
THE SENATE • TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



Senate
SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2017

SJ 20-21

Seventh Day

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on October 13, 2017, that the Senate of the Twentieth 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, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature’s website at www.cnmileg.gov.mp.

President Palacios: Before I call this session to order, we have a resolution to present this morning so immediately after our roll call before Public Comment, we will present this resolution to the deserving individual.

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Seventh Day, Second Regular Session, on October 25, 2017, at 9:34 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll, all nine members are “present.”

President Palacios: With all nine members present we’ve established a quorum to conduct today’s session. I would like to call for a short recess to present a resolution this morning. I now ask Senator Quitugua to proceed with the presentation.

The Senate recessed at 9:36 a.m.

Senator Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I am sincerely honored to read Senate Resolution 20-14 in summation due to its lengthy contents on behalf of the 20th Senate members. This Resolution was introduced by the Committee of the Whole, that is, all the members present during the introduction are sponsors of this resolution. Senate Resolution 20-14 is "To Recognize and Congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College graduate, Ms. Judith Galang Diaz on passing the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses". Ms. Diaz has proven that she has obtained the necessary knowledge and skills expected of her in her career field.

In light of the cap on CW-1 visas that affects the status of nurses employed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ms. Diaz, by passing the NCLEX comes at a critical lime for our only hospital in need to hire registered nurses due to its present vacancies. Mr. President and members, Ms. Diaz is the 7th 2017 NMC nursing graduates that passed the NCLEX. This resolution is adopted on September 26, 2017 and certified by Senator Arnold Palacios, Senate President and attested by Senator Justo S. Quitugua, Senate Legislative Secretary. Congratulations Ms. Diaz, on behalf of the Senate members. Mr. President, the Senate is ready to present Resolution 20-14. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. I also like to congratulate Ms. Diaz and commend her parent for all their support, also commend the Northern Marianas College for continuing on this path towards developing our workforce. With that, I ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort Ms. Diaz and her family to the dais so we can present this resolution, and I ask the Senate members to join me up here.

The Senate reconvened at 9:44 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. If there is no objection, at the recommendation of the Floor Leader, because we're going to be adding some items onto our calendar this morning, he ask that we do that before we take on the public comment. Objections? No objection, Floor Leader please proceed.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to suspend all pertinent Rules to include three messages. Two Department Messages Nos. 20-46 and 20-47 and Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-196, and two Committee Reports from the Committee on EAGI, Standing Committee Report No. 20-60 and Standing Committee Report No. 20-61. Also on the suspension, I want to include House Bill No. 20-22 to be placed on today's Bill Calendar. I so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Suspension motion has been offered, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of that motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: I think we're down to Public Comment.

President Palacios: So we went ahead and adopted the motion to suspend and place, am I correct on that? Did we place those legislations already or we have to wait?

Floor Leader Borja: I believe that is the motion, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. At this time, we are going down to agenda Item B, Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: At this time, I would like to invite members of the public that are present here this morning to attend the session and who wish to provide comments on any of the agenda items appearing in today's calendar. Sergeant-At-Arms -- please state your name and the organization that you represent and perhaps even a brief statement on the agenda item that you will be talking about.

Mrs. Agnes McPheters: Thank you, Mr. President. My name is, Agnes McPheters, CEO of NMTI. I am here in support of Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1. Before I give any of the comment, I would like to thank the Chair of Education, who introduce this particular legislation and the support of the President, and each and every member of this body for supporting a very important legislation. This legislation closed the circle of educational and training needs in the CNMI. For many years, the CNMI, not because they neglected, but for whatever reason had not really address fully the trade skill development. This particular legislation had been introduced by this body had closed that gap. It provides training needs that our students at high schools that did not receive those options. These open options for our students at high school as well as those in college, as well as those who had finished school and have not been given such skill. This is a real mark and a real corner stone of our thorough educational system in the CNMI. Trade education is a foundation of our economic development and this body is addressing it. Especially, also the upcoming mandate of 2019. This particular legislation is in no way, took away the responsibility of the college nor the Public School System, but it up mend the opportunity for those students that may want different options. And for this, I thank you, each and every one of the members here for responding to the needs of our students here and our people in the CNMI. I don't have much to say about the legislation because we have reviewed and I find it really good, and becoming of this body to come up with a perfect legislation at this time. If anybody feel that the legislation is introduced and will take away some of their turf, I am not so sure that the individual had read the legislation thoroughly. It addresses the gap, it pulled the educational and training opportunity, it gives every individual in the CNMI that opportunity to be met. And, I congratulate you for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the President of the Senate.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mrs. McPheters, for those comments. Are there any other? Please state your name.

Mr. Juan Tenorio: Good morning, *membron este na komiti, Presidente, Chairman, yan todo leyeslatura's. Guaho, si Juan Iguel Tenorio, risidentin Saipan. Giagi yo' guini gi menan miyo para biahu na tungo hamyo na hu'supopota i Senate Bill No. 20-21, Senate Substitute 1, rason, esta i CNMI ha'lipapara na ancho i development ekonomia. Eksperensia-ta gi bandan empleáo ti maolek gi in'atan i tano kontra i tano-ta. Ta' li'li'e-ha mona na este siha na kompania i munafan halom este siha na empleáo ti tunas kontra i gina'ga'gao gi lai. Enao siha na sinisedi anafan'anok na kulan hita lokkué ni taotao tano tita ge'gef atan hafa ma'susesedi. Este na bill, ha supopota enao na hinanao i parahu pripara i famaguon-ta yan i taotao Marianas anai para hufan ma eduka gi diferentis klasi kualidát cho'cho' anai siña para tana para dididi nu este hinalom taotao san-hiyong ni parahu ayudayi i development ekonomia-ta guini giya Marianas. Esta siha na famaguon man'matatachong, siha para hufan benefisio nu este na akto. Hu gagagao todo i membro parehu-ha guini gi san hilo na guma yan i san papa na guma*

na uma supota este na leyeslatura, i aksión i leyeslatura sa maolek para i taotao-ta, famaguon-ta, yan famaguon famaguon-ta. Membro yan respetayon, i ayudon-miyo ti para hita, esta kuantu tetenan tiempo-ta guini, este i man'matatachong na famaguon guini tatte para siha este yan entrega i famaguon i man tatte-niha. Pues ginen enao gagaigi-ha yo' gi menan miyo para biahu gagao todos hamyo fabot ya in supota uma pasa este na akto. Si Yu'us ma'ase yan buenas dias.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Tenorio. The floor is still open for public comments. Please state your name and the organization you're representing.

