



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2013

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

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First Day, Second Special Session

Thursday, May 9, 2013

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*The House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Second Special Session on Thursday, May 9, 2013, at 10:23 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

*The Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Speaker of the House, presided.*

*A moment of silence was observed.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Again, welcome to the members out there in the gallery. I see the folks from the Northern Marianas College (NMC) are here and I also want to acknowledge the presence of the former speaker Mr. Deleon Guerrero. Thank you. Clerk, please call the roll.

### ROLL CALL

*The Clerk called the roll and fifteen members were present. Representatives Rafael S. Demapan, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Janet U. Maratita, Richard B. Seman, and Ralph N. Yumul were absent.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With 15 members being present we have a quorum. Take note that Representatives Seman, Maratita, Leon Guerrero, and Yumul are excused, they are off-island. Representative Demapan called in sick this morning. So the Chair will be appointing Representative Tebuteb to serve as the Floor Leader for today's session.

*Several members voiced "no objection".*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. We now go on to item II on our agenda, Public Comments. So if anyone wishes to offer any public comments, please step up to the podium and state your name for the record and you may comment on any item appearing on today's Order of Business.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Leo Pangelinan, Northern Marianas College  
Mr. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, CNMI Scholarship  
Mr. John Gourley, Micronesia Environmental Services  
Mr. Ramon Basa  
Mr. Elias Rangamar, Parent

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any other Public Comments before we move on? There being none, before we move on to the next item on the agenda, I just want to inform those that have spoke on Senate Bill 18-24 that it is on the Senate Communications and it may be referred to the Bill Calendar so you may want to stay around in the event the members may want to ask questions, we may resolve into Committee of the Whole and ask you questions. So with that, we now move on to item III, Adoption of Journals. Floor Leader.

## **ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On item III, Adoption of Journal and this is the motion to adopt the journal of the 5<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session Journal, March 8, 2013, so move.

5<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session Journal, March 8, 2013

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered to adopt the 5<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session Journal it has been seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the 5<sup>th</sup> Day, First Regular Session Journal, March 8, 2013 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We now move on to item IV, Introduction of Bills. I was informed that there were a few legislation that were prefiled, but did not make the 24 hour requirement so I am going to ask the Floor Leader to offer a motion to suspend the rules to add items to the agenda. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In lieu of your statement and also the requirement for us to entertain the statement you have just provided, the floor offers a motion for suspension of Rule IX, Section 4 (d), so move.

## **RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS.**

### **Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions.**

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be prefiled with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed not less than 24 hours before that session and appears on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 24-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with only in accordance with Rule III.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

### ***House Bills:***

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With the vote of 15 in the affirmative, the motion to suspend the rules hereby passes. With that we now go in to the actual introduction of bills and I will start of by introducing House Bill 18-68, “To amend 2 CMC, Division 5, Chapter 6, Article 4 “Miscellaneous Prohibitions and Protections” to include a new section prohibiting the taking the selling of certain sizes of marine resources for commercial purposes; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and after hearing Mr. Gourley speak, I do not know if anybody wishes to join me, but you are all welcome to. Also, I would like to follow along and introduce House Bill

18-69, “To reduce the rebate from the Northern Marianas Territorial Income Tax.” Introduced by myself. Before I call on the Vice-Speaker to introduce House Bill 18-70, House Bill 18-68 would be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and House Bill 18-69 would be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Vice-Speaker.

**H. B. NO. 18-68**

To amend 2 CMC, Division 5, Chapter 6, Article 4 “Miscellaneous Prohibitions and Protections” to include a new section prohibiting the taking the selling of certain sizes of marine resources for commercial purposes; and for other purposes.

**REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

**(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)**

**H. B. NO. 18-69**

To reduce the rebate from the Northern Marianas Territorial Income Tax.

**REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

**(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)**

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point I am introducing a prefiled House Bill 18-70, “To repeal certain dependent benefits and places a cap on spouse benefits provided by the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.” Introduced by myself and Representative Antonio Sablan and as usual we welcome anyone to partake in the introduction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**H. B. NO. 18-70**

To repeal certain dependent benefits and places a cap on spouse benefits provided by the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

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

**(Referred to the Special Committee on Retirement)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Vice-Speaker. House Bill 18-70 will be referred to the Special Committee on Retirement. Are there any new House Bills? I recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 18-71, “To require all property owner(s), property manager(s), and lending institutions that hold abandoned vacant properties within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be held accountable to secure and maintain abandoned, vacant, and foreclosed properties; and for other purposes.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**H. B. NO. 18-71**

To require all property owner(s), property manager(s), and lending institutions that hold abandoned vacant properties within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be held accountable to secure and maintain abandoned, vacant, and foreclosed properties; and for other purposes.

**REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*)

**(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Are there any other House Bills to be introduced? If not, we go on to House Local Bills and I recognize Representative George Camacho.

***House Local Bills:***

Representative George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have one House Local Bill, it has been numbered. House Local Bill 18-15, “To competently enhance the efficiency of fully implementing the processing of capital improvement projects by amending 1 CMC § 7303(a) as established by Saipan Local Law 15-25 regarding the usage of a percentage of the Third Senatorial District’s Local CIP Funding for the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works.” Thank you.

**H. L. B. NO. 18-15**

To competently enhance the efficiency of fully implementing the processing of capital improvement projects by amending 1 CMC § 7303(a) as established by Saipan Local Law 15-25 regarding the usage of a percentage of the Third Senatorial District’s Local CIP Funding for the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works.

**REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Camacho. Before I recognize Representative Conner to introduce another House Local Bill, please take note that House Bill 18-71 would be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to officially introduce House Local Bill 18-16, “To appropriate \$22,000.00 from Tinian Local Law 14-2 and re-appropriate the sum of \$14,039.00 from Tinian Local Law 18-1 and 18-2; and for other purposes.” Thank you.

**H. L. B. NO. 18-16**

To appropriate \$22,000.00 from Tinian Local Law 14-2 and re-appropriate the sum of \$14,039.00 from Tinian Local Law 18-1 and 18-2; and for other purposes.

**REP. TRENTON B. CONNER** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

***House Legislative Initiatives:***

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Conner. Are there any other House Local Bills for introduction? There being none we move on to item C, House Legislative Initiatives. I would like to introduce House Legislative Initiative 18-6, “To amend Article XI, Section 5 (g) to income from the disposition of public lands to be used to acquire private lands and require the proposed budget of the Department of Public Lands to be approved by the Legislature.” Introduced by myself and Representative Sablan. Since there are two components to this initiative, I will refer it to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Natural Resources. Are there any further House Legislative Initiative to introduce? If not, we move on to item V on our agenda, House Resolutions.

**H. L. I. NO. 18-6**

To amend Article XI, Section 5 (g) to income from the disposition of public lands to be used to acquire private lands and require the proposed budget of the Department of Public Lands to be approved by the Legislature.

**REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Antonio P. Sablan)  
(Referred to the Committees on Ways and Means and Natural Resources)

## **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any House Resolutions for introduction? House Joint Resolutions? House Commemorative Resolutions? Under item D, House Concurrent Resolution, I recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

*House Resolutions: None*

*House Joint Resolutions: None*

*House Commemorative Resolutions: None*

*House Concurrent Resolutions:*

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to formally introduce House Concurrent Resolution 18-1, entitled “To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2014, beginning October 1, 2013, and ending on September 30, 2014.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### **H. C. R. NO. 18-1**

To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2014, beginning October 1, 2013, and ending on September 30, 2014.

**REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan and Mariano Taitano)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. House Concurrent Resolution 18-1 would be placed on the Resolution Calendar on today’s Order of Business. We now move on to item VI, Messages from the Governor, Clerk.

## **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, we have Governor’s Communication 18-27 to 18-30.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Comments on Messages from the Governor? There being none, we move on to item VII, Senate Communications. Floor Leader.

*There was no discussion made for the following Governor’s Communications.*

GOV. COMM. 18-27: (4/26/13) Submitting the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (\$123,400,000 available for appropriation).

GOV. COMM. 18-28: (4/30/13) **Executive Order 2013-08** – Declaration of a State of Emergency: CHC’s Imminent threat of disruption of critical medical services in the Commonwealth and the danger that such a condition poses to the public because of the great increase in otherwise preventable deaths that would result.

GOV. COMM. 18-29: (5/2/13) **Executive Order 2013-09** – Declaration of Executive reorganization of the Off-Island Medical Referral Program under the Office of the Governor.

GOV. COMM. 18-30: (5/3/13) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. NO. 18-4, D1, (To re-appropriate the fund balance from Saipan Local Law 16-1 Section 1(A); and for other purposes.). Became **Saipan Local Law 18-1**. [For info]

## **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have two Senate Communications, Senate Communications 18-34 and 18-35, motion is to accept the communications from the Senate.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered to accept Senate Communications 18-34 relevant to Senate Bill 18-24 and Senate Communication 18-35 relevant to Senate Bill 18-18, SS1, HD1. Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 18-34 and 18-35 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Now that the two Senate Communications are in the property of the House, the Chair would be referring Senate Bill 18-24 to the Bill Calendar and under Senate Communications 18-35, the Senate has rejected the House action on Senate Bill 18-18, SS1, HD1 requiring the appointment of a conference committee, the Chair hereby appoints Representatives Antonio Sablan, Ramon Tebuteb, and Edmund Villagomez as the conferees for this conference committee. I have appointed Representative Sablan to serve as the Chair. Any further discussion under item VII?

SEN. COMM. 18-34: (5/6/13) Transmitting for House action S.B. NO. 18-24, entitled, “To repeal Section V, Requirement of Attendance at NMC, in its entirety; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on May 3, 2013. [For action]  
**(Referred to the Bill Calendar for action)**

SEN. COMM. 18-35: (5/6/13) Informing the House that the Senate *rejected* S. B. NO. 18-18, SS1, HD1 (To amend 1 CMC § 8131(a), as amended by PL 17-80, by adding a new subsection (a)(13).) on May 3, 2013 and appointed its Conference Committee Members. [For Info]  
**(Referred to Conference Committee)**

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. We move on to item VIII, House Communications, Clerk.

### **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, we have House Communications 18-37 to 18-41. House Communications 18-40 and 18-41 has been added.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. For any members who have not received any copies, House Communications 18-40 is from Representative Christopher Leon Guerrero informing the Chair that he will be off-island and the same goes for House Communication 18-41 from the Chairman of the Committee on Tourism, Representative Yumul. Any comments on House Communications before we move on?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There being no communications from the Judicial Branch, the Department and Agencies and Miscellaneous Communications, we now move on to item XII, under Reports of Standing Committees and I recognize the Floor Leader.

*There was no discussion for the following House Communications.*

HSE. COMM. 18-37: (4/29/13) From Representative Tebuteb informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on official business beginning April 29, 2013 to May 7, 2013 and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings during his absence.

HSE. COMM. 18-38: (5/6/13) From Representative Maratita informing the Speaker that she will be off-island beginning May 9, 2013 to May 30, 2013 and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings during her absence.

HSE. COMM. 18-39: (5/6/13) From Representative Anthony T. Benavente informing the Speaker that he will be off-island beginning May 13, 2013 to May 17, 2013 and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings during his absence.

HSE. COMM. 18-40: (5/7/13) From Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be off-island beginning May 9, 2013 to May 12, 2013 and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings during his absence.

HSE. COMM. 18-41: (5/8/13) From Representative Ralph N. Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be off-island beginning May 9, 2013 to May 12, 2013 and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings during his absence.

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

None

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

None

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On item XII, Standing Committee Report 18-13, reporting on House Bill 18-28, the motion is offered by this Floor Leader for the adoption of the Standing Committee Report.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-13**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-28, entitled: “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2017 for the filing of delinquent returns under Title 4, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Act of 1982, as amended, and the payment of delinquent taxes without imposition of penalty and interest, with certain exceptions and for the waiver of penalty for failure to obtain a business license; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-28, HD1.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader is offering a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-13, reporting on House Bill 18-28 and if there is no objection, I will read it for those watching in the gallery and in their homes. House Bill 18-28 is “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2017 for the filing of delinquent returns under Title 4, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Act of 1982, as amended, and the payment of delinquent taxes without imposition of penalty and interest, with certain exceptions and for the waiver of penalty for failure to obtain a business license; and for other purposes.” The motion has been offered and seconded, discussion. Recognized, Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we can entertain this later on when we entertain the bill on the Bill Calendar, but I just want to ask that it would be considered a technical on the title where it says, “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2017.” The committee has worked the bill has changed the provision as reflected and has changed that particular date to 2014 as reflected on page 8 of the House Draft 1 and I just want the Clerk to note the discrepancy.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Clerk and members, please take note. Any further discussion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-13 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing Committee Report 18-14, reporting on House Bill 18-21, entitled, “To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens.” Committee recommends passage of this bill and I hereby move for the adoption.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-14:** Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-21, entitled: “To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-21, HD1.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered by the Floor Leader, just to clarify though that the committee recommends passage in the form of House Draft 1. The motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-14 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing Committee Report 18-15, reporting on House Bill 18-35, entitled “To amend PL 17-61, CNMI Veterans Cemetery; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass House Bill 18-35 in its current form.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-15:** Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-35, entitled: “To amend PL 17-61, CNMI Veterans Cemetery; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 18-35 in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion offered by the Floor Leader has been seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-15 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader for Standing Committee Report 18-16.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing Committee Report 18-16, reporting on House Bill 18-51, entitled, “To provide additional gaming entertainment for tourists by amending the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of this bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-51, HD1. So move.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-16:** Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-51, entitled: “To provide additional gaming entertainment for tourists by amending the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-51, HD1.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered by the Floor Leader and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-16 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing Committee Report 18-17, this is reporting on House Bill 18-61, entitled “To repeal in its entirety 1 CMC § 8213(g), to eliminate the bonus for employees who are frozen in Step 12 and 1 CMC § 8215, to eliminate the within-grade and merit increase; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass House Bill 18-61 in its current form, so move.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-17**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-61, entitled: “To repeal in its entirety 1 CMC § 8213(g), to eliminate the bonus for employees who are frozen in Step 12 and 1 CMC § 8215, to eliminate the within-grade and merit increase; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass **H. B. NO. 18-61** in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-17 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standing Committee Report 18-18, this is reporting on House Bill 18-62, entitled “To repeal NMIAC section 10-20.21101 and restore mandatory salary increases for civil service employees.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that passage on House Bill 18-62 in its current form, so move.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-18**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-62, entitled: “To repeal NMIAC section 10-20.21101 and restore mandatory salary increases for civil service employees.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass **H. B. NO. 18-62** in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 18-18 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Please take note that all bills relevant to Standing Committee Reports 18-13 to 18-18 will be placed on the Bill Calendar on today’s Order of Business. Recognized, Vice-Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Mr. Speaker at this time, I know we have gone through item XII, although I do see some new faces in the gallery, if there is no objection from the members if we can go back to the Public Comments section for some of these individuals to make some brief remarks on certain legislations.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There was no objection to your request, so with that we move back to item II on our agenda under Public Comments. The floor is open, please state your name for the record and we do have a five minute time limit so I ask that you give that some consideration.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Pete Reyes, Senator

Ms. Carolyn Peter-Hosono, CNMI Scholarship

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We go back to our Order of Business and move on to item XV, Resolution Calendar. Before we start, I would like to take a short recess.

