
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**



House Journal
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

Seventh Day

Friday, October 3, 2008

The House of Representatives of the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Seventh Day, Second Regular Session on Friday, October 3, 2008, at 10:11 a.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 nineteen members were present.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

NONE

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. No. 16-172: A Bill for an Act to establish an Economic Stimulus Investment program; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Joseph C. Reyes and one other

Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. No. 16-173: A Bill for an Act to enact a new Chapter 8 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres and one other

Referred to: Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare

H. B. No. 16-174: A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact 1 CMC § 8248(b), as amended by public law 15-81, to provide for flexibility, parity and accountability in the compensation paid to licensed professionals employed by the commonwealth government in order to attract and retain qualified and dedicated professionals to serve the needs of the commonwealth; to repeal 1 CMC § 1272; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Arnold I. Palacios

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Are there any other bills for introduction? Ready. We go down to agenda item four.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Ralph Torres.

Representative Ralph Torres: I would like to ask the members who would like to sign off on H. B. NO. 16-173 it will be passed around. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: This is on H. B. NO. 16-173. Okay.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

NONE

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 16-212: (10/2/08) Certification of salary cap waiver for Mr. Mariano Taitano.

There was no discussion under this item of the Agenda.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 16-71: (9/22/08) Informing the House that the Senate overrode the Governor's veto of H. B. NO. 16-77, HS1, HD6, SD1 (CUC Private Sector Partnership Act) on September 18, 2008. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 16-72: (9/22/08) Returning H. B. NO. 16-144 (Youth Congress Act Amendment), which was passed by the Senate without amendment on September 18, 2008. [Will go to Governor]

SEN. COMM. 16-73: (9/22/08) Returning H. C. R. NO. 16-2 (Approving FY'09 Revenues and Resources), which was adopted by the Senate without amendment on September 18, 2008. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 16-74: (9/22/08) Returning H. J. R. NO. 16-13 (Opposing the creation of a Northern Islands National Monument), which was adopted by the Senate without amendment on September 18, 2008. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 16-75: (9/22/08) Transmitting S. L. I. NO. 16-2, entitled, "To propose a constitutional amendment to explicitly state that qualified retirees may be reemployed as classroom teacher, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals without loss of retirement benefits, regardless of the individual's occupation prior to retirement, to eliminate the time limitation on such reemployment, and to clarify that the term 'medical professionals' includes dentists, dental lab technicians, dental assistants, medical lab technicians, medical assistants, therapists, veterinarians, animal health officer or equivalent, and the like," which was passed by the Senate without amendment on September 18, 2008. [For action] *Referred to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.*

SEN. COMM. 16-76: (9/23/08) Transmitting S. J. R. NO. 16-6, entitled, "To request that President George W. Bush, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the

Interior, the Secretary of Labor and the United States Attorney General ensure that regulations implementing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 include China and Russia in the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands visa waiver program,” which was adopted by the Senate on September 18, 2008. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 16-77: (9/23/08) Returning H. B. NO. 16-108 (To restrict the application of disaster emergencies), which was passed by the Senate with amendments on September 18, 2008, in the form of **H. B. No. 16-108, SD1**. [*For action on Senate amendment*]

SEN. COMM. 16-78: (10/2/08) Informing the House that the Senate recalled S. J. R. NO. 16-6. (See SEN. COMM. 16-76)

SEN. COMM. 16-79: (10/2/08) Transmitting S. B. NO. 16-34, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC § 6103(a) of the election law; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on October 2, 2008. [For Action] *Referred to the Committee on Judiciary Government and Operations.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Without objection, we will go back to Introduction of Resolutions. Representative Hofschneider, recognized.

Representative Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an unnumbered House Joint Resolution. To request that the Northern Marianas College refrain from transferring the KRNM public radio station license outside of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. We are back to agenda item 6, Representative Benavente, recognized.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On SEN. COMM. 16-76, we discussed this resolution yesterday and we did receive a communication in which the Senate was recalling the joint resolution. I just wondered what action if any necessary for us to allow the recall, question to you or the Floor Leader?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind unless there is any objection from the members, we should honor the Senate to recall Senate Joint Resolution 16-6.

There was no objection to accept the SEN. COMM. 16-76 recalling Senate Joint Resolution 16-6.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. We passed a House Joint Resolution yesterday on this particular issue. Being no objection, we will allow for the recall. Are there any other comments on Senate Communications? So we may save some time on SEN. COMM. 16-75, let me assign that to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, Chairman and Clerk, please take note. SEN. COMM. 16-79, I am going to assign that to the Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations, Chair and Clerk please take note. Ready.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

HSE. COMM. 16-71: (9/22/08) From Representative Stanley Torres to the Presiding Officers of the 16th Legislature regarding Mr. Harry Blalock's comments in a September 22, 2008 radio commentary "Food for Thought."

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Stanley Torres.

Representative Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, before I touch on the House Communication, I would like to say a few words this is different I want to bring up. The concern that I heard yesterday, that there is a doctor, I assume he is a medical doctor, who is working at our CHC (Commonwealth Health Center) or applying for a job. I am not sure which hospital that he is a trouble medical doctor from Guam. The Guam Medical Professional Licensing is looking into disbaring him from medical practice. I heard that he is some where around Saipan that might be looking for a job. I asked that you assign somebody to look into the issue. We do not want to hire a troublemaker doctor from Guam.

Speaker Arnold Torres: Thank you. Representative Ralph Torres, could you look into at that. Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, I would like to perhaps request that the appropriate committee on finance keeps a very close monitoring of the investment of the Retirement Fund, because of the obvious financial problems or crisis on the Wall Street. As we all know, even at a nominal return from the investment portfolios of the Retirement Fund they were barely making 50% of the payroll cost on a bi-monthly basis. The crisis has aggravated, obviously, the returns of those investments or perhaps also we do not know whether we have in fact, lost completely, certain investments and we need to be apprised on the situations of our investments and the revenue derived from those investments to meet the retirees' pension. It is critical, because we are far behind as an employer in terms of the employer contributions to be remitted, if not been remitted to the Retirement Fund to a tune of now \$160 to \$180 million. That is going to put an additional stress on the Retirement Fund to meet the payroll obligations. And this is a bigger crisis potentially losing a good portion of the investment and we need to be ready and apprised on what the situation is with the obligations of the Retirement Fund to those retirees', thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Floor Leader Camacho.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to Representative Hofschneider, I did talk to Richard Villagomez, who is the Investment Director at Retirement. And he is on phone with the Money Managers about seven or eight hours a day communicating on the stock market and how it is affecting the Retirement's investment. They are monitoring that very closely.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: On this particular issue perhaps the Acting Chairman of Ways and Means could get together with you and the Chairman of the Retirement Fund or those Executive Director. Thank you for raising that issue Representative Hofschneider. Representative Stanley Torres I believe you said you have two issues, you are recognized.

Representative Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, if anybody wants to go ahead I will take the last part of the House Communication.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Tebuteb: I believe, Representative Stanley Torres, may be referring to HSE. COMM. 16-71. I would like to touch a little bit on this, one if there is anything that the Speaker or this body can do relative to HSE. COMM. 16-71 where we have an understanding that everybody is entitled to their own opinions. We have heard a lot of negative comments specifically on Harry Blalock's "Food for Thought". As indicated in the communication a bunch of meatheads and I believe it was more like "a bunch of honorable meatheads" I think the moronic word here is more in the resolution that this body submitted to the public or to the appropriate agencies US federal agencies more on the moronic word. We all know that we have seen in our history we have been called by a lot of our visitors to the island foreigners in particular, beginning with the Spanish. In the written history we were called, the "La Drones", the thieves. In this particular issue with the proposed monument, we were under the skirts of being labeled "thieves". We have heard negative comments such as "forces of evil" "Island of Abusers" maybe even promoting "slavery" suggested in other international or national articles and the media. I guess my issue here Mr. Speaker and members is that does our community deserve this again labeling and understanding that everybody is entitled to their opinion but labeling again a reminder of our visitors and we might want to call them guests telling us again "La Drones". Who are the "La Drones" in this particular issue? The Germans came and attempted to do that to economic development by resorting to Copra for a few short years. When the Japanese came and I remember my dad saying, that he had a fifth grade education there was segregation separation of the educational institution during the Japanese period. So now, we have another skirt that we are embodied under. This skirt is now calling us, "honorable meatheads" I am not a perfect English speaker, but even suggesting that we are "thieves" because we should give away pristine resources. Those are in my opinion, etched in the words expressed by this radio manager between those words. So it is a reminder to all of us, "thieves" "morons" "honorable meatheads". If you are not insulted, then maybe the opinion expressed is correct. Maybe Mr. Speaker, if this opinion expressed in the radio station is being supported by the owners, maybe we should request the appropriate committee if the FCC also is aware with this. I am sure they may be aware, so what do we do, are we honored with it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker that is it for now.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb, for sharing your thoughts on the issue. I know that editorial in the radio a couple of weeks ago, is a little bit hurtful and some of us felt that it kind of went over the line and felt insulted by the editorial on the radio station. I also read the editorial and I think that the opinion rendered was based on actually and unfortunately, the manager of the radio station did not really have a complete understanding of the sentiments that was aired in that meeting with, Tom Allen on this particular issue of the marine monument. So I guess it has been suggested that perhaps some of us need to try and avail ourselves to sit down and see if we can get on the talk show. I leave that open to every member if they feel necessary to do it you are, certainly, are welcome to see if you can arrange to explain your position at any time. But thank you, for bringing that up. Representative Stanley Torres, again you still have the floor.