Ms. Barbara Cepeda: Good morning, my name is Bobby Cepeda, and I am from the Attorney General. I am here to testify in support of two bills, the first one is Senate Bill No. 20-64 and this is the State Directory of New Hire. The purpose of this bill is to establish a State Directory of New Hire within the Attorney General's Office. So, what it does is it requires every employer in the CNMI to report whenever they hire a new employee or re-hire an employee. They must report to the Office of the Attorney Generals State Directory of New Hire within twenty days. We take that information and we enter it into a data base and we keep that information. It doesn't matter whether the person has a child support case and not because there's a possibility they might have one later on, and when that comes up we already have information that they're working or where to locate them. The main purpose of establishing a State Directory for New Hire is for locate purposes. So, for example, we have a brand new case, we are opening a brand new child support case, we don't know where that person is, we go through this list and see if they are on our data base and if they are, then obviously, we know where they are, we can serve him/her papers then establish a child support order. Now, if we already have an order in effect say, we have another state say, Guam, establish an order and they just want us to enforce, we go through our list the database again, and if we know that person is working here in the CNMI, we simply serve the employer a wage withholding order so that the employer can start deducting the monthly child support obligation. So, again it's mostly for locate purposes and every state and territory has a State Director for New Hires required by the Federal Government of all Title IV, D, Agencies. Now, just to give you a little background the CNMI does not have a Title IV, D, Agency, but we are working on it this is one of the steps. The first step is, UIFSA, I'm so happy that UIFSA is finally law, that's the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, which was signed into law October 6, 2017 that was the first. These two bills that I am testifying on are couple more steps that we have to take in order to become a Title IV, D, for the agency. Now, the information from the State Directory for New Hire because every state and territory has one, all that information is funnel to the National Directory of New Hire which is in the office of Child Support Enforcement in Washington, DC, then all that information is again through computer automated is send out to all the states. So, once we become a Title IV, D, Agency, we have the computer system, because we don't right now, we could just simply plug in a name and social security or date of birth and could easily find out that the person we're looking for is in Arizona or Montana or where ever, but that is the main purpose of this bill. I don't think there is any question about the confidentiality because the law specifically states that any information that we get is only to be shared with authorized personnel within the office. It is not information that nobody can just call us and say, I want to know where this person is, if they're not authorized, we can only divulge it to employees within the child support division and other child support agencies. And so for that, that's all I have on this bill. Is there any question on that? No.

President Palacios: Can we just make her do the other comment first?

Mrs. Barbara Cepeda: On the next bill?

President Palacios: Yes.

Mrs. Barbara Cepeda: The next bill that I would like to testify in support of S.B. No. 20-65 and that is the license suspension bill. What that is, again, this is required in order for the CNMI to become a Title IV, D, program and again, all the states and territories have similar law. What this law does is, even non-custodial parent owes child support and they're in the years at least three months and the office of the Attorney General can send them a notice of proposed action to suspend or withhold their license and this includes driver's license, professional recreational business licenses. Now, this legislation this type of law is used very sparingly within the child support community because obviously when you suspend someone's license you restrict, I guess their ability to work, their ability to drive, etc., so, it is not something that child support agencies used, it's kind of like a last resort. It is like okay, you've been asked to pay so many times, you come to court, we know you can afford it but you just refuse to. So, this is going to be usually the last remedy that we take not the first. The first remedy we tried to see if they have any bank accounts, etc., property etc. that we could garnish. But again, this is the last resort and it's only used against the most egregious non-payers, those we know they can afford it because they're driving around a Harley Davidson, but yet, you know they are not paying their child support.

President Palacios: Thank you.

Mrs. Barbara Cepeda: I'm sorry?

President Palacios: I said, thank you for those information.

Mrs. Barbara Cepeda: Am I done?

President Palacios: Yes. We will be taking up the Committee Report and I ask Senator Mangloña to hold off until we get to the Committee Report on this particular and if you can avail yourself and please be present until we get to that agenda Item.

Mrs. Barbara Cepeda: Yes, I will. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any other comments from the public?

Mr. Russ Mangloña: Good morning, Mr. President and distinguished members of the Senate. My name is Russ Mangloña. I am the Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Northern Marianas Trade Institute. I would like to first of congratulate the Education Committee for bringing this out of the Committee and getting all the different comments both opposed to it and those supporting the bill. I am here before you, I am supporting the bill because I see it, this is an opportunity for growth. When this bill was first being constructed when it was first belong to us, one of the first thing we saw was a duplication of what happened and

transparent at the University of Guam, and GCC. You saw the kind of veneration's come out and no, no, no, we only have University of Guam, but one of the things that the people especially Senator Judy Wonpad who champion the bill saw there was a loophole and that loophole stood at the common man, the blue collar worker, the guy that does masonry, the guy that does painting, the guy that does the automotive technology. Many of you Senators that have sat down on many of the picnic tables with these people, people from Rota, in particular being from Rota, I know many of my family members, kompari, this is their skills set, this is what their intelligence level is located at. They are not the type of guys that sit down in the classroom and can listen for a long period of time, but you give them a wrench, you give them a hammer and they will surprise you at the level of skills that they have accomplished over the years just from carried from father to son, uncle to nephew and now we have the opportunity to give them that formal education they're looking for. I always encounter, what about Rota, what about Tinian, you guys have plans? Of course we have plans, but this bill what it does is it catapults those plans into reality, is no longer going to be an issue when we can do it? It's, we have to do it. Because now, we become a public entity that's owned by the people. I have this distinct pleasure of representing the Commonwealth in this coming November 16 and 17, at the Pacific Star Hotel in Guam. This event is being held by the U.S. Department of Labor on apprenticeship within the Micronesian regent sponsored by the Guam Department of Labor. They ask me to give a talk on the first ever apprenticeship program that is happening here in the Commonwealth before you today and that is our electronics technician class for IT&E. What this does is, it has them going for formal education to replace those electronic technicians that are currently about to leave IT&E. This is only one step towards getting in, I see this as a catalyst for the growth. And, I ask you, members of the Senate that upon coming up to the vote, to look at the picnic table that you guys came from just recently, because I came from the college too, I understand that there is a need for college but there's also a need for technical school for those individuals that wants a different course in their career. So, on behalf of my colleagues, thank you very much, for the opportunity to testify today. Thank you, again.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any? Please step forward and state your name.