*The House recessed at 11:32 a.m.*

## **RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 1:49 p.m.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Good afternoon, we will now continue where we left off. Prior to our recess we were under item XII and we have disposed of the Standing Committee Reports. I want to ask the members if there is no objections to skip item XV, Resolution Calendar and move on to item XVI, the Bill Calendar so we could dispose of the first bill, Senate Bill 18-24 so that members in the gallery do not have to wait around.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. So with that Floor Leader without objection we now move on to item XVI on our agenda, Bill Calendar. I ask that you offer the pertinent motion for Senate Bill 18-24.

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

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **BILL CALENDAR**

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In lieu of the action prior to this afternoon, this bill to your order was sent to the Bill Calendar and with that my motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 8, 9, and 10, so move.

### **RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY**

#### **Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents**

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action."

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House.

## **RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions**

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

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

### **Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and no other amendment shall be in order until all committee amendments shown in the Committee Report are disposed of, except that such committee amendments shall themselves be subject to amendment. At the conclusion of debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule.

(b) If a bill passes First Reading, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(c) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 13 of this Rule.

### **Section 10. Second Reading of Bills**

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that further amendments shall be in order without regard to whether or not they are proposed by the committee reporting the bill.

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 13 of this Rule.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded to suspend pertinent rules, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There were no discussions and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 8, 9, and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that, the motion for the passage on First and Final Reading of Senate Bill 18-24, so move.

SEN. COMM. 18-34: (5/6/13) Transmitting for House action S.B. NO. 18-24, entitled, “To repeal Section V, Requirement of Attendance at NMC, in its entirety; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on May 3, 2013. [*For action*]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded for the passage of Senate Bill 18-24, discussion. Vice-Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, this morning we heard comments from the Northern Marianas College, from the boards itself of the CNMI Scholarship Office. We also heard a parent speak up because of an issue that he has with his daughter being denied a CNMI Scholarship. A scholarship that was meant for all CNMI residents who can easily apply and meet the requirements of the CNMI Scholarship Program and it was interesting to hear this gentleman say that maybe his daughter had made a mistake for choosing to go abroad to another higher education institution, but I beg to differ because I do believe that a person has the right to choose where and when they wish to go to any college or university. You know I always thought we live in a democratic society, but maybe I am wrong. I also heard this parent mention the word ‘discrimination.’ Now I tend to question if there really is discrimination and then I thought to myself, rule number 5 of the CNMI Scholarship Rules and Regulations will deny students from Saipan if they chose not to go to NMC for their first two years, but it does not deny students from Rota and Tinian. So in other words if a student from Rota and Tinian decided to go to anywhere in the mainland for that matter, whether in California or as far as New York, if they meet the requirement of the CNMI Scholarship Office they can avail of the CNMI Scholarship funding. And so I am trying to think, let us say for example a student from Saipan was denied a CNMI Scholarship and was going to this college in the US mainland and at the same time a student from Rota or Tinian for that matter was going to the same college, how do we then look at this issue? I am sure some of the board are still here and I think further and say to myself, “so

why would this student from Saipan be required to work to meet his or her financial obligations because of a scholarship that was not made available to them and the student from Rota and Tinian do not have to take that extra effort because they were given something from the CNMI Scholarship.” Now I go back again and I ask myself, “Is this discrimination to the Saipan students?” and my answer to that is you bet. The CNMI Scholarship Board made the mistake when they promulgated this amendment to Rule 5. How can we say to these students who have just graduated from high school and are willing to further their education, how can we say to them, “you are being denied of a CNMI Scholarship because you are not going to NMC for the first 2 years.” But these other students from Rota and Tinian are being approved of a scholarship, what does that make us look? We talked about physical responsibility, I believe Mr. Pangelinan had uttered those two words and somewhat I applaud the statement because when the resources start to dwindle then we must make every effort to do with what we got. In other words we must slice the pie even smaller.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Vice-Speaker, we do have a time limit.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: I will wrap up on this first round Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: And so I understand the interest of NMC on this issue, but the issue here is not with NMC, the issue here is with the CNMI Scholarship Program and the discriminatory practice that it is undertaken before our eyes. I will rest for now, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Perhaps before we continue with our deliberations, we have the folks here from NMC and also some members from the Scholarship board that have stayed back and we thank you for staying back and they can be allowed to answer questions that the members may have. If members have questions we can resolve into Committee of the Whole so questions can be offered.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader, can you offer the motion to resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Being no objection, Mr. Speaker the motion is now offered by the Floor Leader to dissolve into Committee of the Whole.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion is offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to dissolve into Committee of the Whole was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The House dissolved into Committee of the Whole at 2:02 p.m.*

*COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE*

*The House reconvened in plenary session at 2:21 p.m.*

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The motion is to move back to plenary session, so move.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered to return back to our plenary session, it has been seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to reconvene in plenary session was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back to our plenary session. Now I will entertain any further comments or discussions on this bill. Before I do so, perhaps the little clarification is in order, there seems to be some misunderstanding. For those members, when this body dissolves into the Committee of the Whole it is for one purpose and that is to bring in the relevant parties to be asked questions. If the members have any comments that they wish to inform other members, we have to refrain from doing so until we come back to our plenary session. I think that was the misunderstanding that ensued. So now that we are back, we may continue with our discussion although now we do not have the opportunity to ask questions of the relevant parties out there. So the floor is open for further discussion. Vice-Speaker, with all due respect, I will go around first and then we will go on to a second round. I now recognize Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this Senate Bill that is on the table it really poses a concern. I have mixed feelings about it because we do want to help the NMC and their intent and as far as Rule 5, was for the money to stay on the island and give it to the local people so the circulation of money would stay here. Not only that our students that avail on it will be able to easily find a job here and we do not need to spend so much money to go abroad and that is the benefit that was thought of it, but for those students who chose to avail in going to school abroad, based on the types of expertise and the type of choices they have for example like engineering and other types of professional skills that NMC do not provide and yet not to be afforded the opportunity to be given the money to go abroad, I think that is really something too. I can say this to the board member or whoever that is here in the board and to all my colleagues, I was a board member for the CNMI Scholarship for about 7 years and I was the Chairman for the scholarship and this thing is not new to give the NMC the money and to limit the students is not new. It was intended a long time ago even during my time, but our Legal Counsel from the Attorney General at that time was Mr. Jay Livingstone and when that thing popped up he told us “that is a no no” we are depriving other people that should have the benefit and it brings me back to what Mr. Rangamar that spoke up here on the floor, I do feel for the CNMI Scholarship and the students at NMC that they should be afforded, but at the same time we cannot be affording some and restricting some. There is a disparity in the decision and it

should be accorded equally. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the body of this legislature and the author of the bill who is here in the audience is willing – if I would recommend that it would be brought into our committee and then brainstorm it in the committee and get all these issue put together and get some Legal Counsel advice and go from there if that is possible with the approval of the author of the bill.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We do not need the approval of the author of the bill in this House. I would like to call up on Representative Trenton Conner to serve as Speaker Pro Tem while I step down for debate.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This session may resume at this time I would like to recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask our Legal Counsel to check on this existing law that the CNMI Scholarship board promulgated regulations on and if they have the authority to do so and if there is any conflict.