Representative Stanley Torres: I yield to my good colleague, Representative Babauta.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Let me recognize, Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more with your comment in respect to the talk show. I would assume that because of the absence of maybe the elected officials or elected members of this House, not an idle of the talk show that probably would want to convince Mr. Blalock, that we are not “meatheads”. Otherwise, I understand from Representative Torres, that he is writing a letter to the principle owners of 101 or whatever the station is called. And I would recommend that the good Representative shares his letter and I am willing to cosign that letter expressing our grief or our sentiments with respect to those obvious words that were expressed on the air and consumed by the general public. So the bottom line I am sure that 100% of us in here are all Roman Catholics and we believe in the teachings of our elders and that of the bible to be respectful in one sense. But going beyond those teaching and I wonder where Mr. Blalock is coming from, because I remembered that he used to work for the former KSAI Radio Station, which in fact, deals with religious teaching programs. I would assume that he is active in the community being a member of both the Rotary and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce that would probably change his thought of the society in these islands. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Representative Sablan, do you want to share your thoughts on this. Let us not get too bugged down on this.

Representative Sablan: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been, called, far worse things during my term as a freshman legislator in this body. And I would submit to the members very respectfully, that if we are insulted by the things that people call us, which we should expect, by the way, as elected officials that is the nature of the job. If we are insulted by these things, perhaps, that should give us pause, to ask why. Perhaps we should ask if there might be merit to the criticisms that we get. And if at the end of the day we can honestly conclude, that there is no merit then there should be no reason for insult. Yes, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, have been, called terrible things, thieves, criminals, one of our black eyes by the way, one of the criticisms that has been leveled, against this government against our people is, that we are xenophobic. In other words, that we have this irrational fear of outsiders and that we call people like, Mr. Blalock who has lived in the Commonwealth for over a decade who is a US citizen like the rest of us call him an outsider. Another criticism that we have received is, our intolerance of free speech. We have labeled people who have come out and spoken against public corruption, *persona non grata*, shame on this government for that. Another criticism is that we are petty and vindictive. And here we are talking about writing letters to the employer of another one of our constituents for criticizing us, shame on us for that. We dig our own graves and we give credence to these criticisms when we do things like that. Mr. Blalock has always invited elected officials to come onto his show and to present their own views on various issues of the day. I am going on his show on Tuesday, and I would welcome anyone of the members here to come on to the show. If you want to clear the record in the spirit of Christian forgiveness, and extend that olive branch and explain your side of the story, I am sure, Mr. Blalock, will welcome that. And I would be happy to talk to anybody after this session about making those arrangements on Tuesday at seven o'clock. Thank you.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been raising up my hands to comment on the Retirement Fund issue, if I may.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Proceed.

Representative Quitugua: There are two pension obligation bonds introduced in the House, and I encourage the committee or committees who have those bonds to please start work on that so that we can assist the Retirement Fund. Thank you.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: So noted. May I recognize, Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you for recognizing me even though I did not raise my hand. But on HSE. COMM. 16-71, when the creator made heaven and earth he infused it with living things. And I really do not know whether Harry is a menu of things to eat, I do not know who is this guy. So I like to reserve my comments until I find out more about, who is Harry Blalock, whether he is another living thing not the same as us, or a menu in the restaurant, I do not know him. So I do not know whether he is human or another living thing. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hofschneider, recognized.

Representative Hofschneider: The price for oil per barrel is \$94.00 this morning, and a few months back when it hit \$153.00 so much energy construction and destruction energy focused to try and get us out of this hardship. And you can see when constructive energies are put together it accomplishes something and when you see destructive efforts, it leaves us and gets us no where. Likewise, criticism, opinions, whether they are constructive or destructive is a nature of humans. Animals do not have opinions it is either they bite you or they cuddle you. Humans are the intrigue of this earth, and to focus our energies on scathing criticisms, and opinions only results in destructive consequences. Rather than encountering Mr. Blalock for his scathing opinions, and criticisms I still await a legislation or a constitutional amendment to reserve the very same area that PEW is interested if we mean that we can do it ourselves, I still await...*(End of tape 1 side A)* arguments encountering PEW'S proposal that we can do this ourselves. We can create a marine sanctuary, a marine monument our way not PEW'S way, and that would be the most constructive evidence in work that we can give Mr. Blalock or PEW or those proponents. But until such time, that this body claims that we can do it, until such time that we actually take action, people like Harry Blalock is just one, but people look at us as being duplicitous. On one hand, we claim that we can do, we do not do it, have not yet done it. On the other hand says PEW is not good and we do not have a better proposal. So it is by way of our action, Mr. Speaker, and we do not even have to say a single word in opposition to the critics. But we can quiet them with a single action of introducing a constitutional amendment to reserve that area and put a rest to this that we have done it our way not their way. It has come to us, versus them, and simply because no one either side has really articulated the whys. You are opposing it, why. You are in support of it, why. Insufficient public knowledge is the culprit of the fallout and generates confused criticism unwarranted remarks as it may appear, moronic, absence of action by this body constitutes an action. And this is why people like the media provoke and conclude remarks and assessments and opinions that may not rub us the way we want it. So, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Natural Resources can put a rest to this. I will support an initiative that would designate a sanctuary still consistent with the general concept of PEW. If our way is the argument and not their way that rubs us, then let us do something, action, like I said, speaks louder than one thousand tapes recording. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Stanley Torres, do you want to continue to yield.

Representative Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make Blalock's issue my last for closing.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, in the past I have seen Mr. Blalock come up here almost on a daily basis and he goes around to almost every member. In fact, I know he has visited a certain member almost on a daily basis as far as what is happening up here. I do not think it is necessary that we should go down to his radio station and accommodate him. He is a news man, a radio man, if he has concerns the door is open back here just like Marianas Variety, the Saipan Tribune, and everybody else. He can always come up here, sit down with us, with every member if he wants to, and air his concerns. KSPN is up here every session what is stopping him from coming up here to air his concerns. If he has concerns and has something for us that he wants us to do, he should come up here and air his concerns. Let us stop all these crap. Let us stop going to daddy and crying on his shoulder. We are all members of this Sixteenth Legislature we are here to do our job. And if we are just going to listen to Harry every Friday, which I do not actually particularly care about his Food for Thoughts, it is useless. If you go down there and cry to Uncle Dave and Uncle Harry every Tuesday, you can actually ask Uncle Harry and Uncle Dave to come up here and sit down and listen to our session. Now, if he wants us to do something let him come up draft up a bill give it somebody or write down a recommendation whether he wants us to privatize CUC or if he wants to buy, CUC and we will look at it. You know if he is going to sit down there, and criticize us and call us names, and all that, come on, this is not the American way. Americans are supposed to be peaceful people, that is why a lot people are migrating to the US because of its democracy, a peaceful nation, this is America. Although, some of us, are being denied our rights like us veterans. And I just wrote a letter the other day to Delegate Bordallo from Guam seeking help to help the veterans here, because some people in the United States think that we are foreign countries. Where have they been? We have been US citizens for the longest time and they still think we are a foreign country. So if you are going down there every Tuesday to talk to Harry, please invite him to come up here. Nobody is stopping him our doors are open. Come up here, and sit down with us and talk to us and tell us what he wants us to do. I think we are trying our best for what we have. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I am going to wrap this up and Representative Benavente you will be the last before Representative Stanley Torres. Proceed Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to defer statement made by Representative Hofschneider that the argument that we can do it ourselves is just one of the many arguments that all of us who stood in opposition of the PEW Monument. And all of us I mean the Governor the Mayors the Presiding officers and the majority members of both the House and Senate have said it is just one of the arguments. We cannot be introducing a initiative to amend the constitution to create a monument in the EEZ knowing full well the courts have made the decision that the federal government has ownership of the lands in the EEZ. In my statements in support of the opposition of the joint resolution, that was adopted opposing the monument and I said that, we understand that part. What is also true, like every other coastal state and every island state and island territory, have rights to at least, Mr. Speaker, and I say, rights to at least three miles from the high water mark in. Three miles in those three islands in the waters around those islands in the North being proposed for the monument are substantial resources that we would be able to control once congress

authorizes or grants us that right, not that privilege but that right that we have. Once again, those are one of many arguments the other argument of the fact that by creating this monument it limits the peoples way to access those islands that we own. Yes, we already declared them as under our constitution sanctuary islands but it is still our islands and at anytime we want to change that and access those islands I think it should be our decision if we should be allowed to access those islands. There are many arguments that has been pointed out in our opposition and I believe that we taken enough action said enough things taken enough stance to point out the facts and make our arguments in our opposition of the monument. I do not think that we are not doing our jobs in making that clear. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Stanley Torres, you can have the last say on this.