Mr. Federick Deleon Guerrero: Hello, Senators and Mr. President. My name is Federick P. Deleon Guerrero. I am a teacher at NMTI. I am in support of S.B. No. 20-21, Senate Substitute 1. I want you guys to look at the crowd, look at our students, using them as an example, I've been teaching for many, many, years. I have sat in the same chair that you guys are sitting but on the other side of the building. We've seen our islands grow we've been through good and bad, in the 1980's there was really nothing much, if you graduate from high school you had to leave to get a formal education or a trade. We watch our economy crash at the end of the nineties then we watch it pick-up just recently with PSI. Now, through all the time frame as aunty Agnes McPheters would say, we had neglected to address the manpower skills here. What I teach my kids in class is, before, we had all man power coming in from the Asian countries, right? Who build the Hyatt? Before, it was known as the Continental, it was our people. Who build the steps at Grotto? It was our people. Who build the churches? They were our people. You guys know that, you guys are young men at the time. I was the kid. What we have to instill in younger generation is this feeling that I can do it. I am not going to hire so and so just to build my house, I can build my house. I am not going to hire so and so to fix the road, I can fix the road. That is what we have to get back to and that's where I see NMTI fitting into the picture. I looked at the education system here in the CNMI it's like a stool, a three legged stool, you have PSS giving a basic education, you have

NMC giving the academic education, what we're lacking is the trades. Where we focus on is, basically, to prompt at NMTI, we focus on the trades, yes. What's peripheral to the trades are the kids that went through high school and they don't know whether they were going to trades, they don't know whether they want to go academic, but they never finished high school so we take them. We take them and we work with them and we make sure that they learn something to become productive members of our society. Now, the bill before you it's not to take away turf from NMC or PSS or what, that is really irrelevant. The fact is, we have to turn on a new generation of our people who can work, who don't have to rely on maid to take care of them, the maid to feed them, the farmer to farm for them, they have to be able to do it themselves. I think if we want to leave something for the next generation's this is the best thing that we can do. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Babauta: Good morning, honorable members of the Senate and Senate President. My name is, Sammy Bermingham Babauta, I am from CHCC, I know you use to seeing Katelyn, but I am here for her today. CHCC is in support of House Bill No. 20-131 and Senate Bill No. 20-63, SD1, we just received this bill this morning so we don't have any recent comments but we do support the increased of penalties to tobacco sales to minors. And, House Bill No. 20-131 for the Tobacco Control Funds we support this and hope for a speedy passage. As our grants that we currently have in Public Health for Tobacco Association or for Tobacco Control and Education are only the designated to health promotion, health education and prevention. And so, with Tobacco Control Funds we can actually work with the Tobacco Association which is the nicotine patches, nicotine gums and other remedies for Tobacco Association. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. One more.

Mr. David Maratita: Good morning, Mr. President, honorable members of the 20th Senate. My name is, David R. Maratita, I am the Director of the Alcoholic, Beverages and Tobacco Control under the Department of Commerce. I'm here on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, in support of two bills which are; Senate Bill No. 20-24 and Senate Bill No. 20-63, HD1. First of all, honorable members, the Department of Commerce, after thoroughly reviewed both bills the Department of Commerce strongly supports the intent and agrees to the findings and purpose of the findings that was provided on the minor immunity clause from the prosecution during undercover investigations as authorized by Title IV CMC of Section 50143(a). Department of Commerce also recognizes that there must be consistency similar to the immunity provided under Title IV CMC §5591(c) which provides immunity for persons under 21 years of age who assist the Law Enforcement Officers in the Alcohol Undercover Compliance Checks at the retail establishments. Therefore, it is imperative that the minor immunity clause be provided when conducting tobacco undercover operations under the Local Tobacco Control Act. Further, the absence of a minor immunity clause has been our fore fund contractual issue that needed to be addressed with respect to the Federal requirement to have emplace in order to continue our contractual services with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, State Tobacco Compliance Checks Inspection Program. Again, this is needed to be address in our local legislation. With respect to Senate Bill No. 20-63, SD1, the Department of Commerce also fully supports this proposed legislation. While Department of Commerce agrees to the Legislature's findings the

removal of the warning letter associated to the first offense clause would address the problem that ABTC has been facing with respect to compliance issues involving business establishments selling tobacco products to minors. The Department of Commerce further recognizes, that this issue must be addressed through legislation to impose a stiffer penalty involving monitoring fine rather than imposing the warning letter which is the slap on the hand for first offenses. Therefore, by implementing such measure it is anticipated that the issues surrounding repeated offenses as a result of the leniency providing under the current penalty provisions will be curbed by implementing stiffer penalties and fines. This measure will also convey the message for the business establishments that they are bound under strict rules to exercise their responsibilities and the seriousness of protecting our youths from the harms of tobacco products. Let me just give one example members of the 20th Senate, the current law under the penalty provisions, for example, we issue a citation for selling tobacco products to under age, for example, today is October 25th and next year around, we issue another citation for the same violation that penalty provision refers back to first offense which is warning letter, so just addressing the problem we can address the problem by having first offense again reverted the other year. So, with respect to this bill, it addresses that problem and it removes that recurring problem that we're having with respect to our violations out there. So, on behalf of the Department of Commerce and the Secretary of Commerce, we support both bills for their passage. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. Anymore? Are we ready to go back to our agenda now, Floor Leader? We are down to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of Journal. Floor Leader, recognized.

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 20-16 and Senate Journal No. 20-17.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Senate Journals 20-16 and 20-17, its been moved and seconded, discussion on that motion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are down to Messages from the Governor. Clerk?

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governor's Messages Nos. 20-139 to 20-169.

President Palacios: Are there any comments or statements on those messages from the Governor? The Chair recognizes Senator Quitugua.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, on Governor's Communication 20-146 which is No. 8, I thank the Governor for signing this legislation into law. And, also at the same time, I would like to clarify the intent of Public Law 20-13, that if you receive an Associate Degree or a Bachelor's Degree and you're applying for a job your field of study must be related to the job you are applying for. It is not a blanket law that because you have a BA Degree you can be credited four years for any job that you are applying. For example, if you are a business major, and you got a BA Degree in business, Business Administration, and then you are applying for a job under the criminal justice vacancy, then you are not qualified for the four-year credit. Your Degree must be related to a job that you're applying for. So, Mr. President, this will not be misconstrued as just because you have a BA Degree or AA Degree you are going to be given credit for two-years, four-years for any job you're applying for. No, it has to be related with your field of study. And, also, Mr. President, on Governor's Communication 20-147, I appreciate the Governor's signature on this legislation which is Public Law 20-15. Now, Joeten/Kiyu Public Library can proceed in hiring a director. And also, Governor's Communication 20-148 which is Public Law 20-14, I thank the Governor for his signature on this law, and this now will give us here in the Legislature a better information and understanding of each of the autonomous agencies annual budget as required by the Statute. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Quitugua. Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is in reference to Governor's Message No. 20-149, I'd like to commend our honorable Governor, the Lieutenant Governor for the appointment of Mrs. Miranda Mangloña to serve as a CUC Board Member representing the First Senatorial District. Mrs. Mangloña, appeared before the EAGI Committee yesterday for her Public Hearing and whose advised and consent by the Senate will be acted on today. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment? Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. On Governor's Message No. 20-168, I would like to thank the Acting Governor Victor Hocog, for signing Tinian Local Bill No. 20-1, Draft 1, "To make limited appropriations for personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, the Office of the Mayor of Tinian, and the Tinian Municipal Treasury for Fiscal Year 2018." Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment? I wish to also thank the Governor for signing into law all those bills that were passed in the Senate and the House on behalf of the First, Second and Third Senatorial Districts. And, I look forward to discussing those bills that are vetoed. Any other comments on the approval of some of these legislations. Senator Hofschneider, I apologized, I didn't mean to interfere.