Legal Counsel John Cool: I believe that the scholarship board was established by executive order during Froilan Tenorio's term. They are a part of the Governor's Office. I was unable to find anything specific on there, any additional authority that might have been given to them; they are just a part of the Governor's Office from what I can find out. And that the regulations of the word 'adopted' went through the normal procedure of promulgation by submitting them to the Attorney General's Office for approval and then published to the Commonwealth Registry.

Representative John P. Sablan: Thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We listened to the comments that were provided earlier this morning about the concerns and the reasons why this policy was put in place and what I understood was physical responsibility was a matter, funding was going down and that was a consideration. I also heard that there are allowances even in this rule that allow waivers to be granted, I guess by the scholarship board on a case by case basis, so allowances are there. And a lot of times when we make decisions we look at it from a hypothetical perspective, what happens if this is the case, we try to look ahead and see how this policy would affect our people. I want share an incident and it involves my son as well. I supported this policy before you had a policy, I asked my oldest son to start out after high school at NMC and he did and for two years he went to school there and earned his AA Degree and eventually went on to college in the states. I heard Mr. Pangelinan say that the credits were transferable, unfortunately that was not the case with my son and he ended up having to take most – not some – most of the general courses that he already took at NMC so it took him a lot longer to graduate with a BA Degree than the other students that started abroad. He is graduating next month by the way after five years of going to school. The point I am trying to make here is several things, one if it is physical responsibility that is behind this decision, I want everyone here to know that scholarship was invested in this student to take those courses here at NMC and then the scholarship again paid for him to take the same courses abroad because those credits were not accepted at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) where he went to school. So we have wasted scholarship funds for him to take

the same courses twice. I want to raise that to your attention, if this policy does have physical responsibility as the basis for it, have you considered that? Has that been taken into consideration? I did not want to ask any person that question, but I do want to bring it to your attention. Never mind the fact that the scholarship basically wasted those funds, which could have gone to other students. He wasted his own personal expenses to stay there again, pay for his apartment and wasted a lot of time, he could have graduated already. So there seems to be waste. Second, we have to be mindful even though the policy allows for exemptions to be granted, we know that of all of our students graduating from high school not all of them would want to take courses at NMC to be an accountant or biologist. The figure we have heard is about 40% is probably not going to go to college; they may want to take vocational type of training so they can enter the workforce and have some skills. I do not believe NMC has any vocational training to speak off and perhaps that is why the trades institute popped up. I know that the trade institute has all the equipment from NMC's trade. So for this 40%, if it is 400 graduating then close to 200 students, what do we have for them and how can they avail? The trades institute is temporarily closed right now, but what has NMC done to prepare these students for the workforce and how can these funds be used by NMC. We are forcing them to go to NMC, but what do we have for them at NMC for these students who are not going to go for AA degrees, give that some thought. Lastly, I heard that NMC is accredited and I am sure it probably still is but we have all read the paper that it is on sloppy ground. That kind of uncertainty does not do well for students who want to pursue an education and are uncertain that while they are going to school things may change and what if it loses its accreditation, what will happen to them. So it does not instill confidence to our students to want to go to NMC. So we have a policy that encourages them to go to NMC, but then NMC is creating this climate of uncertainty with our students. When you want to push a policy you want to ensure that things are in place that there is an incentive for them to be there. That they would want to go there, but under the current conditions that does not seem to be the case. How can we believe – I think is the word that is being touted – how can we believe? I do not need to ask questions, I am pretty sure I know the issue at hand. I think NMC needs to do its part to solidify its foundation and we do not need to have this policy in place. Students would gladly stay home and be with their family and go to school, but until such time address the issue of accreditation. Make sure those credits are transferable so that they can believe that once they finish their two years they can move on and not stay for an additional three to four years just to get their BA degree elsewhere. So there are things that need to happen for these students to believe. That is all I have Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Representative Guerrero. Are you going to continue debating on the floor and I will continue to preside? Unless, there is no objection from the members and you are done debating then I will relinquish my role as pro tem for speaker and resume back.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: You are doing a good job, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Representative Guerrero. At this time, I would like to recognize Representative Roman Benavente for the second time, if there is no objection from the members or would some of the members that have not spoken would like to speak before Mr. Benavente. If not, Mr. Benavente you have the floor.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*, Speaker Conner. Seems like I am just trying to go back and follow the track of the Speaker for what he has mentioned, but it is not that. There are other grave concerns that I know. So I would like to share among all of us that is here and in the gallery. It is true, Mr. Speaker we got the same experience. My son went to NMC, he had 39 credits when he got out NMC and when he went Eastern Oregon University, they only approved nine and threw away the rest and he had to restart all over again. To me, like you said it is money, time, hardship, sacrifices, it is really something. The type of courses NMC offers – the more and it is too close to home, but I can share this with everybody. The type of courses that NMC offers are the major courses is nursing and education. I would not criticize the education because a lot of them graduated in education, but I will tell you something based on the statistics that I have found out from PSS, majority of them who took praxis could not pass it upon graduation from NMC. They take praxis one and praxis two and they have a hard time passing it.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: State your order.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Mr. Speaker, I believe we are starting to sway away from the gist of the legislation before us. It appears now that we are dwelling into the issues of NMC and not to the issue of the CNMI Scholarship that exempts certain students from receiving such scholarships. That is all I wanted to point out with all due respect to Chairman Benavente, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Vice-Speaker. Mr. Benavente, please get to the point you have a minute.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: *Si Yu'us ma'ase*. Can I finish, I am just trying to say facts here Mr. Speaker. These are reality that is surrounding our educational process here and this is money that is coming out. I bet none of you know that Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Program is being paid by the CNMI Scholarship and is operated by NMC and that is new.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Point of clarification.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: State your point.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Can the good representative please enlighten us as to what a WICHE Program is for those of us that do not know.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: May you respond to that Mr. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Yes. It is a program that is newly introduced to the college. Personally, I do not have an exact knowledge on this program, but I have heard that the CNMI Scholarship has been paying the WICHE Program and this has been coming out from people who are of concern who has told me they have been paying the WICHE Program when I know in fact that the funding capacity of the scholarship funds like they mentioned, continue to dwindle and