Representative Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, and members, I would like to share a little of what I know about Harry Blalock. When he first came here a decade ago to manage the KSAI radio station is a semi-religious radio station I believe, he worked there for about ten years. I saw him several times attending mass at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, so I believe he is a very good Christian person now, knowing his attitude, I consider him as a friend. Sometime in the Thirteenth Legislature, Mr. Blalock came up to me personally lobbying me to go against the extension of the FarEast Broadcasting Station, at Marpi because he was not satisfied with what his former employer did being a manager for a private radio station at the time KCNM. Lobbying against the lease extension for the FarEast Broadcasting at Marpi not to renew due to the fact that, the FarEast Broadcasting's sponsor or the owners decided not to give him the generators that he knows that was installed at the KSAI down in Susupe. He took that as his personal interest, demanding that the generator at the time KSAI was transferred to somewhere in Thailand that was still under the FarEast Broadcasting Global Network. Knowing that attitude, you know, Mr. Blalock, if he does not get things his way, he does not get what he wants he turns around from you and follow you would continue to follow and try to destroy. Even if he cannot walk, he will crawl with his magnifying glass and keep on tracing your footsteps that is what I know of Harry Blalock. Yes, I am going to send a copy of that letter HSE. COMM. 16-71 to the owner of KCNM and KZNM to the family of Popp they are all reside on Guam and see what they decide about Mr. Harry Blalock. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. I am going to give you Representative Reyes, I apologize but we really need to move on.

Representative Reyes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we have discussed already the communication very lengthy. I would like to recommend, Mr. Speaker, for your assignment perhaps to JGO to review and look at Mr. Blalock's activity. Whether it is permissible under federal rules and regulations or statutes with the Federal Communication Commission, so that would probably clear the air whether Mr. Blalock is permitted or not permitted, appropriate or not appropriate I think that is the best place to go to begin with.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Again, criticism is something that we must accept and even embrace. We are, elected officials and we cannot be so sensitive to criticism no matter how in some instances spiteful. But I am glad that a lot of us have exhaled ourselves on that. I want to move on to the next Agenda Item 8. Ready.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUD. BR. COMM. 16-7: (9/10/08) Certification of vacant position for a Law Clerk in the Superior Court.

There was no discussion under this item of the Agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

WASH. REP. COMM. 16-6: (9/11/08) Urging the Legislature to continue to provide funds for the Office for the 1st Quarter of the new fiscal year until in closes on January 2, 2008.

There was no discussion under this item of the Agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-49: (9/17/08) From DVAM Chair Juan L. Aguon to Representative Santos extending an invitation to a presentation at the AMC on October 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-50: (9/9/08) From DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario, Jr., to Representative Tebuteb in response to the inquiry on the OPA's recommendations.

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-51: From CPUC Chair Viola Alepuyo with regards to hiring consultants and attaching Georgetown Consulting Group and Harry Boertzel Contracts.

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-52: (9/19/08) From Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, PSS, to the Director of Finance regarding the transfer of money owed to PSS for payroll.

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-53: (9/29/08) From NMC President Carmen Fernandez, requesting for an extension to submit the NMC's annual report to the legislature.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Babauta, recognized.

Representative Babauta: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairman for requesting DPL with respect to those issues that came into the Committee on Natural Resources. However, I failed to understand more so on MISC. COMM. 16-50. I would hope that the Chairman would further request additional documents pertaining to those results of the settlement as it appears in the letter from the Department Public Lands. And more so, Mr. Speaker, should S. B. No. 16-42 arrive to the House, I would strongly recommend that this communication and other materials relevant to the reconstitution of the Board of Public Lands be examined carefully and maybe from there the Committee would make a determination whether or not to amend that Senate Bill and further approve it. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Yes, I read in the paper, and I heard that the Senate had passed a legislation to reorganize Public Lands. Whether we will call it Marianas Public Authority or DPL,

certainly, that legislation requires that we give it much scrutiny as we can so that we do not continue to go back and forth on this issue with this agency. Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: While, we are on that subject, Mr. Speaker thank you, Representative Babauta. I am in the process of formulating a letter to the DPL Secretary, to request for the fiscal outlook of the Department. In particular, the revenues, expenditures, and things of that nature because of other legislations and measures that is with the Committee. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. I note on DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-49, a letter from Mr. John L. Aguon to Representative Santos. Representative Santos, could you elaborate what DVAM is?

Representative Santos: DVAM, stands for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is the entire month of October. There will be several activities throughout the month beginning this week. There will have several presentations and one is by a Ms. Mitchell from Oregon, over at the American Memorial Park. I am not sure if they already had their vigil for the men that are also coming up, if it had not already happened yet. I encourage everyone to come join us. I have been with DVAM for the last four years and this is still an issue within our community, and I think it is important that we make ourselves present and that we are serious about combating this issue especially when it involves children. I have seen quite dramatic and traumatic cases as a prosecutor in the past and it is something that we really need to look into and empower our victims.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Would you be so kind as to provide maybe if you can get a schedule of events of the symposiums or presentations?

Representative Santos: I will forward that to the members as they become available to me.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you, very much. I think this is an issue that each member ought to concern himself or herself with. Are there any more comments on Agenda Item 10? Representative Hofschneider, recognized.

Representative Hofschneider: On DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-52, does anyone know the reason for this, and in fact has been met?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I believe it has been met. I think it is the usual tardiness or lateness of the remitting of these funds that the Department of Finance have seem to institutionalize over a decade in late payments to the PSS's (Public School System) payroll and even to the Retirement Fund. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: On the same communication, DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-52. Are there other agencies that perhaps the Ways and Means Committee or any of the other members would know that have experienced the same delay on the transfer of allotments?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I am going to ask the Committee on Ways and Means to try to look into this particular issue on DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 16-52.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

MISC. COMM. 16-46: (8/26/08) From Acting Deputy Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech regarding financial assistance to improve the electrical power system and regarding policies on the federalization of immigration.

MISC. COMM. 16-47: (9/26/08) From SCC President James Arenovski opposing an override action of the legislature on the Governor's veto of H. B. NO. 16-77.

MISC. COMM. 16-48: (9/22/08) From LB Director Jack Omar providing a copy of the certified election result for NMC to the 11th Youth Congress.

MISC. COMM. 16-49: (9/22/08) From Ms. Rose Ada-Hocog, Secretary for NMI Indigenous Descent for Self Government and Indigenous Rights urging the legislature to support the lawsuit filed by the administration challenging certain provisions of U.S. Public Law 110-229.