Senator Hofschneider: I think, Mr. President, you exercise your prerogative and you said thank you to all the bills that's being signed. I yield.

President Palacios: Thank you. So we move to agenda Item E, Communications from the Judiciary, there being none. We move to agenda Item F, Communications from the Heads of Executive Department. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk voiced Department Messages Nos. 20-41 to 20-47.

President Palacios: Any member wants to comment on any of these communications? None. We move to agenda Item G, Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communications Nos. 20-108 to 20-127.

President Palacios: Are there any comments on any of these communications from the House of Representatives? Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, on House Communication No. 20-114, I thank the Committee on Education in the House and the House members for passing Senate Bill No. 20-15, SD1. This Senate Bill will provide a smoother process in nominating Board of Regent to serve in the Northern Marianas College. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment? Let me just comment on House Communication 20-113. I ask the Committee on Fiscal Affairs to critically look at that legislation transmitted from the House relative to the Tobacco Control Fund appropriations which at mostly slated to go towards our Commonwealth Health Care Corporation. Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just wanted to comment under House Communication No. 20-115, this is House Bill No. 20-8, HS1, Senate Draft 1, "To restrict the use of cellular mobile phones." When we received this bill from the House, last time and before the Senate amend it, this bill was to prevent people from texting and using cellular phones while driving. And, on the Senate side, we went ahead and remove restrictions. The House version had an authorization whereby Enforcement Officers were given the opportunity or waived from the restrictions, so the Senate decided to remove that and applied the texting and use of cellular phones to everybody. So, I would like to comment on this, Mr. President, to hopefully, encourage our Governor to sign this bill into law as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. There being no other comments on agenda Item G, we move to agenda Item H, Communication from the Senate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-117 to 20-121.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any comment? Ready? There being none on I and J, we move to agenda Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: The floor is now open for any introductions of pre-filed legislations. Senator Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you. This is a to introduce Senate Bill No. 20-77, “To establish mandatory presentation of valid personal identification for any debit card or credit card transaction and any check cash exchange or purchase for all business establishments in the Commonwealth.” Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Floor Leader, can you take the initiative to present Senator Quitugua’s pre-filed bill? Senator Quitugua is back. Senator Quitugua, recognized on your pre-filed.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu’us ma’use, Mr. President.* Officially, introducing pre-filed Senate Bill No. 20-76. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. No more pre-filed legislations. Are there any other introductions of bills that are not pre-filed? Senator Igisomar?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I like to introduce Senate Bill No. 20-78, “To mandate prompt payment for health care services performed in the CNMI and to authorized CNMI health care service providers to impose penalties on late payments received for clean claims; to set uniform standards for the processing of electronic claims; and for other purposes.” Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other member on the unnumbered bills? If there's no objection, I like to just take a four-minute recess so we can prepare for a long haul. Recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:27 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left off on agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committee. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have nineteen appearing in our Calendar for today's action. If there's no objection from the members, I would like to start out with the Committee Reports from the EAGI on the two confirmations of the Governor's appointees.

President Palacios: Please proceed.

Floor Leader Borja: Any objection?

There being no objection raised.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you. I'm going to start off with Standing Committee Report No. 20-60 from the Committee on EAGI reporting on the appointment of Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the Second Senatorial District, Tinian, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-60 relative to the appointment of Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino to serve as a member of the CUC Board of Directors for the Second Senatorial District, discussion on that motion? The Chair recognized Chairman Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation is ready to present Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-60. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation to which was referred appointment of Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to 4 CMC §8131(a), Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres on September 19, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the island of Tinian. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into

account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors. Your Committee concludes that the appointment of Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino meets all the necessary requirement pursuant to 4 CMC § 813l(a). Furthermore, Ms. Jovita SN. Paulino has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask the full member of this body to support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-60. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Are there any further discussions? Are we ready for the question? Just for clarification to the audience that are present this morning, once the Committee Report is being adopted that signifies a confirmation by the Senate of this nominee. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With all nine members voting "yes" on the confirmation of Ms. Paulino, the Senate hereby confirms her nomination and is hereby a member of the Board of Director for CUC. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-61 from your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation reporting on the appointment of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the First Senatorial District, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-61 relative to the appointment of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña to the CUC Board of Directors to represent the First Senatorial District, that motion has been moved and seconded, discussion? Senator Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation is ready to present Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-61. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to 4 CMC §8131(a), Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres on August 10, 2017, to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the island of Rota. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to the appointment of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors representing the island of Rota. Your Committee concludes that the appointment of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña meets all the necessary requirement pursuant to 4 CMC § 8131(a). Furthermore, Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. Again, I ask the full member of this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 20-61. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Any other comment? Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. As your Chairman on PUTC, your Senate Standing Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication, I like to thank our Governor for appointing the two ladies and at the same time, thanking the two ladies, Ms. Paulino and Ms. Mangloña for accepting to be on the Board of our CUC, our only utility in the CNMI. If confirmed, these two and I'm highly favorable for them of course, they will make up the required number for a quorum on the CUC Board so CUC can move forward. So again, thanks to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, to the two ladies, for accepting and also to our Chairman for having an expeditious review on these two nominees. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Igisomar. Senator Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. For the record, I would like to welcome our Mayor from Tinian, Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicholas. Thank you, Sir, for joining us this morning. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Cruz. How could I not see such an imposing figure of our Mayor from Tinian. Thank you for joining us this morning Mayor. Again, I like to clarify that by voting on the Committee Report by majority vote the nominees will be approved. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” the confirmation of Ms. Miranda V. Mangloña to serve as a member of the CUC Board of Directors is hereby approved by the Senate. Before we move on, I want to also commend and congratulate the two confirmed and appointed individuals to serve on this very critical Board. We all recall that we had to redo the whole Board of Directors for CUC because of a rather controversial chain of events that occurred, and I’m glad that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor finally submitted the last names in the Senate. Finally, confirmed the full Board so that we can move forward on the critical issues that faces in our infrastructures. So again, congratulation. With that, with no objection, I call for a short recess for congratulations to those two.