continue to deplete. And then we continue adding on aside from restricting our students who are paying additional bills to fund NMC.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: You have thirty seconds more Mr. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: *Si Yu'us ma'ase* again, but with all due respect, if this body is not satisfied with what I am trying to mention and what the issue of concern. I would like to request and again bring it into the committee and like I said brainstorm it in the committee and if we have to fight in the committee then we will fight, but we will come up with a result. Thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Duly noted, Mr. Benavente. Colleague Antonio Sablan at this time, I recognize.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know a lot of questions have been posted from those that spoke earlier this morning during the public comments. Question posted where the number of students that graduated, where students go to, how many go to NMC, what percentage of the money goes to where, but I think the question that we should ask ourselves is this, is the legislative intent of the NMI Scholarship Program being followed by the scholarship board. I believe in summary, the intent of the program is for the scholarship board to make funds available for post secondary for deserving NMI resident students. And it is the obligation of the NMI Scholarship Board to adopt regulations pursuant to the intent of that legislation and that should be the only question that we should pose before us this afternoon. Is the current policy in question since the board implemented it? Is it within the spirit of the intent of the program, if not then let us vote for Senate Bill 18-24. And it is very simple, I made the statement not too long ago that in this process my advice is to keep it simple and I do not know why we dwell on questions about physical responsibility when it is not the NMI board's duties of responsibilities. Somebody correct me, but go through the statute, the Executive Order as mentioned by the Legal Counsel, whether that is one of the board's decision or responsibility to decide where the money goes. I think the scholarship board's only responsibility in this matter is to extend and make available the funds provided for the scholarship board, to make them available to deserving NMI residents' students, simple. And again, never mind the other questions because the other question really does not weigh in on whether the board is carrying out the intent and the spirit of the program. So with that, Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to put their support behind Senate Bill 18-24, simply to ensure that the funds and the program is made available equally to all deserving NMI resident students. Thank you.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Representative Sablan. This time I would like to recognize Representative Dela Cruz.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Speaker Pro Tem. I will yield to Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Vice-Speaker. I think as a very strong supporter and an advocate of NMC, I feel that it is very important that we hear the stakeholders that we hear from as many people as we can before we take action on this very important measure. I think Mr. Speaker that policies such as this when it comes up in the form of a bill as

individuals that represent our people that really care about instituting policies that make sense for us here in the CNMI, I feel very strongly that we should give ourselves some time to hear from those people that are taking care of our programs. I think I would feel differently had we given these individuals – even the college I am surprised that they came up with testimony when they were only given yesterday – when did they learn about this bill to respond, to make intelligent comments. Comments that are going to help us that we are going to use to make decision on this piece of legislation, this Senate measure. I understand that this bill was not publicly heard and I stand to be corrected, but be that as it may my request right now and I would like to ask of everyone’s indulgence to please allow us to give an opportunity to the Scholarship Board, to NMC, to others that would like to share their comments, their information, their ideas on what they think on this very important measure. I have been a Chairperson also of a scholarship program and I think it would be good also to hear from Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) the Municipal Scholarship Program for our students from Saipan and why not. Let us also extend to the scholarship boards of Rota and Tinian so that they can give their input and share their concerns, their comments, I am sure that they would come up with something that would help us make our final decision should we choose to pass the bill. So my fellow colleagues, my only concern that I have and request I would like to make, at this point and can be put in the form of a motion that we refer this bill over to the appropriate committee to do the necessary work. I understand that at this point, our Chairperson for education committee is waiting for comments from different individuals. So let that process be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro. At this time, Representative Dela Cruz you have the floor.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Speaker. You know it is interesting that Representative Ogumoro brought up issue with regards to SHEFA and the other Municipal Scholarship Offices, but I think that the fact of the matter here is it is the CNMI Scholarship this is the issue at hand. If we were having problems with SHEFA, I am sure we can invite them in, but at this point in time I do not believe we do. This is the CNMI Scholarship issue. Representative Benavente had stated earlier that most if not all of us were not aware of the WICHE Program receiving funding through NMC. I am sorry to burst your bubble Representative Benavente, but I have been aware of the WICHE Program, I am also aware of the Northern Marianas Academy (NMA) Program that is receiving scholarship. And the NMA is not even a college or university, but this is besides the point. The point here is that we have a certain group of students who are being denied scholarship grants and these students are from Saipan. Representative Santos has asked earlier to Ms. Hosono, why is it that Tinian and Rota students are exempt and I can answer that for you because I got an answer from one of the board members at the CNMI Scholarship Office. His answer was that because of the population base and the number of graduates per year. They felt that it would not really put a dent in the scholarship funds. The other reason is because Rota and Tinian’s satellite offices for NMC are nonoperational at this time. And so he goes on to say that for Rota it is much closer to Guam and maybe it might be easier for students from Rota, but I asked the question, “what if that student decided to go to a college or university in New York, will he or she still avail of the CNMI Scholarship?” And his answer was “yes.” And I said, “but isn’t NMC much closer to Rota than to New York?” and he did not have anything to say. So I hope that answers your question somewhat Representative Santos because the question for the Saipan students in availing the CNMI

Scholarship cannot be prolonged anymore. Why should it go back to a committee? Rule 5 was initiated prior to fall of 2012, you know how far in those students are now? They are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and not receiving a dime from the CNMI Scholarship Office, while the other students from Rota and Tinian and excuse me I have no qualms with Rota and Tinian, My better half is from Tinian. So the question remains in our children that are off island is when are we going to be helped? And here we are trying to think about putting this back into committee, give me a break. It has been too long and times have been wasted.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: You have thirty seconds, Mr. Dela Cruz.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do urge that we all vote on Senate Bill 18-24 in the affirmative today because I truly believe that this is what it is going to take to change things around and make things equitable for each children of the CNMI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Dela Cruz. Representative Ogumoro for the second time.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: First of all, I want to clarify that the NMA students who by the way – and I can count with my fingers, one hand the number of students that had difficulty with transfer. The purpose of NMA –the mission statement is to send our kids to the strong colleges and universities in the US. They finished their first two years at NMC all transferred, all accredited, and these are top schools and we can bring you the listing. They were all transferred and you can see many of them back on the island delivering services here. Also, I would like to hear from the three municipal scholarships on this bill, see what they think and see what can they offer to improve the bill because this is a bill that is important for us. We have to make a decision with the little money that we have. Even the schools in the United States do put in restrictions on where their financial assistance go and all of us are very aware, those of us that have gone to schools and that help our students and are very familiar with the student financial assistance programs of what kind of restrictions are placed in terms of grant and aids or outright scholarships that they give to our students that are coming from our island to those school. They do put the restrictions in, they do realize. You know I think the same thing that our scholarship board has been able to look at and debated on that the money that we have from the CNMI must stay here. If we can just allow them to give us some computation, some information on how much money have we taken out from the CNMI to go and develop other schools. Can we use that school to invest in the oldest post secondary education program namely Northern Marianas College that has just turned 32 and I have to say that we have to believe in our educational institution by the way. Who is going to believe in that? Let us believe in that by putting the money that they need. Is this money coming in through the CNMI Scholarship Program? You better believe it. Just for SHEFA alone when I was the Chairperson of that student financial assistance program, each semester, our best scholars are receiving \$3,000.00 times two if they perform the GPA, they get the GPA minimum of 3.5 that is \$6,000.00. Can you imagine when we send out how many, let us just say 100. Now let us begin to think if anything. First, the fact that we have very meager resources to work with. Second, let us invest in our NMC and I ask again everybody to please take into consideration. This legislation that it is a very important piece of legislation and that there is nothing to rush about, let us take our time and get the

information that we need to make a very inform decision on what do we want to do in terms of financial assistance for our kids to continue to be educated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro. Representative Sablan for the third and last time.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make it brief and yes for the last time. Again, earlier I ask whether the scholarship board is running the scholarship program in the intent of the program. And I did not know that this government created the scholarship board and one of its functions is to invest in institutions and basically that is just what I heard that we should consider that this is an investment in NMC. I thought that the scholarship funding is an investment in our children's minds and education. And again it does not matter and this government or the scholarship board in particular has no business telling where our kids need to go to develop their minds and education. It is simple, keep it very simple. What is the program for? It is not to provide money for the scholarship board to invest in NMC or any other institution that is the Commonwealth Development Authority's (CDA) job and I do not know why we go off into left field when we should really be staying at home. Again, Mr. Speaker I think a lot of comments have been made in regards to the issue and a lot of discussion and I ask that we go to the main motion.

