



# House Journal

## FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2009

4<sup>th</sup> Day

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

The House of Representatives of the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fourth Day, Fourth Regular Session on Tuesday, at 1:35 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and twelve members were present. Representatives Heinz S. Hofschneider, Christina M. Sablan, Victor B. Hocog, and Joseph N. Camacho were absent and excused. Representatives Ramon A. Tebuteb, Ralph DLG. Torres and Stanley T. Torres will be arriving shortly. Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero arrived shortly after attendance roll was announced and is duly present for today's session.

### ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

NONE

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Salas, recognized.

Representative Salas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Representative Sablan I would like to introduce two of her bills H. B. NO. 16-274 and H. B. NO. 16-277 and also introducing my bill H. B. NO. 16-276.

H. B. NO. 16-274: To amend certain sections of Public Law 6-37 (effective September 8, 1989), the Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989, codified as amended at 2 CMC §§ 3411-3416.

Offered by: Representative Christina M. Sablan plus two others  
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 16-277: To amend Public Law 15-108, the Commonwealth Employment Act, in order to preserve the due process rights of workers who may be affected by certain provisions of that Act; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Christina M. Sablan plus one other  
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

H. B. NO. 16-276: To amend Title 4, Division 1, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth Code to add a new section 1510 to establish operating hours for poker establishments; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Edward T. Salas plus one other  
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am introducing H. B. NO. 16-275

H. B. NO. 16-275: To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2010; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Ray N. Yumul plus five others  
Referred to: None

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Representative Benavente, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a prefiled H. B. NO. 16-279.

H. B. NO. 16-279: To amend the Building Safety Code Rules and Regulations by repealing 2 CMC 7101 *et seq.* and reenacting the same as the Building Safety Code Rules and Regulations of 2009; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Diego T. Benavente  
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Clerk, please let the record reflect that Representative Tebuteb is duly present. Are there any other bills to be introduced this afternoon? Representative Santos, recognized.

Representative Santos: I have a House Local Bill 16-46 a second go around on amending the Saipan Zoning Law with regards to relocating poker parlors away from the villages.

H. L. B. NO. 16-46: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2009, 10 CMC § 3511; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Rosemond B. Santos

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Are there anymore bills? Ready.

H. B. NO. 16-278: To repeal and re-enact the CNMI Youth Congress Act; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Stanley T. Torres  
Referred to: Committee on Health Education and Welfare

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Under Introduction of Resolutions, I recognize Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: I am just waiting now with the Clerk, the Resolution is being numbered.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. Is there any other member who has a Resolution to be introduced today? Again, I now recognize Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: I have a House Resolution No. 16-99 “To honor U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Richard S. Basa upon his well-deserved retirement and for the many contributions he has made for the security of our nation particularly, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his dedication, commitment, and service in the United States Army”. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

H. R. No. 16-99: A House Resolution to honor U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Richard S. Basa upon his well-deserved retirement and for the many contributions he has made for the security of our nation particularly, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his dedication, commitment, and service in the United States Army.

Offered by: Representative Raymond Palacios

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Are there anymore? Representative Aldan, recognized.

Representative Aldan: If I may, Mr. Speaker, could we go back to Introduction of Bills?

There were no objections raised on the floor.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Without objection, we are back to Introduction Bills and I now recognize Representative Aldan.

Representative Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an unnumbered House Bill introduced by me and the Minority Leader Representative Babauta.

H. B. NO. 16-280: To authorize MPLT to transfer \$4,100,000.00 of interest income withheld from the Fiscal Years 2001-2006 pursuant to Public Law 10-29 and Section 6 of Public Law 12-27 to the Commonwealth General Fund and for appropriation in FY 2009; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Representative Edwin P. Aldan plus one other

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Are there any other bills or resolutions? We will entertain a motion to go into committee of the whole so that we can present a Resolution to a deserving individual. Representative Raymond Palacios, are you ready to present that Resolution?

Representative Raymond Palacios: Yes I am Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. Floor Leader, please effectuate a motion to go into the committee of the whole.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I move that we move into the committee of the whole so that we may present the Resolution.

The motion was seconded and was carried by voice vote.

*The House dissolved into the Committee of the Whole at 1:42 p.m.*

*COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE*

*The House reconvened at in plenary session at 1:49 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are now back to plenary session. If there is no objection and today being the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September and that the Appropriations Act has just been introduced I would like to take up this particular legislation immediately- we will skip all items on the Agenda and it will be left on for the next session. Are there any objections?