MISC. COMM. 16-50: (9/30/08) From Mr. Allen Tom, National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Island Region providing a copy of the Press Release on the series of Open House on potential marine conservation areas.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Please take note on MISC. COMM. 16-50, from Mr. Allen Tom. I believe a lot of us were here to listen and to discuss the issue of the Marine Monument when he was here, about two weeks ago. He had forward me a schedule of series of open house or community meetings that NOAA is conducting in the Pacific Insular Areas regarding this issue so please take note of that schedule and I hope that you can participate in one of these meetings.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. C. R. No. 16-37: Reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-5**, entitled: "To amend section 4 of Article X of Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands." *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House file the legislative initiative.*

S. C. R. No. 16-38: Reporting on **H. B. No. 16-100**, entitled, "To designate land parcel 018-G-03 in Kagman as a public park to be known as The Kagman Arboretum & Community Park; and for other purposes." *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House file the bill.*

S. C. R. No. 16-39: Reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-4**, entitled, "To amend Article XII, Section 3 of Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to change the term permitted for transfer of a leasehold interest in private lands." *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the full membership of the House shall decide upon House Legislative No. 16-4 in the form of Committee Draft 1.*

S. C. R. No. 16-40: Reporting on **H. B. No. 16-60**, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC § 2407 and to repeal 9 CMC § 2408, as enacted by Public Law 15-25; and for other purposes. *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*

S. C. R. No. 16-41: Reporting on **H. B. No. 16-66**, entitled, “To amend 3 CMC § 1316(m) to provide the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College with full autonomy in hiring and retaining the president of the college; and for other purposes” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*

S. C. R. No. 16-42: Reporting on **H. B. No. 16-126**, entitled, “To establish a population-based cancer registry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*

S. C. R. No. 16-43: Reporting on **H. B. No. 16-135**, entitled, “To establish a Commonwealth Autism Commission to develop a state plan to guide services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*

S. C. R. No. 16-44: Reporting on **H. B. No. 16-145**, “To mandate the Commonwealth Government to prioritize and pay the retirement employer contributions of government employees who are eligible to retire; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill with amendments.*

S. C. R. No. 16-45: Reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-9**, entitled, “To amend Article XV, section 1(c) and (e) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends that the House file the initiative.*

Joint Cmte. Report 16-1: Report of the House Standing Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations (US & FA) and the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies on the Governor’s request for funding to pursue a lawsuit against the Federal Government.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt, S. C. R. NO. 16-37, reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-5**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. No. 16-37: Reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-5**, entitled: “To amend section 4 of Article X of Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House file the legislative initiative.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready?

The motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 16-37 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-38 reporting on **H. B. No. 16-100**,

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-38: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-100**, entitled, “To designate land parcel 018-G-03 in Kagman as a public park to be known as The Kagman Arboretum & Community Park; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House file the bill.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill has been introduced and resurrected for the last four legislatures and only to find out the reason for the opposition that there was a soil and water conservation agreement that was signed during Froilan Tenorio’s Administration. That designated this proposed arboretum community part under the bill that I introduced includes that parcel and have spent to date, over \$5 million. Now to proceed with the legislation designating the parcel of land to be a community part would constitute reimbursing the Federal Government Soil and Water Conservation for the total amount already spent. In fact, a lot of the infrastructures are already in place in the area for the last four years. And so, Mr. Speaker, rather than to pursue the park which is critical in Kagman, but there are also alternatives to a comprehensive singular park and the alternative would be pocket parks. And Soil and Water Conservation is more than willing to assist the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Legislature to pursue that concept and also take a look at and working with Public Lands to designate pocket parks. So I welcome all interested parties to really come and join and look at how we can fulfill the needs of the Kagman Community. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just not certain if we should go ahead and continue to discuss the proposed legislation and whether we should go ahead and allow the bill to go to the Bill Calendar where we can further discuss.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: The recommendation is to file the legislation. I think that the author’s recommendation on this particular is appropriate.

Representative Benavente: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I did not catch that. I yield.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Are there any further discussions? Ready.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-38 has been carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 16-39 reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-4**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. No. 16-39: Reporting on **H. L. I. No. 16-4**, entitled, “To amend Article XII, Section 3 of Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to change the term permitted for transfer of a leasehold interest in private lands.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the full membership of the House shall decide upon House Legislative No. 16-4 in the form of Committee Draft 1.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion? Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Just a clarification, Mr. Speaker. The committee’s recommendation is that the full membership of the House should decide upon the issue. Does this automatically place the initiative on the Calendar?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Yes, if we adopt the committee’s recommendation.

Representative Sablan: Okay, thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the committee Chairman and the committee members because this is equally divisive and it is a controversial issue in the community. And putting it fourth rather than putting the committee on the spot to make that decision on this issue, I wholly support that strategy to put it before the House so that we can all participate. And I want to personally thank the Chairman on Natural Resources and Representative Benavente (LAUGHTER) for putting it on the floor. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Are we ready for the question? Ready.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 16-39 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker, I know that we have passed it already, I would also like to thank you too for your comments to the Committee and you are welcome Representative Hofschneider. It kind of came down to the seven members of the Committee, and Representative Hofschneider was part of the member and he graciously recused himself from the Committee to allow...

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Tebuteb, hold on for a few seconds we are going to change the tape. (*End of Tape 1 Side B*) Please proceed, Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: He graciously recused and excused in participating in the Committee as a Committee member to allow other in his words, freshmen members to be part of that. The Chair was torn when we are deciding on how to put this to a vote. So there were three “yes” for passage and three “no” to file. And so the Chair had the final say so at the end, and I also want to thank the Committee members for your patience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb for acknowledging this in regards to this difficult legislation and I believe that this is an appropriate thing to do. Floor Leader Camacho.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-40: reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-60**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-40: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-60**, entitled, “To amend 9 CMC § 2407 and to repeal 9 CMC § 2408, as enacted by Public Law 15-25; and for other purposes. *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*”

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready for the question.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-40 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-41: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-66**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-41: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-66**, entitled, “To amend 3 CMC § 1316(m) to provide the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College with full autonomy in hiring and retaining the president of the college; and for other purposes” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*”

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion? Ready for the question.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-41 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we are on a roll, a motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-42: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-126**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-42: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-126**, entitled, “To establish a population-based cancer registry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*”

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-42 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, a motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-43: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-135**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-43: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-135**, entitled, “To establish a Commonwealth Autism Commission to develop a state plan to guide services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-43 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-44: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-145**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-44: Reporting on **H. B. NO. 16-145**, “To mandate the Commonwealth Government to prioritize and pay the retirement employer contributions of government employees who are eligible to retire; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends passage of the bill with amendments.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion. Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, since this is to adopt the committee report the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: That is the procedure.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, I withdraw.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Are there any more discussion? Ready.

The motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-44 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-45: Reporting on **H. L. I. NO. 16-9**.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 16-45: Reporting on **H. L. I. NO. 16-9**, entitled, "To amend Article XV, section 1(c) and (e) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands." *Your Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare recommends that the House file the initiative.*

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready. Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: I requested the Chairman and the members of the Committee to file this Initiative, thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Was that your Legislative Initiative?

Representative Quitugua: Yes.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay, thank you. Are there any further discussion? Ready.

The motion to adopt to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-45 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: A motion to adopt **Joint Cmte. Report 16-1**

The motion was seconded.

Joint Cmte. Report 16-1: Report of the House Standing Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations (US & FA) and the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies on the Governor's request for funding to pursue a lawsuit against the Federal Government.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready. Representative Benavente can you briefly articulate the report?

Representative Benavente: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there was quite a bit of discussion in previous session already, unless the members have any questions I think we should go ahead and vote on the report.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Ready.

The motion to adopt **Joint Cmte. Report 16-1** was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Let us take a short break here before we go onto the Bill Calendar.

The House recessed at 11:20 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:26 a.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we go onto the Bill Calendar and if there is no objection, I would like to ask the Floor Leader that we place H. B. No. 16-149 on today's Calendar for action.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We will be going onto the Resolution Calendar first. I will recognize you when we are at the Bill Calendar.

Representative Apatang: Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Before I recognize anybody and if there is no objection, I would like to ask that we go back to Introduction of Bills. I need to introduce a bill. I have an unnumbered House Bill A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact 1 CMC § 8248 (b) as amended by Public Law 15-81 to provide for flexibility, parity and accountability in the compensation paid to licensed professionals employed in the Commonwealth Government in order to attract and retain qualified and dedicated professionals to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to repeal 1 CMC § 1272 and for other purposes. This basically fixing the legislation that we decided not to override on yesterday's session. I certainly invite members to cosponsor this legislation. Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, H. B. No. 16-149, is on the Bill Calendar.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are now back to Resolution Calendar. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt H. R. No. 16-51 reference to Marissa Untalan.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. No. 16-51: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE MS. MARISA D. UNTALAN FOR BEING SELECTED BY THE JUNIOR STATESMEN FOUNDATION AS THE CNMI REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED STATES DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

The motion to adopt H. R. NO. 16-51 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I will allow members to join in cosponsoring this resolution, if you so desire. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker a motion to adopt H. R. NO. 16-52 reference to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. No. 16-52: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIXTEENTH COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TRADES INSTITUTE.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

The motion to adopt H. R. NO. 16-52 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: For the members information, Mr. Pelligrino has an invitation for us if we want to call him up and visit the institute on Tuesday's and Thursday's I believe from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Representative Babauta: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: State your point, Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: H. R. NO. 16-52, Committee of the Whole?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: If you so desire, please join. I am not going to impose Committee of the Whole some members might not want to do that.