Speaker Pro Tem Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Representative Sablan. With that I relinquish my role as Speaker Pro Tem to the original Speaker. Thank you.

*Several members voiced "no objection".*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We still can entertain questions or comments, I recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Mr. Speaker, since we were expecting an official statement and whatnot from the scholarship board and unfortunately we were not able to get that. I feel and I agree with Representative Roman Benavente that we should send this bill to the committee and have it expedited in terms of receiving comments and clearing out all these questions before taking action. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman Villagomez, I think the best way to deal with this since there appears to be a division on the floor is to put it to vote whether to refer it committee. So I will recognize a motion to refer it to committee. We will put it vote, if the vote musters the affirmative then it goes to committee and if not I guess we will act on it. Floor Leader for the motion.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The motion offered by Representative Villagomez, is that what we are entertaining.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think you had offered a motion for the passage so I think a subsidiary motion is in order.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The subsidiary motion offered by Representative Villagomez.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let him offer the motion.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Please proceed.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: I would like to make a subsidiary motion to refer this bill to the Education Committee.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion. Let me recognize Representative Sablan first and then Representative Agulto and then Vice-Speaker.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Before we recognize the subsidiary motion I just want to state, the question at hand really is very simple and I do not know why we have to refer the issue to committee. What is the committee going to come up with its dollar amounts going where or students graduating, where they go and all that? The question here is the policy in the intent of the program and is it fair to the other students that are being deprived because of the current policy that is just basically it and if we cannot answer that right now, I do not know what else is there that the members need. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I recognize the Vice-Speaker now.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to suggest that we do a roll call on the subsidiary motion.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So noted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: I would like to say something on the motion offered by Representative Villagomez. I am aware from discussions from the members that there is one issue that everybody agrees with. What I feel that has been said from different members is that everybody agrees that this is a very serious matter and that this bill is very important for us to consider and thus Representative Villagomez's request to send this to committee, not in whole but in part of some of the proposed repealer on Rule 5, I agree and also disagree to some and so I agree with most of you that this is important for us to look at. We have heard a lot of testimonies and perhaps the question that also needs to be answered, are we ready to abolish the board in what we are trying to do? I know that some of the statement made by different members contradict each other, such that the WICHE is being paid by a scholarship, I know that it is either true or false so we need to really look at that and some of the comments made specifically and that some of the members have state and I quote that "we have to take a serious look in the intent of this bill" and these are coming from the members. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Ready for the question. Clerk, please call the roll. The motion, just to clarify is to refer it to committee so a "yes" vote would refer it to committee and a "no" vote would keep it on the calendar. Clerk, call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to recommit Senate Bill 18-24 to the Committee on Education with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | no                        |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | no                        |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | no                        |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | no                        |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | no                        |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | no                        |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | no                        |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | no                        |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | no                        |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, 6 members voted “yes,” 9 members voted “no,” and 5 members are absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a 9 members voting “no” the motion is hereby defeated it stays on calendar. The standing motion remains the main motion which is to adopt Senate Bill 18-24 further discussions before we go to vote?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 18-24 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | no                        |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | no                        |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | no                        |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | no                        |

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul     | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, 11 members voted “yes,” 4 members voted “no,” and 5 members are absent. Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the “yes” in the majority, the motion to adopt Senate Bill 18-24 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader for the next bill on the Bill Calendar.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: We will just go in order Mr. Speaker and members and on top of the list it says Senate Bill 18-2, “A Bill for an Act to amend the Commonwealth Vehicle Code to authorize active duty U.S. military personnel stationed outside the CNMI in any state or territory to maintain or renew their vehicle registration in the CNMI, or register a new vehicle in the CNMI by complying with CNMI registration requirements any comparable requirements in the state or territory where they are stationed; and for other purposes.” So move for the passage on First and Final Reading.

**S. B. NO. 18-2**

A Bill for an Act to amend the Commonwealth Vehicle Code to authorize active duty U.S. military personnel stationed outside the CNMI in any state or territory to maintain or renew their vehicle registration in the CNMI, or register a new vehicle in the CNMI by complying with CNMI registration requirements any comparable requirements in the state or territory where they are stationed; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 18-2*]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion. Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I yield at this time, Mr. Speaker I thought we were going to go back to the Resolution Calendar. I am ready for the motion.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. We do have a motion that has been seconded so we have to dispose of it and then we can decide otherwise whether to go back to the Resolution Calendar. Vice-Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that this piece of legislation is from the Senate. I am not aware of any public comment submitted to a committee or whether this particular legislation was ever submitted to a committee. So I had questions with regards to registrations being processed in the CNMI for military personnel who reside elsewhere, such as in the mainland and some of the questions that I have is in the event that a certain vehicle with a CNMI license plate duly located in a military base and if for some reason this vehicle should happen to come out of the base figure into an accident, how would the police of that state be able to verify who the owner is by looking at a license plate from the CNMI? Will there be time exhausted in trying to first contact the place of origin for this vehicle license plate? These are the questions that have not been answered. So at this point in time, I cannot really make the decision as to whether to vote in the affirmative or to vote no and I do not know whether somebody may have an answer to the question I just posed. I know we have some

senators here so I just wonder whether that can be answered. The other question I had was whether the Motor Vehicle Office have been asked to comment and what would the procedure be with regards to a CNMI license plate being used abroad? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Further comments, Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question, maybe the Legal Counsel can help out with, on page 2, line 12 it says “moreover this act extends government immunity to injuries caused by inspections or lack thereof from vehicles owned by active duty US Military personnel that register vehicles in the CNMI.” Mr. Cool can you elaborate more on this provision? Thank you.

Legal Counsel John Cool: The actual language is near the end of the bill where it is amending the government immunity statute. Right now the immunity for police officers or DPS personnel involved in the registration of vehicles do have immunity from liability in the event there has been something in respect to the inspection of the vehicle that was not done properly. The existing registered vehicles in the Commonwealth and adds the language “or vehicle owned by an active duty military personnel station outside the CNMI in a state or territory of the United States.” So it just amends the current existing government immunity statute to cover this process of issuing the vehicle registration to a personnel outside the Commonwealth who is in the military.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: So if the vehicle is registered here, but is not abroad then that immunity is applicable to that vehicle?

Legal Counsel John Cool: No it is applicable to the Department of Public Safety personnel, Department of Motor Vehicle should issue the registration based on an inspection certificate or sticker or some inspection document that had been issued, let us say in California and it was not done properly by the officer issuing it in California, our personnel would have no personal liability for that.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Vice-Speaker for the second time.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I just realized the main author is in the gallery, Senator Cruz and if there is no objection from the members to maybe fall into Committee of the Whole so that we can query Senator Cruz on the piece of legislation.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There being no objection to the request by the Vice-Speaker can I ask the Floor Leader to effectuate the proper motion?

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion is to resolve to the Committee as a Whole as offered by Representative Dela Cruz.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is a motion and it has been seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to dissolve into Committee of the Whole was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The House dissolved into Committee of the Whole at 3:22 p.m.*

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

*The House reconvened in plenary session at 3:32 p.m.*

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The motion is rise back to our plenary session.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to reconvene in plenary session was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back. Would the members like to continue with the Bill Calendar or go back to the Resolution Calendar? I hear a short recess is in order. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: We are on the main motion.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So noted, thank you. Further discussion on the main motion? The motion is to adopt Senate Bill 18-2 it has been seconded, discussions have been made, and there are no further discussion?

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Just for clarification Mr. Speaker. The motion is for the passage of Senate Bill 18-2.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So noted. For the passage of Senate Bill 18-2, ready?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 18-2 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto    | yes |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente | yes |

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: How many?

Clerk: All 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Senate Bill 18-2 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next bill is on page 6 of the Bill Calendar, Senate Bill 18-1, “A Bill for an Act to rename the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Building in Tinian, Gilbert Manglona Taisacan Building; and for other purposes.” Motion for passage on First and Final Reading.

**S. B. NO. 18-1**

A Bill for an Act to rename the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Building in Tinian, Gilbert Manglona Taisacan Building; and for other purposes. [*See S. C. R. NO. 18-12*]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded for the passage of Senate Bill 18-1, this is “A Bill for an Act to rename the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Building in Tinian, Gilbert Manglona Taisacan Building; and for other purposes.” It has been moved and seconded, discussion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 18-1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto | yes |
|----------------------------------|-----|

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With the vote of 15 “yes” the motion hereby passes. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The next bill is House Bill 18-20 relative to Standing Committee Report 18-10, “A Bill for an Act to allow the Department of Public Lands (DPL) to grant revocable consent without fees to individuals, businesses, or organizations to construct and maintain certain structures on public property such as driveways and sidewalks; and for other purposes.” Motion is for passage on First and Final Reading.

#### **H. B. NO. 18-20**

A Bill for an Act to allow the Department of Public Lands (DPL) to grant revocable consent without fees to individuals, businesses, or organizations to construct and maintain certain structures on public property such as driveways and sidewalks; and for other purposes. [*See S. C. R. NO. 18-10*]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-20 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto    | yes |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente | yes |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente   | yes |
| Representative George N. Camacho    | yes |

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 voting in the affirmative, the motion to pass House Bill 18-20 passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: House Bill 18-23 relative to Standing Committee Report 18-9, “A Bill for an Act to provide a tax incentive for individuals and businesses that purchase renewable energy devices.” The motion is for passage on First and Final Reading.

**H. B. NO. 18-23**

A Bill for an Act to provide a tax incentive for individuals and businesses that purchase renewable energy devices. [*See S. C. R. NO. 18-9*]

**(Recommended to the Committee on Ways and Means)**

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion. I recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has earlier informed the Chair of the intention to request that House Bill 18-23 be referred back to committee if there is no objection.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Without objection, the author of the bill has asked for reasons would have the bill referred back to the committee. There is a motion on the floor so I need to ask the Floor Leader to withdraw his motion. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the note by the author of the bill House Bill 18-23, the Floor Leader hereby recalls his main motion.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is no objection to the Floor Leader withdrawing the motion for passage, with that House Bill 18-23 is hereby recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 18-15 with respect to Standing Committee Report 18-6, the motion is for the passage on First and Final Reading.

**H. B. NO. 18-15**

A Bill for an Act to address and deter bullying in schools by establishing parental liability for the harm inflicted by bullies who are not properly disciplined and supervised by their parents. [*S. C. R. NO. 18-6*]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion is on the floor and has been seconded for passage of House Bill 18-15, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-15 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 15 to 0 House Bill 18-15 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is with respect to Standing Committee Report 18-15 and that is reporting on House Bill 18-35, “To amend PL 17-

61, CNMI Veterans Cemetery; and for other purposes.” Motion is for passage on First and Final Reading.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-15:** Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-35, entitled: “To amend PL 17-61, CNMI Veterans Cemetery; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 18-35 in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered for the passage of House Bill 18-35 relevant to Standing Committee Report 18-15, this is the CNMI Veterans Cemetery bill and I think the intent of this bill is to ensure that the veteran’s cemetery on Tinian and Rota – maybe I should turn it over to the author just to clarify.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, Rota and Tinian cemetery cannot be constructed as it has not have any local revenue to do so nor eligible for any federal grants as they are not officially established CNMI Veterans Cemetery therefore are not under the jurisdiction and control of the Office of Military Liaison and Veterans Office. However, based on several meetings and communications with our CNMI Veteran’s Affairs Coordinator Mr. Ben Camacho, the Veterans Office can secure federal funds, but by amending Public Law 17-61 to include a certain language there and that is by establishing satellite cemetery on the islands of Rota and Tinian and using the designated public lands as per Public Law 17-60 and 17-84, therefore making our satellite cemeteries a reality on the islands of Rota and Tinian. Therefore, the intent of this bill seeks to amend Public Law 17-61 as it would give the tool to the Veterans Office to apply and secure federal grants for satellite cemeteries on these islands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for that enlightening, clarification Representative Santos. Motion has been offered for the passage of House Bill 18-35 it has been seconded, further discussions?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-35 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan         | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos          | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano             | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb            | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul              | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero          | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of 15 to 0, House Bill 18-35 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader for House Bill 18-21, HD1.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion is for the passage of House Bill 18-21 on First and Final Reading with respect to Standing Committee Report 18-14, “To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens.”

**S. C. R. NO. 18-14**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-21, entitled: “To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-21, HD1.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded for the passage of House Bill 18-21, HD1, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-21, HD1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul     | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. With a vote of 15 “yes” House Bill 18-21 hereby passes the House in the form of HD1. Floor Leader maybe one more and then let us go back and dispose of the resolutions in the Resolution Calendar.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Standing Committee Report 18-16 reporting on House Bill 18-51 entitled, “To provide additional gaming entertainment for tourists by amending the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines.” The motion is for the passage on First and Final Reading, so move.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-16**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-51, entitled: “To provide additional gaming entertainment for tourists by amending the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-51, HD1.*

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion is offered and seconded for the passage of House Bill 18-51, HD1. Under discussion I recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to offer two floor amendments to House Bill 18-51.

*Representative Antonio P. Sablan offered the following floor amendment.*

#### **FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. B. NO. 18-51, HD1**

H. B. No. 18-51, HD1 is amended as follows:

I. Page 4, lines 3 & 4 are amended to read:  
 “LABORATORIES INTERNATIONAL LLC or SIQ GAMING LABORATORIES to ensure that they are honest, secure, reliable and auditable.”

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

**DATE:** May 9, 2013

**OFFERED BY:** /s/ Representative Antonio P. Sablan

Approved by

/s/ John F. Cool  
 Legal Counsel

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A floor amendment has been offered by Representative Sablan it has been seconded, discussion. Recognized Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: I just want to note that this bill was also referred to my committee and we actually met for the first time on Monday since that is when we first started getting our bills so we sent out comments. If it is not too much from the author if we can hold off until next session, just a note. Or were comments solicited?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: May I call for a short recess to confer with the Chairman.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Short recess.

*The House recessed at 3:50 p.m.*

**RECESS**

*The House reconvened at 4:04 p.m.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back and we left off under discussion on the Bill Calendar item XVI, a motion has been offered and seconded for the passage of House Bill 18-51, HD1. Representative Sablan has the floor, do you wish to continue.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes Mr. Speaker, thank you. I have offered the first floor amendment to House Bill 18-51, I believe it has been seconded. Just for clarification, the amendment that has just been offered is to add “ or SIQ GAMING LABORATORIES” after the word “LABORATORIES INTERNATIONAL LLC.” So offered again, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before we go further. Representative Sablan, I see there is three different floor amendments. Do you want to piecemeal them or offer them all as one floor amendment.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I can offer the amendments all at once Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Please continue.