The Senate recessed at 10:48 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left off on agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committee. I now yield the floor to the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Stranding Committee Report No. 20-38 from the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-21, “To establish a Northern Marianas Technical Institute by adding a new Chapter 11 to Title 3, Division 1 of the Commonwealth Code; to repeal PL 14-54 and PL 15-5; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered by the Floor Leader is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-38 relative to Senate Bill No. 20-21 has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-38 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-44 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-64, “To establish a State Directory of New Hires; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-44 relative to Senate Bill No. 20-64 has been seconded, discussion? Senator Mangloña, recognized.

Senator Mangloña: Actually, I should wait till the discussion of the legislation but since Ms. Cepeda is here, I just wanted to raise this concern and maybe by the time we get to the discussion of the bill she can give us some ideas. My concern is very simple, the definition Section of S.B. No. 20-64, it says, “Hiring means entering into a contract of hire with a person to perform services.” My question is, sometimes they have a contract, which I don’t know whether it’s a contract of hire, but sometimes in government they hire individuals and using business name or a business contract and is basically, for me, a contract of hire, but sometimes the contract itself doesn’t reflect so. So, an individual might have a business and is hired by the Mayor and I don’t know whether you’ll catch those kind of contracts. So, can you maybe later on in the discussion you can give us an idea how to include that. Make sure that we catch those type of employment contracts which is not actually employment contract but service contract. I just want to point that out Mr. President. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. And perhaps Ms. Cepeda can look at that between now and by the time we get to the Bill Calendar when we entertain the specifics of the bill maybe we can ask her to come forward. Senator Igisomar, do you have comments or discussion?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. I guess I would do the same as our honorable Senator, to just give her a heads-up of at least my inquiry or maybe if she may provide a little bit more comfort. My concern, although I am favorable to the bill passage is with respect to the usage of the data. I know that there is a section in there about national database, but I truly wanted to make sure that it’s protected and making sure that the meta data or the use of the data that is not somehow end up in the hands of the Feds to be abused. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any further discussion? Ready for the adoption motion of this Committee Report? Those in favor of the motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-44 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report number 20-45 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-65, “To establish guidelines for the Child Support Enforcement Division pertaining to non-custodial parents regarding non-compliance of child support orders; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-45, the motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-45 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-46, from the Committee on Health and Welfare reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-52, “To improve medical referral services by making all the medical referral and liaisons’ office employments position civil service position and subject to Civil Service Act; and for other purposes,” so move.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-46, the motion has been seconded, discussion on that motion? There being no discussion. Ready for the question? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-46 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Report No. 20-47 from the Committee on Health and Welfare reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-66, “To amend 6 CMC §2138 to prohibit pharmacies in the Commonwealth from dispensing any prescription drugs to minors without the presence of a parent, legal guardian or an adult; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-47 that motion has been seconded, discussion? There being no discussion. Ready for the question? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-47 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-48 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-34, “To amend 4 CMC § 2308(a) to clarify the Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) Rate Subsidy is intended for the residential customers only; to amend Section 302(a) of Public Law 19-75 to mandate CUC to immediately apply the subsidy upon the transfer of funds to CUC; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-48 that motion has been seconded, discussion on that motion? I just have a short question, I thought we addressed this in previous legislation? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, first of all the committee met then we wanted to clarify in reference to Public Law 19-75, which essentially appropriated the said funds or the rate subsidy, however, it was unclear the legislation and subsequent law if the entire subsidy includes commercial. So, sensitivity the committee went ahead and clarify that portion as I was informed by the Chairman of the PUC that CUC was left without any clarification, so therefore, they were holding back on disbursing such subsidy to the residential customers. This bill, the amendment proposed on Senate Bill No. 20-34, in the form of Substitute 1, explicitly says that this FAC is only for residential customers to include the one that are staying in the apartment's. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there anymore comments? There being none. Ready for the question? Those in favor of the adoption motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-48 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-49 from the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-36, “To regulate real estate transactions and brokers and agents in the CNMI and to require real estate licenses by adding a new Division 8 to Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been offered to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-49 that motion has been seconded, discussion? No discussion. Ready for the question? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-49 is hereby adopted by the Senate. The Committee's has been very busy. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-50 from the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs reporting on House Bill No. 20-18, “To amend 6 CMC § 2256 (a) (10), the hours of operation for shooting galleries and shooting ranges; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-50, relative to House Bill No. 20-18, is been offered and seconded, discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of that adoption motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report 20-50 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-51 from the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Program reporting on House Bill No. 20-33, “To amend 2 CMC § 4435(f) and to repeal 2 CMC § 4435(h) to expand the use of lease agreement payments to supplement housing assistance; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion has been offered for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-51 its been seconded, this is relative to House Bill No. 20-33, discussion? Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is for clarification purposes and so the Committee Report recommends that this legislation be filed, is that correct?

President Palacios: It is correct.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. No further.

President Palacios: Are you ready for the question? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: It’s my oversight, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any further discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-51 please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-51 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-52 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-24, “To amend 4 CMC § 50143(a) to provide immunity for minors assisting in tobacco control undercover investigations; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is offered for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-52 has been seconded, discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Standing Committee Report No. 20-52 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-53 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-38, “To present to the voters in the Commonwealth in the next general election the question “Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?” So move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is being made and seconded for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 20-53, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Let’s take a brief break here.

The Senate recessed at 11:14 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:16 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our plenary and we left off again on Standing Committee Reports. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. On Standing Committee Report No. 20-54 at the request of the author and the concurrence of the Committee Chair, if there’s no further objection, we will be deferring action on this Standing Committee Report until next session.

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: Thank you.

Floor Leader Borja: Moving on to the next Standing Committee Report, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-55 from your Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-63, “To amend 4 CMC § 50144(b) to increase the penalty of business establishment that gives, sells, or permits to be given or sold any tobacco product to an individual under the age of 18; and for other purpose,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-55 that motion has been seconded, discussion on that motion? Ready? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-55 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-56 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on House Bill No. 20-3, “To amend and repeal provisions of the Vehicle Code to allow the e-citation implementation; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-56 that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All member voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-56 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-57 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs reporting on House Bill No. 20-10, “To establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-57 its being offered and seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you. We'll probably further discuss this on the calendar, but pretty much there's a substantive changes and inclusion of this bill that is why it became a form of Senate

Draft 1. So, if I may ask, if we can table any comment for now until the discussion of the bill. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other discussion, comments? Ready for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-57? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-57 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-58 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on House Bill No. 20-67, “To amend 1 CMC § 1402 for the purpose of the conservation and protection of precious resources of sweet potato “Kamuti”; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-58 that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I support the legislation with reservation but I would defer discussion at this time until the legislation gets to the calendar. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comment? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered on Standing Committee Report No. 20-58 please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Last Standing Committee Report, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-59 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-19, “To authorize a video surveillance tax credit for costs incurred by local businesses to purchase and install video surveillance cameras directed toward the public right-of-way in support of the CNMI’s reporting system; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-59 that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Is that all the Committee Report?