Representative Babauta: I understand that.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: But I do support that. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt H. R. NO. 16-53 reference to VFW Post 3457.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. No. 16-53: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE, CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS SAIPAN POST 3457 FOR THEIR TIRELESS WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY, ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, CNMI RESERVE UNITS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE CNMI RETIRED MILITARY COMMUNITY, DISABLED AND HOSPITALIZED VETERANS, AND CNMI STUDENTS, TEACHERS, FIREFIGHTERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, AND POLICE OFFICERS.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

The motion to adopt H. R. NO. 16-53 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: A motion to adopt, H. J. R. NO. 16-15 in reference to Veteran's Affairs Community base out patient clinic.

The motion was seconded.

H. J. R. NO. 16-15: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE UNITED STATES TO CAUSE TO ESTABLISH, CREATE OR OPEN A U.S. VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFIT OFFICE AND A VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC (CBOC) ON THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN TO SERVICE ALL VETERANS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully support of course the intent of the resolution, which is to ask for the extension of VA benefits to our veterans, as they are entitled in the Commonwealth. But I want to ask if we could just have some additional time to fine tune the resolution. Since it is not clear and that it is worded now, exactly what we are asking for, I think that for something as serious as this, and which is something that many veterans have been clamoring for we should make it absolutely clear what we are requesting exactly from the Federal Government and from the VA Office. So I would just like to ask that we defer voting on this with the consent of the author. Like I said I fully support it I just think that we should take the time to work on the language and fine tune it a bit.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Reyes.

Representative Reyes: Mr. Speaker, I think that the resolution speaks for itself, but if anybody would like to refine it or what not, I have no objections.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Do you have any objections for deferring action until next week, Representative Reyes?

Representative Reyes: I am fine.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We will just leave on the Calendar we will be having a sessions next week. Floor Leader, can you effectuate the motion to defer action?

Floor Leader Camacho: If there is no objection from the members per discussion, I withdraw the motion at this time.

The motion to defer action, was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We will leave H. J. R. NO. 16-15 on the Resolution Calendar. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt H. J. R. NO. 16-16 referencing to NMC and the radio station.

The motion was seconded.

H. J. R. NO. 16-16: TO REQUEST THAT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE REFRAIN FROM TRANSFERRING THE KRNM PUBLIC RADIO STATION LICENSE OUTSIDE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion? Ready. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Actually, I wanted to ask the author of the bill to provide us additional information and justification.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hofschneider, please justify to us.

Representative Hofschneider: Thank you. Since the inception of the radio station program in the Northern Marianas College, we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, in fact trying to make it work. And I believe that there was concern relating to the financial situation plaguing the Northern Marianas College and the accreditation team, also suggested that perhaps that the priorities be set. So the radio station perhaps in the context of the financial difficulties of the college, may rank lower than the other priorities. But a public radio is very important to support in any community and because it is situated with the college it is also quite fitting that we should do everything within our capacity to try and support and retain the radio station particularly, the license. Getting a license is very difficult even for a public institution like the Northern Marianas College. The fact that there was rumor that the license may be given or transferred to UOG (University of Guam), prompted me to do this. And like I said it is a rumor, but I am not going to sit back and let the rumor be fact and then do something thereafter. If it is a financial situation that is the issue here with keeping the radio station at NMC, then this resolution is only appealing to the Northern Marianas College to keep it and work with us in terms of what it entails to really fund the radio station. So that we can in fact, retain the only public radio station in the community it serves a real purpose. The potential has not been realized yet, and it is, I think our job to enrich this community through the public radio station by not having it transferred to UGO. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you. I had also heard that it was a possibility that this license would be transferred outside, but it was my understanding that we will not lose public radio here, it will just be that either UOG or some other entity would continue to operate the station. But I do support the effort to maintain public radio here and I guess I will just rest for now. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Ready. Representative Stanley Torres.

Representative Stanley Torres: A little bit of Representative Hofschneider's statement. If we lose the license, give it away, then we will lose it. Obtaining a radio station takes an arm and a leg to get it back. So I would like to say, that let us ask the FCC for suspension status if we do not have the money to keep it going or create a non-profit organization to take over and let it remain in the NMI area and not give it out. But according to the newspaper that the Board of Regents have okay to let it go, but I think we should step in because it does not belong to the College it should belong to the public. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Representative Ralph Torres.

Representative Ralph Torres: Thank you. I think if there are any discrepancies, we can call the President in to clarify any questions. I know that we are concerned about the radio station and the transferring of license, which I totally agree that it is a concern and to clarify any concerns regarding the transfer and the importance of maintaining that and I have no problem calling in the President to have a statement or answer questions regarding this resolution. That is up to the body to decide here. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I think the author stated that we needed to act on this urgently, it is useless to close the door after the horse has left. Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: You took the words out.

The motion to adopt H. J. R. NO. 16-16 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:43 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:44 a.m.

BILL CALENDAR

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are back to our session. Floor Leader Camacho.

Floor Leader Camacho: I believe we are at the Bill Calendar, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Correct. Before I recognize you, I had asked the Vice Speaker to give us a brief report. If you all recall I appointed a Special Committee regarding the Retirement Fund issue and the issues of those pending retirement applicants. And so, I recognize, the Vice Speaker.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Item number 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, I do not have a written report to submit at this point, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to update the members that the Special Committee that you appointed did meet and did review the merits of S. B. 16-36. However, the Committee felt that rather than entertaining S. B. 16-36, which opts for a proportionate pension that at this time they decided for another course of action and that is, to appropriate funds towards the deficient employer contribution that is now in the budget bill that we passed yesterday, \$1 million. So I believe at this point, Mr. Speaker, now I can send a copy of the budget bill to the members of the Board of Trustees at the Retirement program, and solicit their comments. I am still considering whether to wait for the Senate to act on it because if we send this to the Retirement and then the Senate substitutes our bill with another bill that does not have that provision then maybe it will be premature. So perhaps the Committee will meet sometime after this session, Mr. Speaker, and determine what our next course of action should be.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you, it is very important that we have a plan of action on this particular issue going forward because we need to address it.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, let me just add at this point, the committee recommends that we do not file S. B. 16-36. We can perhaps keep it on the Calendar or refer it to the Committee until such time that our current course of action takes its course.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Thank you, for that brief report. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you. I would like to ask the committee as well, if the Retirement Fund has submitted a report on the number of government employees who are eligible to retire at this time and the amount of deficiencies in the government's contributions.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I recognize, Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. We do have not the names, but the number of Class II employees that are eligible to retire and how much would be needed, which I can share with the members. But as far as the total numbers, which may include Class I members they have not completed the computation yet. So that would be forth coming.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. So clarified. Floor Leader, we are back to the Bill Calendar. Can I ask that we entertain one bill this morning and come back next Tuesday? Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: There are two urgent bills here that we need to entertain this morning.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay we will entertain a session this afternoon at two o'clock. Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: If there is a consensus on this side, Mr. Speaker, to come back at two o'clock or two thirty and if you are tied up, there are three available former Speakers, Mr. Speaker and one Vice Speak. (LAUGHTER)

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you, for that thoughtfulness but I do not think so. (LAUGHTER)
Representative Hocog, recognized.

Representative Hocog: Well Mr. Speaker, if we are coming back this afternoon I would like to ask Floor Leader to move for recess until two o'clock. I have a very important commitment at twelve o'clock and probably not only myself. So I asked that if we are coming back at two o'clock while you are in a good mood for all your colleagues.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader, let us be accommodating this morning. Can we move to recess? Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, a motion to recess to two o'clock this afternoon.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 11:50 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are back from our recess. When we left off on the Bill Calendar, Floor Leader, first bill please.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to adopt on First and Final Reading H. B. 16-171 in reference to Karidat.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-171: TO APPROPRIATE \$20,000 FROM THE FUND BALANCES OF THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER SECTION 3(B)(8) OF SAIPAN LOCAL LAW 14-11 FOR KARIDAT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Can we set aside that bill and go onto the next one. The author has a substitute for this legislation, which is being copied. So can you withdraw that motion. Representative Salas.

Representative Salas: Before we go on, earlier Representative Sablan had asked for a copy of the OPM report in regards to the Nursing Practitioners. I did obtain a copy of that, and I wanted to give it to you so you can give it to the members.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay, hold on to that. Let me first dispose of the motion. If there is no objection, we will set aside the motion for passage on First and Final Reading H. B. No. 16-171 until we have the substitute. Representative Salas, you have a report from OPM, correct, we appreciate that effort and you can submit that to the Clerk, for distribution to the members.

The motion to defer action on H. B. NO. 16-171 was carried by voice vote.