There were no objections raised on the floor.

**BILL CALENDAR**

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are now on the Bill Calendar. Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First so that we may be able to place the Budget bill on the Calendar and act on it today at this time I move for the suspension on Rule VIII Section IX and Rule IX Section IX, X, and XI for that purpose.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the suspension of House Rules so that we can place H. B. NO. 16-275 on the Bill Calendar and it has been seconded, discussion. Ready?

There being no discussions the motion to suspend House Rules to place H. B. NO. 16-275 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I move to place H. B. NO. 16-275, the Budget bill on today's Calendar.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the placement of H. B. NO. 16-275 and it has been seconded, discussion. Ready.

There being no discussions the motion for the placement of H. B. NO. 16-275 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: And now Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 16-275 the Budget bill.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-275: An Appropriation Bill for and Act to make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and

independent programs and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2010; and for other purposes.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of H. B. NO. 16-275 on First and Final Reading and it has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Representative Apatang, recognized.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written floor amendment with me...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Did you have that amendment passed out to the members? Short recess.

*The House recessed at 1:50 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 1:54 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to plenary session. Representative Apatang, recognized.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just passed out copies of the floor amendment it is self-explanatory. If you turn to page 28 and follow the amendment – Mr. Speaker, this is also by request from the Vice Speaker. I know that we did not include this in the original discussions of the budget because we did not have the documents for these individual's lawsuit, but now that we have the documents at hand this is the reason why we are doing a floor amendment for this particular civil lawsuit against the Government. I know that the Chairman wants to do another amendment to show the Department of Public Health that they should be reasonable for this particular lawsuit, but since the Government is responsible as a whole and judgments against anything that happened against the Government, I felt that it is proper that we should include it in this particular line. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move for this amendment.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The amendment motion offered by Representative Apatang has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Representative Dela Cruz, recognized.

Representative Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just curious whether there are other judgments prior to 2004 and 2008 of the same or likewise nature? Have we looked at judgments as a whole awaiting compensation or are these the only two that is on the table at this time?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Apatang, recognized.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only judgment that I am aware of is the one with Pelligrino's issue. I am not aware of any additional judgment against the Government. I have read something in the newspaper today that the Hospital is being sued again for something – *tonsil surgery*. Mr. Speaker, every budget year we include so much dollars into this particular section of the budget – so just in case that there is an additional judgment and if the Administration – or you know the Government or the Attorney General wants to pay this they can easily reprogram money or funding into this particular account to settle judgments against the Government that is why there is always money in there. It would be different if there is zero dollars in there then we cannot pay any

judgment. So I am sure that there will be some funding left and if there is money available to settle the rest of the judgments if there is any, I am sure that they will do that in the future. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Apatang, perhaps you can elaborate very briefly these two particular cases and why you believe that they should take precedence over other judgments so hopefully that would clarify your effort to amend the legislation.

Representative Apatang: Mr. Speaker, I am not an Attorney, but I have a copy of the judgments here – if we can make copies of the judgments from the Court and provide all the members I think that will make them better understand the situation. The judgment is against the Hospital for negligence and other issues – I do not have the actual background on it but I have a copy the Court Judgment here. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. What is the pleasure of the body should we take a short recess while we wait. Okay. Short recess.

*The House recessed at 1:59 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 2:10 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Before we went on recess we were discussing the amendment offered by Representative Apatang – are there any further discussions? Representative Dela Cruz, you still held the floor when we went on recess.

Representative Dela Cruz: I will yield for now, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Are there anymore discussions? Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is no doubt that the two cases presented before us here are very troubling. They are compelling in and of themselves the issue again stemming from the Commonwealth Health Center's (CHC) lack of management and a host of other issues that compounded simple procedures and...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Before you continue Representative Yumul – Clerk, can you have the record reflect that Representative Ralph Torres is present. Please, proceed Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: That these are systemic problems and that even my biggest concerns are of course the patients at the Hospital and the sadness and the grief of the families that had to endure these and as much as I would like to see the Department bare the costs I do understand that CHC the Department of Public Health is also lacking in funding due in part to the economic environment here. And this amendment, although, it is proper to put it in judgments against Government should also be used to serve as warning to the Department of Public Health that we cannot tolerate these types of issues and that they will be held accountable and now that the Chairman on Health Education and Welfare (HEW) is present before us that the members here most especially want to see these type incidences minimized. I do understand that you cannot prevent all incidences at the Hospital, but when you read the lawsuits in the two cases it breaks your heart to see that something such as a simple procedure can turn catastrophic – even in today's paper there is a lawsuit that had

just been filed just a few days earlier we were busy reading the papers and watching the TV praising at a Physician and a couple of days later the same Physician gets sued for negligence. The management needs to be fully accountable for this and I pray that our actions and our words that are generalized today will make its way down to the Department of Public so that they are kept aware that we are watching and that we are very deeply concerned. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Are there any further discussions on the amendment? Are we ready for the question?