Floor Leader Borja: That is all on the calendar.

President Palacios: First, I want to thank the Committee Chairs and the committee for working diligently to get all these Committee Reports. I know, sometimes, it is very difficult because we always have a conflicting schedule between committee, but the Chair notes the hard work that you have put-in in all these legislations and come out with all these Committee Reports for this session. With that, there being no Reports of Special or Conference Committee, is there any resolution this morning? None. So we are down to Bill Calendar.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

President Palacios: I believe we should take a short recess to put all the bills that were going to entertain in the sequence that we need to. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:23 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:34 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to session. We're on agenda Item P, Bill Calendar. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. If there's no objection from the members, I want to proceed first with Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, so that we can allow the NMTI personnel to have their lunch. Any objection?

There was no objection raised.

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, on Final Reading, "To establish a Northern Marianas Technical Institute by adding a new Chapter 11 to Title 3, Division 1 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes," so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion offered by the Floor Leader is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-21, Senate Substitute 1, that motion has been seconded, discussion on the passage motion? Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, this legislation is two Legislatures in the making. It was first introduced in the 19th, and now in the 20th Legislature. Public hearings were conducted in all the three senatorial districts, comments were solicited and finally, we are here to pass this very important legislation. This legislation was put on hold on the calendar for three sessions to provide NMC another opportunity to comment on the SS1 version and we received the comments from NMC. It's been distributed earlier to the members. It's a one sheet amendment and the pages that are affected are attached to the amendment. So one page 3, line 19, of Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, strike-out the word "academic" and on page 8, lines 17 and 18, strike-out the words "both academic and." This amendment as a result of the comments submitted by the President of the Northern Marianas College. Also, the President in her written comments to SS1, she recommended that we insert in Senate Bill No. 20-21, SS1, a phrase which the committee feels that it is not germane to the bill; she recommended that we insert the phrase, "a sufficient guaranteed minimum amount that is appropriated to NMC on an annual basis." This phrase or recommendation is not germane to the bill, therefore, the committee is not recommending that we insert this in this legislation. Recommendations that were received were taken into consideration that's why the legislation is in the substitute form because of the substantive changes due to the recommendations and the public hearings conducted reference to this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Quitugua. Further discussion? Are you ready? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I like to of course echo the members and our Chairman of Education, Senator Justo Quitugua, for pushing this bill and willing to keep trying and attempting. My comment really, is just to state that of course, I'm highly favorable and I support this bill, and sometimes we don't understand why it takes so long for things to happen. We are fully aware through public hearings. I would see a knee of fight when it comes to what's happening in our education, but Senator Quitugua being the expert, being in PSS, but I never really knew that the vocational education stopped in PSS long time ago. Only a few of us, including me and some of us, class people, that left Hopwood Junior High School back in, I would say, 1984, 1985, 1986 may have been the last students that attended or learned how to do carpentry, mechanic, electricity, small appliance, even drafting. So, from our public hearing down in Rota, I was made aware that they were no longer in existence. However, we have PSS and we have NMC, and as stated by our former Congressman Frederick Guerrero, this is a three legged system, but we've been missing these three legged stool for a long timeout. I've been wondering, why we never fell off? Or maybe we've been falling off and we're so immune to it, we didn't even realize that we fell off the stool. It's like this analogy with a frog, you put a frog in a boiling pot and you boil that pot the frog will adjust to the temperature and will boil to death, and am glad we have such a bill before we boiled to death. I'm saying, on another matter, you know NMTI or trade institute is not a program where people may stereotype and say that it is for losers. Like Chris Rock would say or I would say, "I said, it is not for losers." We all have different form of an asset as a human being. And, if there's something that is missing, each individual that have chosen to provide and

help our community in a different way, it's not for me about intelligence, you cannot tell me that someone is more intelligent than the other, therefore, that person is dumb or stupid. Is not about intelligence, it's really about harnessing. Harnessing our assets and our opportunities so that all the people in the CNMI can contribute however they can from their own form of knowledge. In philosophy class, we used to say that everybody is born with a universal knowledge, it is in naiaid knowledge. It's a knowledge of something that they have and only themselves individually and uniquely have that acknowledge. Our goal through this program, through this legislation is to harness the knowledge that we seem to be missing from this three legged stool. I am in full support and I thank you, Senator Quitugua, for your patience and continue to move forward with this bill.
Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Igisomar. Let me get a clarification, Senator Quitugua, what you presented are these further amendments to SS1?

Senator Quitugua: Yes.

President Palacios: So, would you like to make that motion offering the amendments? So, I guess we're discussing the passage of SS1, but the author of the bill is offering some minor amendments so can you restate the motion?

Senator Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. From the recommendation of the President of the Northern Marianas College, on page 3, line 19, strike-out the word "academic" and on page 8, lines 17 and 18, strike-through the words "both academic and," so move, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Amendment motion offered by Senator Quitugua has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the amendment offered please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. So we're back to the main motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-21, SS1, as amended. Any further discussion? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Just quickly, Mr. President. First, I wanted to also express appreciation for the author for patiently waiting for the passage of this bill and the day that they move this. And also, I would like to recognize the presence of our President, Amorites or the pioneer of Education, President Agnes McPheters, and you're now the CEO, and the rest of the key management and instructors of NMTI, as well as, the students. Just quickly, the outset of the bill itself, whether there's opportunity, it also poses a challenge for the institution itself, once this thing is in order, simply said, because of the inclusion of the students coming in from Rota and Tinian. So, I trust the organization that once this thing is in full swing that we allow for us to see how we can bridge that gap whereby we allow our students, potential students from Rota and Tinian to avail of this institution itself. We look forward to working further with you on how to build that bridge in order

for us to access this opportunity for our students our young youths in Tinian. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

President Palacios: Thank you. If there is no further comment, I like to thank the Committee, as for the support of all members to get this legislation pass this morning. This is a legislation that we had needed to have ten years ago may be more. Today, we're constantly bombarded by not just the local government and our communities, but even with USCIS, regarding accounting for what we have done to get our people, give our people skills that we need so that we can begin to address the gaps and the skills in our workforce. So, this is a very positive step forward. I believe, this will account that the Commonwealth is not sitting back, just sitting back and completely relying on the foreign labors or skills. With that, are we ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-21, Senate Substitute 1, as amended, hereby passes the Senate. Short recess. (APPLAUSE)

The Senate recessed at 11:48 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-64, SD1, on Final Reading, “To establish a State Directory of New Hires; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-64, SD1, has been seconded, discussion? Senator Paul Mangloña, I believe you had the opportunity to talk to the Assistant Attorney General and I hope that she had clarified the question.