Representative Salas: Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We will go on to another bill, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, a motion to pass on First and Final Reading, H. B. No. 16-8, HS1, reference to parking for disabilities.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-8, HS1: TO REPEAL AND REENACT 9 CMC § 5657 REGARDING ACCESSIBLE PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready. Clerk call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-8, HS1, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	yes (End of Tape 2 side A)
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	absent (During Voting)
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
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 18 “yes” H. B. No. 16-8, HS1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have the substitute back to the original bill, H. B. No. 16-171 reference to Karidat.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-171: TO APPROPRIATE \$20,000 FROM THE FUND BALANCES OF THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER SECTION 3(B)(8) OF SAIPAN LOCAL LAW 14-11 FOR KARIDAT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Just for the record, I would like to offer a substitute for H. B. 16-171, and I so move and ready for the question.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-171, HS1: TO APPROPRIATE \$20,000 FROM THE FUND BALANCES OF THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER SECTION 3(B)(8) OF SAIPAN LOCAL LAW 14-11 FOR KARIDAT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Babauta has offered a substituted, and moved for its passage. Discussion on the motion. Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I ask the author if he can enlighten us of what Section 3 (b)(8) of Saipan Local Law 14-11 is, for the record.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Proceed, Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: For the record, this is the local appropriation that we enacted in the Fourteenth Legislature for road paving projects. These allocations are certified fund balances that the Secretary of Finance and Mr. Shrack allowed us to reappropriate. So we are merely getting fund balances for Karidat and NMC (Northern Marianas College) and other projects, Mr. Speaker, from various road paving projects from Precinct II.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Babauta, I am going to trust that you are not going outside Precinct II.

Representative Babauta: As I have been assuring you in the past, and now today this afternoon be assured, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay ready for the question. Representative Hocog, recognized.

Representative Hocog: Ready for the bill.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Ready. Clerk roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-171, HS1, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	yes
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	yes
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
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 19 “yes” H. B. No. 16-171, HS1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, with the members indulgence, I believe earlier this morning we introduced H. B. No. 16-174 in reference to the same bill that we were attempting to override. I would like to move that we suspend the Rules so we can place H. B. No. 16-174 on the Bill Calendar.

The motion was seconded, to suspend Rules to place H. B. No. 16-174 on the Bill Calendar and was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, a motion to place H. B. No. 16-174, in reference to the salary compensation on the Bill Calendar.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, since this bill has been discussed, I believe we can move forward on it. A motion to pass on First and Final H. B. No. 16-174.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-174: TO REPEAL AND REENACT 1 CMC § 8248(B), AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-81, TO PROVIDE FOR FLEXIBILITY, PARITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COMPENSATION PAID TO LICENSED PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALIFIED AND DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH; TO REPEAL 1 CMC § 1272; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready, Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. No. 16-174, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	yes
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	yes
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	abstain
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 18 “yes” H. B. No. 16-174, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to pass on First and Final H. B. No. 16-47, HD1, this is in reference to the no smoking in business and workplaces.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-47, HD1: TO REPEAL AND REENACT TITLE 6, DIVISION 3, ARTICLE 4 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN ALL WORKPLACES AND PUBLIC PLACES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Can we ask for First Reading because I got a lengthy statement that I wish to make at this time, but in the interest of time why not take up another legislation.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I think we owe it to this piece of legislation that it be dispose and make a decision on it. This legislation has been sitting on the Calendar for a long time. So I think we can take the time to articulate our position and opposition to it. Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that this bill has been sitting on the Calendar for the longest time. To help those individuals who are smoking every five minutes, this bill will help them out.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Mr. Speaker, I beg to defer, with Representative Apatang's comments. I am not quite sure whether smokers die first than non-smokers, and if that is what he is trying to say, he is wrong. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Ralph Torres.

Representative Ralph Torres: I would like to echo out the Committee and I would like to thank the Committee for attending all the Public Hearings on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. On the Standing Committee Report, I believe there was probably one or two that opposed this legislation. Other than that, the vast majority of people that came and testified favored this bill. I ask that we do pass this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: Second hand smoking is the issue it is not primary inhalation. Second hand smoking has been proven medically and scientifically that it has a real health concern particularly those of younger ages. At my age, Mr. Speaker and members, I am not too worried about second hand inhalation. I would probably die first of spam and corned beef and fried foods before second hand inhalation. But I do not think that anyone can argue that the fact that any where you go, in restaurants in particular, kids are brought in also with parents and kids are moving around in an establishment and this is what we are trying to achieve with this legislation. Healthcare cost, as a result of tobacco whether cigarette smoking or chewing amounts to a significant burden on taxpayers not only in the Commonwealth but throughout the Nation it has been overly studied and no one can contest that fact. In fact, the big civil suit that occurred with tobacco companies have reached us with Tobacco Fund and because of that the issue that remains to be answered, is the economic opportunity to be realized by businesses of barring tobacco smoking within the premises or enclosed premises. There are two ways to deal with this, one, is to allow existing laws, which designates smoking areas per square meter or square foot of space, but increasing the ventilation capacity. Doubling the ventilation capacity to suck out the smoke or the air from within a confine area would mitigate and reduce secondhand inhalation as a result of what this bill is attempting to do. But when you sit down and do the math it is far less economically more sensible rather to pass the legislation than to impose doubling the capacity of the ventilation system in all establishment retrofitting construction costs and so forth are just perhaps beyond the reach of some of the smaller establishments that are rigid in design. So I think that walking out of the establishment would not be a tremendous burden and looking around and seeing that the kids are most important reason for protecting their health. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Representative Raymond Palacios.

Representative Raymond Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a pack of cigarette, I am a smoker, although this bill would probably not cut down my daily bad intake habits or my exorbitant expenses purchasing it, but I believe this bill will address the concerns of the non-smokers as well, most importantly, our children. So I am urging my smoking buddies here and all of my colleagues, I think this is for the benefit for the entire community so I am urging that we support this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seem to remember discussing it and it might be a separate legislation or it might be during a public hearing which there was input and there was support in allowing attach bars or to include attach bars. Maybe it was during the public hearing or maybe it was a discussion on another piece of legislation but if not, then Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer without objection an oral floor amendment.

There was no objection raised on the floor.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Please proceed, Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: On page 10, line 15, on the letter “a”, strike out “other than” and put in “and”. I so move.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-47, HD1

PAGE 10, LINE 15:

(a) Bars ~~other than~~ and attached bars; provided that smoke from these places does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this article.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Ralph Torres.

Representative Ralph Torres: Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, during our public hearing and as well as when the Committee had met that was one of the issues that we had discussed. And one of the problem is, with regards to attached bars for example, Wild Bill’s and Godfather’s, there is an attach bar and a restaurant. So those are areas that by definition not just the Committee but as well as the public hearing that we conducted on all three islands, oppose to that. If it is a restaurant then you stick to that definition. If it is an attached bar then you separate that entity and that is where the line. And as the Committee we drew that line, that the attach bars should not be included in the exception, this smoking areas. So I oppose to that amendment. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reading the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s comments on that particular provision perhaps, some type of compromise could be worked out. What the Chamber suggested that we could consider is, to allow those restaurants that have attach bars to opt for an exception under that same provision after dinnertime So after the hours of ten o’clock, when they start operating primarily as a bar or at some type of established time whenever the kitchen stops serving meals. In that way when it is a restaurant for the most part during the day the smoking regulations would apply, and when they turn into a bar later on in the evening hours, and children are not there and families are pretty much at home then they can allow smoking in their establishments. That is something that perhaps we could work out and it would seem reasonable to me if it is restaurant by day and bar by night and there are other establishments that would.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I agree with you that there are establishments like that. Wild Bill’s, is one of them after nine thirty the kitchen closes and the whole place becomes a bar. I frequent that

establishment a lot, I do respect the families, and they get many families that come in there Sunday morning for breakfast. I migrate to the other side which is the bar side, but I am still uncomfortable even as a smoker going over there to smoke because there are people that eat in that area. So I am not sure how, if you would like to go into a short recess to see if we could put together a language. We can do this we can work on this. Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:26 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:34 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are back to our session. Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: At this time Mr. Speaker, I yield to Representative Sablan who is going to offer a subsidiary amendment.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add on to Representative Benavente's amendment. So on the same page, page 10, line 15, so that would read: "Bars and attached bars after the earlier of (1) an established time when the kitchen ceases servicing dinner meals or (2) 10:00 p.m" and the rest of that line should remain the same. And then on page 9, just to keep this consistent, line 6, "restaurants including attached bars, except as provided in section 3177". Does that make sense?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Is there a second.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-47, HD1

Page 10, line 15:

(a) Bars ~~other than~~ and attached bars at the earlier of (1) an established time when the kitchen ceases servicing dinner meals or (2) 10:00 p.m.; provided that smoke from these places does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this article.