There being no further discussions on the amendment motion offered by Representative Apatang the motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to the main motion. Are there anymore discussions on the Budget bill? I recognize Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: On the main bill, Mr. Speaker. On page 29, line 19 and 20, I would like to make an oral amendment rephrasing of the phrase starting after the word “*program*” on line 19 so that there will be consistency with the line of management at the Public School System (PSS). So the amendment will be after the word “*program*” on page 19 will be “*JROTC Manager*” for the operations of each respective Public School. and delete the word “*officer of such programs*”.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Can you repeat your amendment?

Representative Quitugua: Okay so it will read starting on line 19 after the word “*program*” manager for the operations of each respective Public High School.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. Is everybody clear with the oral amendment offered by Representative Quitugua? Discussions on the motion, ready.

There being no discussion on the amendment motion offered by Representative Quitugua the motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The amendment motion offered by Representative Quitugua is hereby adopted. We are back to the main motion – we are voting on H. B. NO. 16-275, HD2, Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to H. B. NO. 16-275, HD2 on First and Final Reading.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	no
Representative David M. Apatang	yes
Representative Oscar M. Babauta	no
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Joseph N. Camacho	absent (excused)
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	absent (excused)
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	absent (excused)
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	no
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes

*(End of Tape 1, Side A)*  
*(Beginning of Tape 1, Side B)*

Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (excused)
Representative Edward T. Salas	yes
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	no
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of twelve “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-275, House Draft 2 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Short recess.

*The House recessed at 2:20 p.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 2:23 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Aldan, recognized.

Representative Aldan: Are we having session tomorrow?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Yes, in the afternoon. Floor Leader, if there is no objections we will go on to the Resolution Calendar so we can dispose off of House Resolution No. 16-99.

There was no objections raised on the floor.

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, a motion for adoption.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My motion would be to place H. R. NO. 16-99 and adopt H. R. NO. 16-99.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 16-99: A House Resolution to honor U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Richard S. Basa upon his well-deserved retirement and for the many contributions he has made for the security of our nation particularly, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his dedication, commitment, and service in the United States Army.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the placement and for adoption of H. R. NO. 16-99 and has been seconded, discussion. Ready.

There being on discussion on the motion to place and for the adoption of H. R. NO. 16-99 was carried by voice vote.



Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Now, we will go back to Agenda Item V, if there are no objections on the floor.

There was no objection raised on the floor the House move back up to Item V on today's Order of Business.

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

GOV. COMM. 16-421: (9/16/09) Certification for annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Dr. Robert K. Silk, Physician (Radiology).

GOV. COMM. 16-422: (9/16/09) Certification for annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for Dr. Leticia Borja, Physician (Pediatrician).

GOV. COMM. 16-423: (9/21/09) From Acting Governor Eloy Inos submitting a proposed legislation to allow the transfer MPLT interest income to the general fund.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is with regards to GOV. COMM. 16-423 the \$4.1 Million interest withheld from MPLT for Fiscal Years 2001 – 2006 the statement here on the first paragraph where it states "*MPLT stands ready to transfer the funds to the General Fund once a legislation authorizing said action is passed and signed into law, but not before then.*" Based on a Committee meeting that the Ways and Means had and the members that were present down at the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) office up to this day MPLT has not provided my office with any communication stating that they are ready to transfer. Although, I do not doubt the Acting Governor's comments here – this is part of the reason why the Committee had held off acting on legislation of this kind because of the direct communication that we have had with the Trustees of the Board of MPLT that we did not get any confidences or assurances from them that it was achievable through legislation that is why we left the issue alone. This document that had come in with the attached legislation will be reviewed by me. I will call on the Chairman of the Marianas Public Trust and once again ask him whether or not they will entertain this type of legislation once it is enacted into law and that they will transfer the funds. This \$4.1 Million just for the members reminder will not enhance or increase 2010's Budget instead it will cover Fiscal Year 2009, although, we did not receive any communication directly from the Secretary of Finance nor the Governor's Office as to an actual shortfall – we are anticipating that they do have 60 days after the closure of the Fiscal Year for that notification to come in. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Are there any more statements under the Governor's Messages? Ready.