Senator Mangloña: Yes. For the record, Mr. President, my question is, will this reporting include independent contracts or contracts with the government? Maybe an individual might have sign with the Mayor's office or any department or agency in the government, and I guess the language as written in the bill would include those as explained with Ms. Cepeda, so I'm satisfied with the language. Just for the record, it means that, if you have a service contract with a department or agency, that also should be included in the reporting. And, under that contract, that business hires another individual than that business should report that other individual, if he's being hired by a company under that contract. I believe that should cover the concern that have. Thank you, Mr. President and thank you, Ms. Cepeda.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Mangloña. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I had a question as well, and the AAG assured me that it will not happen. My question was related to Section 107, page 5 of the bill. Access to disposition of the information which directed that the New Hires, the name shall be transmitted to the National Directory of New Hires from the Local Directory. And, my concern was to make sure that not all new employees are sent to the National, and she assured me that the only names that will be transmitted for the National Registry are only names of individuals that were affected or have violations that must be reported for whatever reason. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any further question? Any comments? There being none. Let me thank the Assistant Attorney General for joining us this morning to help in clarifying some questions. There being none, are we ready for the question on the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-64, Senate Draft 1? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With all nine members voting "yes" Senate Bill No. 20-64, Senate Draft 1, "To establish a State Directory of New Hires; and for other purposes," hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-65, SD1, on Final Reading, “To establish guidelines for the Child Support Enforcement Division pertaining to non-custodial parents regarding non-compliance of child support orders; and for other purpose,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-65, Senate Draft 1, and the motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-65, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader, are we going to refer that one legislation? Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 11:54 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:55 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. I believe it is the consensus of the members to just break for lunch and come back at 1:30 p.m., if everybody's agreeable to that. The Chair will exercise his prerogative and call for a recess until 1:30 p.m.

The Senate recessed at 11:55 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left of on the Bill Calendar and the recommendation on Senate Bill No. 20-19, SD1, if we can reconsider our action on this legislation and it's necessary to go back to Standing Committee Report, agenda Item M, if there's no objection.

There being no objection raised.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Palacios: No objection. Floor Leader, can you please effectuate a motion to reconsider our action?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. A motion to reconsider the action of the Senate on Standing Committee Report No. 20-59, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for reconsideration of our action on Standing Committee Report No. 20-59, relative to Senate Bill No. 20-19, has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. With that action Senate Bill No. 20-19, is referred back to the Committee on Fiscal Affairs. With that, we go back to Bill Calendar. Floor Leader?

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-24, SD1, "To amend 4 CMC § 50143(a) to provide immunity for minors assisting in tobacco control undercover investigation; and for other purposes," so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill 20-24, SD1, on Final Reading, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Senator Francisco M. Borja | Yes |
| Senator Francisco Q. Cruz | Yes |
| Senator Jude U. Hofschneider | Hunggan (Yes) |
| Senator Sixto K. Igisomar | Yes |
| Senator Paul A. Mangloña | Yes |
| Senator Steve K. Mesngon | Hunggan (Yes) |
| Senator Justo S. Quitugua | Hunggan (Yes) |
| Senator Teresita A. Santos | Yes |
| President Arnold I. Palacios | Yes |

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-24, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-34, SS1, “To amend 4 CMC § 2308(a) to clarify that the Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) Rate Subsidy is intended for residential customers only; to amend Section 302(a) of Public Law 19-75 to mandate CUC to immediately apply the subsidy upon the transfer of funds to CUC; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-34, SS1, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, I recalled when we adopted this earlier this morning on the action being taken by the Committee, it is just a clarification on the authority that was given on Public Law 19-75 clarifying the intent section on that particular section reference to the FAC that's currently being given to the public primarily for the residential customers in the CNMI. Can I ask all the members to please bless it vote “yes”? Thank you.

President Palacios: Any other comments discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-34, Senate Substitute 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-36, SD1, “To regulate real estate transactions and brokers and agents in the CNIMI and to require real estate licenses by adding a new Division 8 to Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-36, Senate Draft 1, its been made and seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-36, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-38 on Final Reading, “To present to the voters in the Commonwealth in the next general election the question “Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?”, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion offered by the Floor Leader, to pass Senate Bill No. 20-38, its been seconded, discussion? No discussion? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-38, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-47, “To amend 2 CMC § 4372; to amend 2 CMC § 4376 to establish the Kastiyu Agricultural Homestead Development in Tinian; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion offered on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-47, has been seconded, discussion? Any comment? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-47, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-52, SD1, “To improve the medical referral services by making all the medical referral and liaison offices’ employment positions civil service positions civil service positions and subject to the Civil Service Act; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-52, SD1, has been seconded, discussion? Senator Igisomar, you don’t have any question on your bill?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Actually, we are okay the Committee decided to the passed the bill. The purpose of this bill really is a result of our Chairwoman of Health and Welfare visit down to Guam. She visited the Guam Referral Office and base on the issues and concerns, we believe along with the concurrence by the Medical Referral Director, that one solution is to provide civil service alternative option for employees to try and calm down the drama that is happening down in our Medical Referral Office on Guam. Which is, there’s moral issues between employees because some employees are contracted at a different option, and also, I think that the main purpose, and if I may, on behalf of our Chairwoman, Senator Teresita Santos, it is really to provide institutional knowledge so that we can retain these employees and they can

continue to help our patients down on Guam and the other areas where we employed people to assist our medical referral patients. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Ready for the question? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-52, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-63, SD1, on Final Reading, “To amend 4 CMC § 50144(b) to increase the penalty of business establishments that gives, sells, or permits to be given or sold any tobacco product to an individual under the age of 18; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-63, Senate Draft 1, that motion has been seconded. Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Minor amendment on page 2, line 4, the sentence that was crossed-out to put back the “shall” after the “year” line 4. Should be, “shall, upon issuance of a notice of violation to the owner, agent, or employee in charge of the business by the any or the representative of a Department authorized to enforces this chapter who has properly identified him or herself, be fined and penalized in the following manner.” Just a minor amendment, the “shall” should remain on this legislation, and only the crossed-out “within the period of one year.”

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Amendment motion offered by Senator Cruz, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Those in favor of the amendment motion offered by Senator Cruz please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All member voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. The amendment is hereby adopted. We're back to the main motion for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-63, SD1, further discussion? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-63, SD1, as amended, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Next bill Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-66, on Final Reading, “To amend 6 CMC §2138 to prohibit pharmacies in the Commonwealth from dispensing any prescription drugs to minors without the presence of a parent, legal guardian or an adult; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion offered for Senate Bill No. 20-66, that motion has been seconded, discussion on the motion? No discussion? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-66, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Can we take a short recess?