H. B. No. 16-47, HD1

Page 9, Line 3:

(k) Restaurants, including attached bars except as provided in section 3177.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion, offered by Representative Sablan. Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally object to the amendments. I think if you are a smoker and you are amending that means conflict of interest. (LAUGHTER) And if you are going

to do a “no smoking bill” we should do it completely. Let us not believe that it is going to hurt our tourist industry or the customers, I have seen it. Just recently, I have been to Guam and to Hawaii and when the people go to the bars or any restaurant and they are a smoker they have the respect to go outside and smoke their five minute cigarettes and when finished they would come back in. Look at it now, it is not hurting, they have a smoking ban in all places restaurants, hotels, and what not. Their economy is good their budget is \$530 million compared to ours. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all this bill does not propose to permanently ban smoking. We have the exemptions, the bars, hotels, and all those other provisions, so we are not taking that stance. I think we are just trying to draw the fine line here and this is going to be a policy call as to where that fine line is going to be drawn. I am in full support of the amendment offered by Representative Sablan and we are ready to vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify. It is my understanding that the law on Guam does have exemptions as well. It allows for smoking in bars and there are restaurants and bars that have opted to make their establishments non-smoking. And I completely agree with Representative Apatang, this is not a matter damaging the economy, I do not think that this type of bill would have that affect, but as Representative Benavente has pointed out this is a new policy and we are making this transition and I do not think that this amendment is unreasonable.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Ready. Actually, let me make this clear, Representative Benavente, you withdrew your amendment.

Representative Benavente: No. If I may then, Mr. Speaker, and without objection from the members rather, as I think it is going to get confused let me go ahead withdraw my oral floor amendment and allow us to vote on Representative Sablan’s floor amendment.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: The motion offered by Representative Sablan has been seconded, ready.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Ready. Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I am supporting the bill Mr. Speaker, for the most part. There is only on part I am concerned about, and that is on page 8, starting on line 13, the prohibition of smoking in government facilities. It is a policy call on our part but a place like, the airport it is an enclosed area and if it does have a smoking area, it is a government facility. I want to ask for some exception to the rule for government facilities to allow smoking in designated areas at the airport this is my concern here.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, at the airport, I think on the north and south side there is a smoking area, it is open, it is outside.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Yes but this...

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: It is not in an enclosed area. The smoking area is outside it is open.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: I rest my case.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. The concern has been addressed, ready for the question.
Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Mr. Speaker we are talking about the CPA the area it is not enclosed today. But they do have plans to enclose that area, so where do they go?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I do not know how to answer that, I will have Representative Sablan answer that.

Representative Sablan: Perhaps we could and anticipate that perhaps having to make an exception just include an amendment at the end of that section that says "unless other wise provided by law" so in the future if we decide to enclose if we decide to enclose the designated smoking area we could provide for that by law.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Ready for the question. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-47, HD2, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	abstain
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	abstain
Representative Christina M. Sablan	yes
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
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 15 “yes” H. B. No. 16-47, HD2, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Representative Stanley Torres.

Representative Stanley Torres: I have a short letter addressed to you. May I read it now so it becomes an official House Communication?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Hold on we need to change the tape. Representative Stanley Torres.

Representative Stanley Torres: Thank you. If there is no objection from the members, I would like to ask that we go back to House Communications.

There was no objections raised on the floor to go back to House Communications.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Proceed Representative Stanley Torres.

Representative Stanley Torres: Mr. Speaker, I have a short letter addressed to you so this becomes an official document of the House. Dear Mr. Speaker: As I had raised an issue concerning some employees of the LB during the House Session on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, once again I would like to ask why certain employees of the LB are being targeted with 90-day contracts. At first, I thought that ALL LB Staff received 90-day contracts, but this is not true. Some LB Staff were renewed for one year while others got 90-day contracts, not to mention, a selected few Professional Staff. Please look into this matter, why certain staff are being singled out. I ask that you to think about the staff who are already having problems with their existing bank loans, CUC payments, high gasoline prices and other family obligations as well as employees' morale and mental anxiety as a result of this issue. Thank you for your attention regarding this serious matter.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. I will provide clarification on this matter on the next session. I had anticipated checking with LB Acting Director about this issue and getting more information and clarification. With that Floor Leader, we go back to the Bill Calendar.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to pass First and Final H. B. No. 16-151 in reference to Tinian and local fees.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-151: TO PROVIDE \$62,000 FROM THE LOCAL LICENSE FEES COLLECTED FOR PACHINKO SLOT MACHINES AND POKER MACHINES IN THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Mr. Speaker, at the request of Representative Aldan, he had to leave on an urgent matter because there was an accident with his son in Tinian. So he had asked me and permitted me to introduce the substitute which was passed earlier to all the members. So without objection, I so

move, for the substitute, Mr. Speaker substituting H. B. NO. 16-151 in the form of HS1. It is reducing the figure from the original bill, I so move.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-151, HS1: TO APPROPRIATE \$32,000.00 FROM THE LOCAL LICENSE FEES COLLECTED FOR PACHINKO SLOT MACHINES AND POKER MACHINES IN THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Babauta has offered a substitute to the original H. B. NO. 16-151 as requested by the author. Primarily it reduces the amount. The reason why I allowed for this to come forth is the urgency that these funds are going to be used for the municipal scholarship for the Second Senatorial District. So the Representative from Tinian for the Second Senatorial District and the Minority Leader asks our indulgence to act on it because of its urgency. Are there any more discussion? Representative Benavente.

Representative Benavente: Just a typo on the substitute Mr. Speaker, it should be H. B. NO. 16-151, HS1, and not 15.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Are there any further discussion? Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Just to clarify, you said there was urgency with this bill?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Let me have Representative Babauta explain.

Representative Babauta: Mr. Speaker, line 7 of page 1 on HS1 clearly states that it is for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship. Some of these kids are here attending the NMC and abroad both in Guam and the United States so the dues will be paid out of the local account of Tinian. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Sablan, did that answer your query?

Representative Sablan: Yes, it did in terms of the need to pass this soon. But have we verified that this money, is in fact there?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Certification from the Department of Finance is right here.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: While Representative Sablan is satisfied with Representative Babauta's answer, I yield.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Thank you. Ready. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-151, HS1, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	yes
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	yes
Representative Edward T. Salas	yes
Representative Rosemond B. Santos	absent (During Voting)
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Ralph DLG. Torres	absent (During Voting)
Representative Stanley T. McGinnis Torres	yes
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 16 “yes” H. B. No. 16-151, HS1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion to pass H. B. No. 16-159, in reference to the Department of Public Health professional employees.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-159: TO AMEND 3 CMC § 4532(A) AND 3 CMC § 4972(B)(1) AND (2); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Representative Apatang, recognized.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a critical bill that involves one of the doctors down at the hospital that we need to get his contract renewed. Also there are some nurses that are involved here some Special Education teachers, if I am not mistaken. So I ask that we support this bill which is very urgent. I have been calling about this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Hofschneider.

Representative Hofschneider: I have a question, Mr. Speaker, on page 2, line 3, beginning with “In addition any physician or dentist not a citizen or permanent resident who was first licensed to practice in the Commonwealth prior, to January 1, 2008 may be employed by the Commonwealth government”, this is a loophole.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:53 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:03 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are back to our session. Short recess.

The House recessed at 4:03 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:03 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are back to our session. Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am ready for that but I want to elaborate that this is a critical issue here because this includes some providers for the Public School System also, that we need to take care of in this particular bill. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did want to offer two amendments for the member's consideration. One, which is probably more technical but I think that the exact term for the licensing board is now, the Health Care Professions Licensing Board, if that would be considered technical.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Can you be more specific?

Representative Sablan: Well there are references in different sections of this bill so I would just suggest that wherever Medical Profession Licensing Board appears that we just replace that with Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: So your motion is for a universal amendment on those, Clerk.

Representative Sablan: Is that technical?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay. Proceed.

Representative Sablan: And then the second amendment, I wanted to request was on page 2. This is with respect to the Public School System exemption. To strikeout line 21 after the word "exempted" strikeout "not to exceed a total of ten positions..." all the way up until the end of that sentence ending with "New Zealand". I spoke to the legal counsel for PSS and they said that this would actually place an undue burden on them. It is already difficult enough recruiting these Special Education Specialist and that as long as the service providers are US licensed, US registered, or US certified then they would be qualified to provide these services for the Public School System. So that is actually what they requested and I would like to offer that amendment.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 16-159
Page 2, Line 21:

~~not to exceed a total of 10 positions when required in order to comply with federal law; provided that the Public School System shall first recruit for such positions in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.~~

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion. Ready.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Ready for the main question. Representative Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Since this bill does not have a committee report and does not appear to be committee draft the amendments are made by the author, correct?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Correct.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: On page 3, line 22, this amendment which was intended for health personnel starts off with “Engineering technicians and all other health care professionals who are required to be licensed registered or otherwise regulated now by the Health Care Professions Licensing Board”. So Engineering Technicians would be, I am just a little bit unclear was Engineering Technicians are now regulated. So the amendment leaves, I guess, Engineering was the original language even that is flawed because Engineering Technicians and then it goes off to Lab Technicians, X-Ray Techs. I do not know.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 4:05 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: We are back to our session, I recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer an oral floor amendment on page 3, line 22, the first word there “Engineering” should be preceded by the word “Bio-medical”, that is it.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion, Representative Ralph Torres.

Representative Ralph Torres: Explain to me what is bio-medical.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Those are the guys that...

Representative Ralph Torres: But none of us here know what the terminology is and what the...

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Hold on. Let me ask, Representative Hofschneider to clarify that.

Representative Hofschneider: We do not have to second guess this. You can refer to the occupational definition and Bio-medical is included in that definition.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Bio-medical is those people that handle all those equipments.

Representative Hofschneider: They calibrate EKG (Electrocardiogram) they calibrate respirators they calibrate all the machines they maintain it, those are called, Bio-medical Technicians.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Alright, the motion has been made and seconded. Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Let me just clarify, so the amendment is to just add, bio-medical. So it is bio-medical engineering technicians and all other health care professions.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Yes. Clarified. Ready.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just looking at the dates where the exemptions shall expire. We have the Public School System where the related service providers expiring on 2010 and the Nurses on Section 3 (b) (1) and (2) will expire on 2010 and The exemptions provided in subsections (b)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section shall expire on September 30, 2017, for all positions covered thereunder, and no contract may provide to the contrary. May I ask the author if he could give us some rationale behind the expirations dates. Because it seems we have two expiration dates one is 2010 and the other 2017.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: That is a very valid concern and it contradicts everything. Recess.

The House recessed at 4:11 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:14 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: I am going to ask the legal counsel to clarify Representative Tebuteb's query.

LC Villagomez: The question is, why the expiration dates is different. The existing Public Law 15-108 sets different dates for different Departments and different categories of employees. Under the existing law for nurses, the expiration date is 2009 this bill proposes to change it to 2010. For the engineering

technicians and the medical professionals under the existing law it is 2017, it is not a typo. So that is the law now.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Tebuteb: So where does page 4, line 5, come in?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Legal counsel.

LC Villagomez: There is three parts One, Two, and Three I am not understanding your question. It is an existing language. Whatever is on the bill that is not underline or stricken out is existing language of the section that we are trying to amend. So there is Part one, the nurses, number two, is the engineering technicians and the medical professionals and then number three, discusses exemptions and when they expire. So this is existing language that you are looking at under Public Law 15-108 I am looking at it right now.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Let us go back to recess.

The House recessed at 4:15 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:17 p.m.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Tebuteb, are you clarified?

Representative Tebuteb: Yes.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Alright, ready for the main question. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-159, HD2, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	yes
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	absent (During Voting)
Representative Christina M. Sablan	yes
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	absent (During Voting)

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios

yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 16 “yes” H. B. No. 16-159, HD2, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, can we recess maybe recess until Tuesday at nine thirty? Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Can we just act on one more bill that is very urgent, H. B. 16-149 regarding LIIDS, that is holding up.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: That is going to be a long one. I think we need to take up that legislation next session.

Representative Apatang: Then could we act on H. B. No. 16-165?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: What is the pleasure of the members, one more bill? Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: One more. Mr. Speaker, a motion to pass First and Final H. B. No. 16-165.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Discussion on the motion? Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, we have passed a couple of appropriation bills already. This is a rather significant amount of money for projects that I feel should be justified and we should look at moneys that are being expended now for these particular areas. So I would like to ask that we defer on this vote until Tuesday. None of these are really urgent issues either, and we could certainly save it until Tuesday.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Babauta.

Representative Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether you, anyone of us have seen a baseball field that is a little bit inclined uphill. All the baseball fields are normally flat, correct?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Yes.

Representative Babauta: I do not know how in the world a government would open up a baseball field inclined facing west of Mt. Tapochau, this is in Kagman II.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Is that the urgency?

Representative Babauta: The urgency is the players. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, this funding is not that much compared to what it is going to benefit out of it. As you can see, some of these projects will be for the school. This is for the Koblerville Elementary School project. We have been here up to 8 o'clock last night so it

says “Kober” but it is “Koblerville”. The problem there, during a monsoon season the parking area gets so muddy and when the kids go out for P.E., they run around in the mud. So what we plan on doing is to pave those areas for parking lot and for the students to go out and play out there, It is also very important for the Kagman II baseball field. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Salas.

Representative Salas: In reference, to Representative Babauta’s comments, about the baseball field. This is for a backstop that would cost about close to \$14,000. What had happened Mr. Speaker, was the baseball players and the coaches came to my house and wanted to show me the condition of the backstop and it was very dangerous. So a lot of it was already falling apart. So I decided to call someone from a Department and they took the baseball backstop down because it was very dangerous. So all we are trying to do is to erect a new one so they are able to practice during the baseball season.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Let me recognize Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Yes, is this the one that Representative Babauta was saying...

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Again Mr. Speaker, I understand what the members are saying. These are all perfectly worthy projects, but it is also no secret and we are experiencing a real shortfall of funding here. And the Developer’s Infrastructure Tax Fund we should be prudent on how we spend that money and this is something that we have been criticized for again and again is, not really setting our priorities. A parking lot, a baseball field, a Veteran’s Cemetery these are all worthy but I think that we should take the time, we can take until Tuesday, that is all I am asking to verify that the money is there. What I would like to know from the author is, what is that money being spent on now, are we reprogramming from another project?

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Okay, Representative Sablan. Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: *Mr. Speaker, ti tira bakuling esti ni machogui nai.* I got a call and everybody should visit the schools. Go to the Kagman High School and see where your kids if you have kids there, if that is your community, or if you are concerned about the kids of the CNMI, go there and see the parking lot it has rolling stones the basketball court is on there. *Fan’hanao guatto yan in’li’e ko ti fan man ma’malao.* Koblerville Elementary School *ha aggang yo i principal, Mr. Speaker, yangin tumonok yo mafundo i adeng’hu taiguini gi halom i fatchi.* *Yan hafa para bai hu chogui ni eyo para bai hu hochom mata hu?* *The money is there ti bai famatinas appropriation yangin taya salape, Mr. Speaker, or ti anticipated ombres i 2009 Budget we do not know whether we have \$156 Million but we passed it.* These are a very worthy cause, we are talking about kids and then we turn around and say it is not important. *Hafa para ta chogui?* Mr. Speaker, this is very frustrating we talk about kids and then we turn around and say it is not important, the money is not there, but if we all do our homework. This is from Finance.

Representative Hofschneider: Point of clarification.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Before I recognize you, what was your point Representative Babauta?

Representative Babauta: No, I was raising a point of observation.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: There is no such order in Parliamentary as point of observation, (LAUGHTER) I do not need observations. I may need clarifications and point of order but not observations (*End of Tape 3 side A*) Representative Apatang.

Representative Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the members no that this is a very critical project so therefore I move to end debate. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold Palacios: *Taya ti critical lolkue.* Today is a very critical Friday. Ready. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-165, 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	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Victor B. Hocog	yes
Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Representative Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Representative Joseph C. Reyes	yes
Representative Christina M. Sablan	no
<u>Representative Salas:</u> Mr. Speaker, may I say something.	
<u>Speaker Arnold Palacios:</u> Okay.	
<u>Representative Salas:</u> I understand Representative Sablan’s point and I wished we could deliberate this next week also, but just to put on record that I have been asking Representative Quitugua to try and help in finding resources for Kagman and he has done that because he has a way of finding money. And unfortunately as a freshman lawmaker I have not been able to do that so I do support this legislation for that matter and I thank him for finding it and I wish that we would take more time but obviously everybody is rushed to do it.	
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	absent (During Voting)
Speaker Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold Palacios: By a vote of 16 “yes” H. B. No. 16-165, passes the House on First and Final. It looks like that is it for the bills but before we adjourn for the information of the members the bill that we overrode yesterday, H. B. No. 16-77, is now Public Law 16-17. And we have another bill that has been disapproved which is a Senate legislation.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no discussion under this item of the Agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There was no discussion under this item of the Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Arnold Palacios: Floor Leader, could we entertain a motion for adjournment until Tuesday.

Floor Leader Camacho: Motion to adjourn until Tuesday, nine thirty in the morning.

The motion was seconded and was carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 12:21 p.m., subject to the Call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B. Muna
Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST APPEARANCE: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND APPEARANCE: NONE

THIRD APPEARANCE: NONE