### **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

NONE

### **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

HSE. COMM. 16-122: (9/18/09) From the Speaker and the President of the Senate expressing congratulations to Assistant Secretary Anthony Babauta (DOI) on his senate confirmation and inviting Assistant Secretary Babauta to visit the CNMI to discuss issues of concern.

HSE. COMM. 16-123: (9/18/09) From the Speaker and the President of the Senate to the Governor regarding CHC reaching the state of crisis.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Proceed, Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Mr. Speaker, I have recently sent out a *Dear Colleague* letter hoping that it will be a part of the legislative record thereby appearing I guess the only way would be is for it to be on House Communication – I do not see it. I just wonder and if there is no objection in inputting that letter under House Communication...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: No, I will be held responsible for that – I guess I did not give the original over to the Clerk and I will do that so that it will be reflected on tomorrow's session and then we can discuss it tomorrow.

Representative Benavente: That is fine, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you for your understanding. On HSE. COMM. 16-122, it is a fairly straight forward and self-explanatory. The President and I learning of the confirmation of the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Interior, Mr. Anthony Babauta, we found it appropriate to invite him to the Commonwealth to meet with him at his earliest convenience. That being said October 1 has been set as the date that the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Babauta will be on island and we will be having a joint meeting with him with both the Senate and the House members on that date. The Chair will be issuing out a memorandum regarding this particular matter and of course more details will be forthcoming. On HSE. COMM. 16-123, again this communication is self-explanatory. Many of you joined us, the Presiding Officers in a joint meeting in the Senate Chamber regarding the issues that are very prevalent today at our Hospital we wanted to discuss and call the attention to the Governor. So this joint letter was to the Governor calling his attention to the prevailing situation and offering him the Legislative Branch's assistance for discussions on the issues. It is also my understanding and I commend the Committee on Health Education and Welfare (HEW) on its ongoing oversight hearings to look into the particulars of the conditions that is now in existence at the Commonwealth Health Center. If I am not mistaken, Mr. Chairman you have a Public Hearing tonight at the Garapan Elementary School – so for those of you who have time or would like to encourage your constituents to please let them know that the Public Hearing is at the Garapan Elementary School at six o'clock. We now move to Agenda Item X.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

NONE

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE NMI DELEGATE**

NONE

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-101: (9/18/09) From Public Auditor Mike Pai regarding the contract with Deloitte to conduct the Annual Single Audit for the CNMI for fiscal year ending 9/30/09.

*There were no discussions under this part of the Agenda.*

## OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

MISC. COMM. 16-82: (9/15/09) From Chairman Edward Manibusan (Youth Advisory Council) and Chairman Thomas J. Camacho (Juvenile Justice Task Force) writing in support of the passage of H. B. NO. 16-178.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, can you please take note of H. B. NO. 16-178 and see if it is on the Agenda and if we can take it up on the next session? I believe it is – it is on the Bill Calendar so please take note of this communication.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. C. R. NO. 16-114: Reporting on S. B. NO. 16-09, CS1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC § 553(k) to provide for a three percent (3%) simple interest rate for outstanding obligations of the Commonwealth; to amend 7 CMC § 4101 governing the award of prejudgment and post judgment interest against the Commonwealth; to amend 7 CMC § 101 concerning pre and post judgment interest generally; to codify a policy concerning the payment of tax rebates without penalties and interest; to amend 7 CMC § 2205 regarding the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth in the payment of money judgment; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass S. B. NO. 16-09, CS1, as amended by the Committee.*

S. C. R. NO. 16-115: Reporting on H. B. NO. 16-154, entitled, “To establish a Special Education Scholarship Program for students pursuing a post-graduate or post-baccalaureate degree in special education; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 16-154, as substituted by the Committee.*