The Senate recessed at 1:46 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 1:48 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. Floor Leader, next bill please?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-3, SD1, “To amend and repeal provisions of the Vehicle Code to allow for e-citation implementation; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion offered by the Floor Leader on House Bill 20-3, that motion has been seconded, discussion? No discussion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-3, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: A motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-10, SD1, on Final Reading, “To establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion for House Bill No. 20-10, Senate Draft 1, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Your Committee met and discussed the bill before us. If you recall, Mr. President, we had this bill on Calendar during the session in Rota, you instructed the Committee to kind of hold the passage until we see and we hear the status conference back earlier this month on the Settlement Trust and Secretary of Finance, and as a result of that having witnessed that there's a very positive report being made and the Committee went ahead and acted on this with some inclusion and substantive changes in which at this time, I yield to the mover in the Committee, Senator Quitugua.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, the amendment that the Committee made, is in response to the AG's comment, that although the bond payment is itemized in the Fiscal Year Budget, it does not necessarily mean that the bond payment is appropriated by the Legislature. Therefore, we need a language to insert here to make sure that the bond payment is paid annually. Thank you.

President Palacios: The language that is to be inserted, is that the SD1?

Senator Quitugua: Yes.

President Palacios: We are not making any further amendment?

Senator Quitugua: No.

President Palacios: So, you are just elaborating and clarifying, right? Any other comment? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. I have to ask the Chairman's understanding in my being absent for the Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting when this was discussed. I was down with a bad flue and I did not participate in the discussion of this legislation. Mr. President, for that reason, I respectfully ask, because I have several concerns, I would have to vote "abstention" on this legislation. I know that this is the proper thing to do, but my concern in passing this legislation we might be inadvertently taking money away from the year marking of the allotment for PSS pursuant to the constitutional amendment that they are to get 25%. So, I just want to point that out. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Further discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll for the passage of House Bill No. 20-10, SD1.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Abstain

Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, eight (8) members voting “yes” one (1) “abstention.”

President Palacios: With eight members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-10, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of House Bill No. 20-12, “To reform drugs sentencing laws to effectuate the rehabilitation and treatment principles of evidence-based sentencing,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-12, that motion has been seconded, discussion on the motion? The Committee is satisfied with the bill. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-12, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-14, “To improve the justice systems to domestic violence; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion on House Bill No. 20-14, its been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-14, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-18, “To amend 6 CMC §2556(a) (10), the hours of operation for shooting galleries and shooting ranges; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion on House Bill No. 20-18, it has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-18, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: I move to file House Bill No. 20-33, “To amend 2 CMC § 4435(f) and to repeal 2 CMC § 4435(h) to expand the use of lease agreement payments to supplement housing assistance; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is to file House Bill No. 20-33, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe the intent of the Committee is to file this but primarily, because there is a bill that is now a law with the same content and same intent, that is the reason why we are filing this. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-33, is hereby filed by the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-67, “To amend 1 CMC § 1402 for the purpose of the conservation and protection of the precious resource of sweet potato “Kamuti”; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Passage motion offered for House Bill No. 20-67 has been seconded, discussion? Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to put something on record. Again, you know when we were going to discuss this during the adoption of the Committee Report, I said that, I fully support the legislation with some reservation in that, by acting on this legislation it would provide the opportunity or pave the way for the United States Fish and Wildlife to enlist Kamuti as a threaten crop, specie or plant in the future as it did to certain medicinal plants on Rota which are vital or critical to the making of local or tradition medicines. Thank you.

President Palacios: Further discussion? Senator Santos, your concern has been allayed, I guess you’re on record articulating your concern. Any other discussion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-67, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading of House Bill No. 20-22, “To amend 1 CMC Section 1502 clarifying the activities subject to the Occupancy Tax,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-22, that motion has been seconded. This is regarding the Occupancy Tax on the B&B issue. Any discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-22, hereby passes the Senate on Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: That is it, Mr. President, on the Bill Calendar.

President Palacios: That was long. I want to thank the Committee Chairs, the reason why there is not a lot of discussions is, I believe that a lot of the issues were resolved at the committee level and with the adoption of the committee reports, I think it made it a lot easier for us to move on with the passages of all of the bills that are on today's calendar. With that, can go to agenda Item Q, now?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-185 to 20-196.

President Palacios: Any members want to make comments on any of these Miscellaneous Communications? Ready? Take note Committee on Fiscal Affairs, there are some particular communications here that are very relevant to the functions of the committee, the income statement and reports from Karidat, Latte Training, a Local Delegation, the consolidated operations budget of CPA also, so, you might want to take a look at that. Any other discussion? Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. *Guaha* Miscellaneous Communication No. 20-187, *guiya este i NCSL* request for due from the Northern Mariana Islands. And if I may, Mr. President, *ma fafaisen-hit balin \$22,000.00. Hafa este na* amount? *Kao guiya este na* amount, does the LB pay this annually or *hayi chumogue*?

President Palacios: That will be paid by the Bureau.

Senator Igisomar: *Pues, i kuestión-hu, Mr. President, kao guaha statute ni aotorisa este na* payment?

President Palacios: Well that is a membership and it's in the LB's budget.

Senator Igisomar: I'm just asking, Mr. President, because I think maybe we need to enact a statute to do this. *Hu komprende-ha na kumo membership lao ombres i* Department of Commerce Insurance Commissioner *guaha* annual membership fee of \$6,000.00. We had to promulgate a statute policy so that you'll be authorize to set-up citing and account for fees collected so it can be paying that annually. So, something like this may be we should request the House to put together a bill to formulate this into a policy so that it will be paid annually.

President Palacios: I agree with you I don't disagree at all. But I believe that, there are organizations to which this body has become members over the years and they are annual membership fees. Now, we can get clarification perhaps the counsel can look back on that and have also the Director of the LB to take a look at it. These are very similar to organizations like APIL, APPU and other organizations to which the body participates.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Your concerns are funded. Any other discussion? No further discussion we move on to agenda Item R, Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Palacios: There being none. I thought this session was going to last until this late afternoon, but I am very thankful that we're able to move on and address all the businesses on the Calendar and I thank all the members for their hard work. Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Palacios: Senator Quitugua?

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, I just received a note from David Attao, from NMTI, informing the Senate members that there's a Registered Apprenticeship Industry Forum in Guam for November 16 and 17, 2017; and if any of the Senate members is interested in attending this Forum, you may contact Dave at NMTI for more information or to assist any of the members that would like to attend in terms of registration and proper contact persons at the Forum. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. There being no further announcement. Floor Leader, the Chair will now entertain a motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to adjourn subject to your call.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair, that motion has been seconded. Those in favor of the motion please say, "Aye." Apposed say, "Nay."

All members voice, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. The Senate stands adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk