i page 2, are you referring to ayu i line 4 or line 18, line 15? Pues tâigue esta i line 15, line 18, gi letter B gi iyo-ku – i rasón na ma’ma’maisen yu sa guaha gi halom ayu i B nai ya malago yu bai tungo’ kao ayu na B malingu ya ayu na B guaha ten ya este pagu ta pa’pasa ilêkña five years. Ayu i ten? Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Si Yu’us Ma’ase.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, back to the main motion. Clerk, take the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1.

- Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: yes
- Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: yes
- Senator Sixto K. Igisomar: yes
- Senator Paul A. Manglona: yes
- Senator Steve K. Mesngon: yes
- Senator Arnold I. Palacios: yes
- Senator Justo S. Quitugua: yes
- Senator Teresita A. Santos: yes
- President Francisco M. Borja: yes

President Francisco M. Borja: With all nine (9) members voting yes, Senate Bill No. 19-73, SS1 hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Any further?

Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: There is none, Mr. President, on the calendar for today. That will be the last one. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, if no further….

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Mr. President, if I may.

The Chair recognizes Senator Jude U. Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Just clarification before we recess for today that House Bill No. 19-196 will remain on the calendar as we are finalizing the product of the Senate in reference to the appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017. Thank you.

President Francisco M. Borja: Okay, any other? Okay, if none, do I hear a motion to recess until – okay.
Floor Leader Steve K. Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. Go ahead. Thank you, Mr. President, if no objection from the members, I would like to move for the recess on today’s calendar until tomorrow at 2:00 in the afternoon, so move, Mr. President.

President Francisco M. Borja: Any objection? No objection? All in favor of the motion to recess this session until tomorrow at 2:00 pm say, “aye”.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President Francisco M. Borja: All opposed, say, “nay”.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

President Francisco M. Borja: Motion carries. This session stands on recess until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Thank you.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

NONE

ANNOUNCEMENT

NONE

The Senate recessed at 3:48 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Geraldine T. Cruz
Senate Journal Clerk
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The Senate may consider, debate, and/or act upon any item contained in this Order of Business at the time and place described herein.