S. C. R. NO. 16-116: Reporting on H. R. NO. 16-6, entitled, “Recognizing the need to assist the disabled citizens of our islands in their parking needs at the front of the Legislature”. *Your Committee on Health, Education and Welfare recommends that the House pass H. R. NO. 16-6, as amended by the Committee.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-114: Reporting on S. B. NO. 16-09, CS1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC § 553(k) to provide for a three percent (3%) simple interest rate for outstanding obligations of the Commonwealth; to amend 7 CMC § 4101 governing the award of prejudgment and post judgment interest against the Commonwealth; to amend 7 CMC § 101 concerning pre and post judgment interest generally; to codify a policy concerning the payment of tax rebates without penalties and interest; to amend 7 CMC § 2205 regarding the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth in the payment of money judgment; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-114: Reporting on S. B. NO. 16-09, CS1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC § 553(k) to provide for a three percent (3%) simple interest rate for outstanding obligations of the Commonwealth; to amend 7 CMC § 4101 governing the award of prejudgment and post judgment interest against the Commonwealth; to amend 7 CMC § 101 concerning pre and post judgment interest generally; to codify a policy concerning the payment of tax rebates without penalties and interest; to amend 7 CMC § 2205 regarding the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth in the payment of money judgment; and for other purposes.”

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-114 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Let me ask the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Yumul – do you have any comments? This is a recommendation by your Committee.

Representative Yumul: Thank you. This was a legislation that was sent down to us from the Senate when then Acting Secretary of Finance now the Lieutenant Governor Eloy Inos had recommended its passage and that the intent is to reduce interest on any unpaid balance of any indebtedness to the Commonwealth excluding toward obligations be at 3%. There were some concerns that certain judgments the Courts was left to decide as to what percentage was to be awarded so there were no real clear guidance. And then another issue on the sovereign immunity and the process to enforce any money judgment against the Commonwealth shall not be available to the Judicial Branch, but shall be solely through the appropriation enacted the Legislature another amendment. And finally all cases filed in the CNMI Superior Court after the effective date of this Act will apply to this provision – those that are currently pending will not. It is just a measure to reduce Government exposure to interest as a whole.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Okay, are there further discussions? Are we ready?

There being no further discussion on S. C. R. NO. 16-114 the motion to adopt was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-115: Reporting on H. B. NO. 16-154, entitled, “To establish a Special Education Scholarship Program for students pursuing a post-graduate or post-baccalaureate degree in special education; and for other purposes”.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-115: Reporting on H. B. NO. 16-154, entitled, “To establish a Special Education Scholarship Program for students pursuing a post-graduate or post-baccalaureate degree in special education; and for other purposes”.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-115 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Representative Ralph Torres, do you want to brief the members on this specific Report. I recognize, Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Mr. Speaker, can you ask him to highlight the substitute?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Ralph Torres, recognized.

Representative Ralph Torres: Mr. Speaker, can we take a short recess?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess

*The House recessed at 2:38 p.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 2:40 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to session. Floor Leader, recognized. Could you restate your motion?

Representative Benavente: Yes, just to clarify my motion there is a typo on the Agenda it should read H. B. No. 16-154, HS1 and that would appear on the Report itself – so my motion would be for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-115, reporting on H. B. No. 16-154, HS1.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-115: Reporting on H. B. NO. 16-154, HS1 entitled, “To establish a Special Education Scholarship Program for students pursuing a post-graduate or post-baccalaureate degree in special education; and for other purposes.”

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. That motion has been restated and seconded. Representative Quitugua, do you want to shed some light on this Committee Report?

Representative Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bill is very straight forward – the original bill which is being recommended which is Public Law 15-109 has the general word “Education” and I think the author wants to make sure that Special Education is considered under the general term “Education” – it is not a major issue, but the author wants to make sure that “Special Education” Major’s are considered under the word general word “Education”.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. Ready. I recognized Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: I fully understand Representative Quitugua’s explanation, but on the Committee Report cites basically the finding on the forth line on the third paragraph a simple amendment to the current law – so I need some clarification on the current law. So the current is exclusive “Special Education” or the current is only “General Education”?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: “General Education”. So I guess...

Representative Tebuteb: But may I ask then if the Committee considered what “Education” is?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Ralph Torres, recognized.

Representative Ralph Torres: During some of the deliberation we had with scholarship recipients they were given a different approach by the Scholarship Office because their specification on their Degree’s “Special Education” getting further scholarship and that was the discrepancy whether the “Special Education” falls under SPED Program includes the Special Education versus just Education – Physical Education and different other types of that falls under Education. And so the author just wants to make sure that the Special Education there is a clear line in the Scholarship Program that specifies if they want to further that Education into the Master’s Program.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Tebuteb, you still have the floor.

Representative Tebuteb: Maybe I will try to rephrase it and simplify it. The Scholarship Program allows for education but it does not allow for Special Education if that is what you are pursuing – is that the finding?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: In listening to Representative Quitugua, I think that although that discussion is in our interpretation and in some people's interpretation it does include. I think the author is attempting to make sure that Special Education is not excluded for in any interpretation by the Scholarship Office I guess – just to emphasize that.

Representative Tebuteb: I am still not clear with your answer. So is the Scholarship Office in awarding the scholarship if you are in Education and if you decide you want to be Special Education that you are not going to be awarded if you are in Special Education, but you will be awarded if you are in Education?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I think that is what he is attempting to do. To make sure that interpretation is clear. But let me recognize the author, Representative Reyes.

Representative Reyes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The language as it is right now is ambiguous so to speak and instead I proposed to have that specified to include Special Education Scholarships. Right now I am not aware of such being awarded for in the Education Field from a Scholarship on pursuing this Special Education. So this is just to put a straight forward language so that it would not be further confused and I am sure that the Scholarship Office also needs this direction themselves because it could be questionable. So the idea here is just to add Special Education scholarship recipients.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: When we get to the Bill Calendar...

Representative Tebuteb: No, because I am looking at the Committee Report and if those were considered and if comments from the Scholarship Office was included then the wording that seems to be implying that – that is what the Scholarship Office wants more clarification of and thus the suggestion for submitting this proposal for our consideration because I am still a little bit – I am looking at the Committee Findings and the intent of the legislation itself. So is that what I am getting from the Committee that the Scholarship Office is saying yes we need this provision in...now.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Ralph Torres, recognized.

Representative Ralph Torres: Mr. Speaker, the Scholarship Program – when you take a Master's Program and you further your education for example it states there like Elementary or Secondary Education you get a certain amount scholarship – if I am not mistaken that is where this program comes in and says do we extend that also as specified same with some of the other Nursing Programs. And so to include this Special Education Degree. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Quitugua, recognized.

Representative Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the intent of the bill is good for clarity so that the Scholarship Office will have a better direction. A lot of fields fall under Special Education – *Speech Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists* they all fall under Special Education. And if you look at Education in most colleges they have education in

Elementary, education in Secondary, you have Special Education, but in some instances they separate the two they have Education, Elementary, Secondary and then they have another category that says Special Education and it has *Speech Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists* and so forth. So I think this language is a much clearer language for the Scholarship Office. And for the information for the members there is no Education Scholarship Awarded yet under Public Law 15-109 because of funding situation. So I think the amendment is timely for the Scholarship Office. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. Is it clear?

Representative Tebuteb: When we get to the bill.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Alright, ready.

There being no further discussions on S. C. R. NO. 16-115 the motion to adopt was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-116: Reporting on H. R. NO. 16-6, entitled, “Recognizing the need to assist the disabled citizens of our islands in their parking needs at the front of the Legislature”.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-116: Reporting on H. R. NO. 16-6, entitled, “Recognizing the need to assist the disabled citizens of our islands in their parking needs at the front of the Legislature”.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-116 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Ready for the question.

There being no further discussions on S. C. R. NO. 16-116 the motion to adopt was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: This means that H. R. NO. 16-6 will now go onto the Resolution Calendar. Thank you. Short recess

*The House recessed at 2:50 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 3:02 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our session. We now move onto the Bill Calendar.

## **BILL CALENDAR**

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Before we move on. On H. J. R. No. 16-30, I was asked that rather than making that a Joint Resolution to amend it to be a House Resolution. So we will continue to put that

under the Resolution Calendar until the tomorrow and until the Clerk makes all the necessary amendments and arrangements for it. Okay. So we will take that up tomorrow. First Bill, I now recognized the Floor Leader.

Representative Benavente: Thank You, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 16-132, HD1.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-132, HD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY TO REGULATE TOUR OPERATORS AND TOUR GUIDES BY AMENDING 4 CMC § 2103; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of H. B. NO. 16-132, HD1 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Ready. Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to H. B. NO. 16-132, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative David M. Apatang	yes
Representative Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Joseph N. Camacho	absent (excused)
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	absent (excused)
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	absent (excused)
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (excused)
Representative Edward T. Salas	yes
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of sixteen “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-132, HD1 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 16-146, HS1.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-146, HS1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A VILLAGE AND AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEADING PROGRAM IN THE NORTHERN ISLANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of H. B. No. 16-146, HS1 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Ready. Clerk, please call the roll.



The Clerk called the roll on the motion to H. B. NO. 146, House Substitute 1 on First and Final Reading.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	no
Representative David M. Apatang	yes
Representative Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Joseph N. Camacho	absent (excused)
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	absent (excused)
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	absent (excused)
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (excused)
Representative Edward T. Salas	no
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

*(End of Tape 1, Side B)*  
*(Beginning of Tape 2, Side A)*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of fourteen “yes”, H. B. No. 16-146, HS1 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 16-235.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-235: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 2 CMC § 7113(E)(3) REGARDING THE ERECTION OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES USED FOR PUBLIC EVENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of H. B. No. 16-235 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Short recess.

*The House recessed at 3:08 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 3:09 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to session. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Representative Benavente: Without objection I would like to withdraw my motion.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-235 has been withdrawn. Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 16-219, HD1.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-219, HD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO DESIGNATE LAU LAU BAY AS A BOAT LAUNCHING SITE TO FACILITATE QUICKER RESPONSE TIMES FOR EMERGENCIES LOCATED ON THE EASTERN COASTLINE OF SAIPAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of H. B. NO. 16-219, HD1 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Representative Ralph Torres, recognized.

Representative Ralph Torres: For H. B. NO. 16-219, I would like to ask Representative Santos if she can elaborate last night's hearing – I know she has some questions regarding this bill with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Fund having the road project down at the Lau Lau and I would like to ask her if she could just elaborate a little bit more about it. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: What does the ARRA funds have to do with designated?

Representative Ralph Torres: The hearing itself is regarding the road improvement all the way in to where the designating Lau Lau ramp is.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let me just accommodate the request and have Representative Santos elaborate.

Representative Santos: Sure, no problem. The Division of Environmental Quality hosted a community meeting forum last night over at the Kagman Community Center to update the residents of their proposed improvement of the road there. They were able to secure funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the tune of \$3 Million to pave it from the entrance on the San Vicente side up until the Dive site. We were under the impression initially that it was going to go all the way up through *Gapgap Road* connecting it to Kagman, but it is not. So I did apprise them of this pending legislation in the House and it should not be a problem – if anything it would be more helpful.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Representative Salas, recognized.

Representative Salas: I was going to say that I think this also addresses the concerns earlier raised by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay. Representative Apatang, recognized.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been an ongoing discussion since way back with the Coastal Resources Management (CRM) because of the washout from the road on top going down to the bay area at Lau Lau. We asked that they look for funding to pave the road down that way and evidently it has taken this long to get this thing going. But since Mr. Jack Diaz was there this has been an issue and finally it is coming around. We have also tried to get this place designated as a launching area back in the Twelfth Legislature and I think it is about time that we act on this – some of our people need some launching pad on the back side of the island. Thank you.

Representative Salas: Mr. Speaker, just to further that I believe that there has been some drowning incidences in that area and without the launching pad it took a long time for the help or assistance to come and I think this is something that is going to really benefit the area.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Representative Benavente, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Mr. Speaker, there has been other bills that has actually been discussed in previous session and after discussing it we decided to defer action in this particular bill if I remember correctly as well as others. So I guess for the purpose of having something in the record and in this particular session when we did pass this legislation my comments would be that discussions on this legislation should appear on previous journals just for the benefit of those who want to look back at the records – because I remembered commenting on this legislation already and I just do not want to repeat myself. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Ready for the question, Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to H. B. NO. 16-219, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	absent (during voting)
Representative David M. Apatang	yes
Representative Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Joseph N. Camacho	absent (excused)
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	absent (excused)
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	absent (excused)
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (excused)
Representative Edward T. Salas	yes
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of fifteen “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-219, HD1 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Let me say that aside from the legislation itself I think the information that came forward about the project Lau Lau Bay being undertaken by DEQ I think the Agency should be commended for securing the funding to what is a badly needed ecological issue on pollution in our lagoon. For decades this area has been very polluted and it is not polluted because people polluted it – it is because of upland sedimentation issue. The resources there have been pressured not so much by fishing pressures but by runoff and sedimentation issues and we commend DEQ for taking this particular project on and securing funding hopefully we would see completion to this projection in the next two to three years. Okay, with that Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading S. B. NO. 16-23.

The motion was seconded.

S. B. NO. 16-23: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG RESIDENT WORKERS BY ENCOURAGING TO WORK UNDER CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THAT PAY THE EMPLOYEES UNDER SUCH CONTRACTS AT LEAST THE PREVAILING U.S. MINIMUM WAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of S. B. NO. 16-23 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, if I may can we go back to the legislation. I just wanted to for clarification.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are under discussion.

Representative Yumul: On page 3, line 7 through 9, *(d) For the purpose of this section, "prevailing U.S. federal minimum wage" means the wage required by law to be paid to employees working within any state of the United States of America*". So this pertains to minimum wage that is Stateside not the Federal Minimum Wage that is gradually increasing here.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Babauta, recognized.

Representative Babauta: Mr. Speaker, can we have the Legal Counsel look at this provision. This is contrary to the CNMI US Minimum Wage.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

*The House recessed at 3:19 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 3:20 p.m.*

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to session. Ready, Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to S. B. NO. 16-23 on First and Final Reading.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	absent (during voting)
Representative David M. Apatang	yes
Representative Oscar M. Babauta	no
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Joseph N. Camacho	absent (excused)
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	absent (excused)
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	absent (excused)
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes

Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (excused)
Representative Edward T. Salas	yes
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of fourteen “yes”, S. B. No. 16-23 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Representative Salas, recognized.

Representative Salas: Mr. Speaker, the technical is instead of “*security*” I believe the word should be “*services*”.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Alright, Clerk could you make those technical changes. Floor Leader, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Speaker. I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 16-222.

The motion is seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-222: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL PUBLIC LAW 15-42 IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is for the passage of H. B. NO. 16-222 and has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Representative Benavente, can you just brief us for one minute the purpose of this bill.

Representative Benavente: My comments, Mr. Speaker, would also appear on the discussion on the Standing Committee Report itself. This is a legislation that was passed and became law during the last Legislature. As you know we have tried to implement this and when you appointed me as Chairman of this Taskforce I did attempt to organize, but knowing it just cannot work because this is more of an Administrative rather than a Legislative function. I went ahead on my own and introduced this bill to repeal this and allow the Taskforce that is already created within the Administration suppose to and as it should be that we repeal this legislation that creates this Taskforce within the Legislative Branch.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. Basically what you are trying to do is to eliminate another layer of Bureaucracy. Correct. Ready, Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to H. B. NO. 16-222 on First and Final Reading.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative David M. Apatang	yes
Representative Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Joseph N. Camacho	absent (excused)
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	absent (excused)

Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	absent (excused)
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (excused)
Representative Edward T. Salas	yes
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of sixteen “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-222 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. That would be it for bills. Representative Stanley Torres, recognized.

Representative Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, previously I whispered to the Floor Leader to make a recall of a legislation, if I may be permitted to. I request that my House Bill No. 16-268 be recalled for tomorrow’s action.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I believe was assigned to JGO. Chairwoman...

Representative Santos: It is out for comments.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: It is out for comments. Well we can take up the issue tomorrow and if you would like to discuss it and deliberate and debate on it we can do that tomorrow. Okay. Again I would like to remind everyone to be here by at least 10:30 a.m. so that we can receive the folks from ESGR and some of the members of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Unit to host them tomorrow at a Joint Resolution presentation and host them for lunch before we go into session at one o’clock.

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

NONE

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Ralph Torres, do you want to remind your members about the Public Hearing tonight?

Representative Ralph Torres: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee is having a Public Hearing tonight regarding Public Health issues. If you know of anyone who would like to come in and here some of the concerns that hopefully we would be getting comments regarding Public Health issues. It will be at six o’clock at the Garapan Elementary School. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. With that I will entertain a motion for adjournment.

## ADJOURNMENT

Acting Floor Leader Diego T. Benavente moved to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 3:29 p.m., subject to the Call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B. Muña, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives

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## APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

**SECOND APPEARANCE:**

H. L. B. NO. 16-44: A Local Bill Appropriation Bill for An Act for the First Senatorial District to appropriate \$10,000.00 from the local license fees collected from pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the First Senatorial District for the Rota Liaison Office; and for other purposes. (Rep. Victor B. Hocog)

H. L. B. NO. 16-45: A Local Bill for an Act to name an existing unnamed road; and for other purposes. (Rep. Joseph C. Reyes)

**THIRD APPEARANCE:** NONE