*Representative Antonio P. Sablan offered the following floor amendments.*

**FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. B. NO. 18-51, HD1**

H. B. No. 18-51, HD1 is amended as follows:

- I. Page 4, after line 13 is amended by adding a new Subsection (c) to read:

“(c) Given the shortage of rooms on Saipan and the time involved to build a “hotel” as defined by this Act, any person desiring to install or operate electronic gaming machines may commence interim operations at an offsite location upon posting a five million dollar (\$5,000,000.00) construction bond. The bond shall serve as guarantee that the construction of a hotel with not less than 100 rooms will commence within twenty-four months of the posting of the bond, and that the hotel shall be completed and operating within thirty six (36) months of the posting of the bond. After complete construction of the hotel the interim operation will cease and all electronic table games will be housed in the hotel.”

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

**DATE:** May 9, 2013                      **OFFERED BY:** /s/ Representative Antonio P. Sablan

Approved by

/s/ John F. Cool  
Legal Counsel

*The motion was seconded.*

*Representative Antonio P. Sablan offered the following floor amendments.*

**FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. B. NO. 18-51, HD1**

H. B. No. 18-51, HD1 is amended as follows:

I. Page 4, lines 11 – 13 are amended to read:

“(b) In order to be exempt from this article, the gaming activities described under subsections (a)(6) must be operated only within a hotel or resort premises having ~~200~~ 100 or more rooms or with fewer than one hundred rooms so long as the hotel is attached to a golf course.”

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

**DATE:** May 9, 2013                      **OFFERED BY:** /s/ Representative Antonio P. Sablan

Approved by

/s/ John F. Cool  
Legal Counsel

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. We were a little out of order in the manner in which these amendments were offered. I was under the impression that all three would be offered as one floor amendment, but since he offered and it was seconded on each one, what we should have done was have discussions and voted on each one before we move to the second one, but despite that I think we can still continue. Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Again, Mr. Speaker that is why I asked earlier which one would be preferable to the Chair. Personally, I am offering this as a package and that I would request the Chair if there is no objection that we take a vote on the amendments offered as a package?

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Procedurally we are a little bit off course.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, I respect your decision.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The Legal Counsel can correct me if I am wrong, but three different motions have been offered and three times it was seconded so that means that each floor amendment stands on its own. What we will do is start with the first one and start with any discussions on the first floor amendment on page 1. I recognize Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just wanting to ask the author that is offering the floor amendment, why these particular two companies are there any other companies aside from these two?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I think generally in the gaming industry if they are a number of international recognized gaming laboratories that are used to provide services to the machine operators. Basically it is to provide standards in regards to the operation of the machines to ensure as the language continues on the amendment to ensure that these machines are operated, honest, secure, and reliable and I guess more importantly that they are auditable and that is basically for compliance and enforcement purposes. So the two laboratories mentioned are not the only ones out there. These are a couple that has been suggested and I believe these are common. I know that Global Laboratories International LLC is a standard that is used in a lot of the gaming operations in the states; SIQ Gaming Laboratories is one of the gaming standards company that is used in this area. So there is nothing unique about these two, there are a number of global international – it is just one of them – SIQ is just one of them, but these are two of the recognized and the many companies that are being used by those that are in the gaming industries including those that offer lotteries.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: The reason I am asking is if there is others out there then we are putting these two particular companies on legislation to be enacted into law and I am just wondering maybe the Legal Counsel can chime in if by having these two particular companies indicative of the law itself, would it restrict other companies from coming in?

Legal Counsel John Cool: These are companies that has established the standards for the operation and the control of the gaming machines. I do not know how many different companies they monitor or machines they certify.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: My question is we are indicating two particular companies on a certain piece of legislation that we are going to act upon. Now the author that is offering the amendment has stated earlier that there are other companies out there. Now what I am getting at is if there is only two particular companies that we are indicating here, would this give them somewhat of a franchise right by law that they are the ones to operate within the CNMI and the others are restricted.

Legal Counsel John Cool: No these are the companies that do the auditing, they are the ones that review the gaming programs. They are the ones that look at the random number generating programs to make sure they are all being run in an honest and legitimate manner and they set standards for the operation of machines that are manufactured by somebody else.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: I understand, but what if there are others that can do the same job but yet they are not indicative of the law itself and only these two are indicated.

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes the other ones would be precluded, the other auditing firms would be precluded from certifying the machines.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: They would be precluded or included.

Legal Counsel John Cool: They would be precluded. The machines of what we use here would have to be certified by one of these two companies.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: And so this particular amendment is to have another one which is the underlined, the SIQ Laboratories and this is being inclusive so that Laboratories International LLC does not have a monopoly is that correct?

Legal Counsel John Cool: I am not sure that they would give Global Gaming International a monopoly because they are the ones that are certifying gaming machines and programs that are developed by somebody else and I do not know how many different manufacturers or programmers programming in terms are covered by either of the two companies. It would restrict the number, yes.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: So this would restrict the number?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: So that is just something to keep in mind members that if we are constricting numbers then there are others that can come in that can offer the same services at maybe at lower rates and we are not able to allow them to be in because there are only two particular companies indicated. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Just to follow up on the question posed by Representative Conner, I am also concern if that would make it restrictive and not allow other companies equally qualified or even better to come in. Was there any reason why we chose global?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I recognize Representative Sablan to respond.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason for global Laboratories International and SIQ Laboratories – in this industry we want to ensure that the gaming activities being conducted are being run honestly and I feel more comfortable inserting in the bill a reputable or a basis or foundation for some sort of standard rather than open it up and have no one who can turn to ensure that these devices are being programmed and are being operated honestly, secure, reliable and auditable. The last part of that is that we want to ensure that someone can come in and look at the activities of these devices through a server to ensure what the operators are telling us is what actually has transpired through these devices. Again, I ask and I feel more comfortable having some sort of standard in the bill than no standard at all. There is nothing stopping anyone out there to come forth and present their case in regards to other options and I believe that is available. We have got a legislative to address, but again I am more comfortable and that we have some sort of standard that the patrients or the customers that avail of these devices as entertainment know that there is something or somebody or a standard just being used to ensure that these devices are being operated accordingly. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So if there is no further discussion on the first floor amendment offered by Representative Sablan – I recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Conner brought this up, I just want to know, do you know what company or organization checks the standard on the machines in Tinian Dynasty?

Representative Trenton B. Conner: I am not aware, Representative Villagomez. My concern is that we are enacting legislation that specifically identifies certain companies by name and as leaders we have to not partake in any type of favoritism if you may call it, but if it is a practical way of approaching things in order to have a non-monopoly stick and equitable practice so that there is no monopoly by one particular company and in order to do that to have this SIQ Gaming Laboratories exclusive of this legislation then my point is we are only allowing two which is somewhat of a monopoly but not a full monopoly because it is not just one. We should not be enacting on legislation to identify any particular entity for that matter that is my concern. Now, I am not trying to say that I want to favor one over the other, I am just saying if there are others out there that can provide the same service. Now, colleague Sablan is stating that these two companies are reputable in their practice of securing reliable and auditable services then that is comprehensible, I understand but is it just these two that we can allow? That is why I am kind of concerned.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: That is why I was asking if you were aware if there was a group that monitors the machines in the Dynasty.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: I am not aware that is the Gaming Commissions side of things.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Alright, I am just wondering thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Perhaps if there are no objections the Chair can weigh in on this a little just to clarify the statements that were just made.

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: As far as Tinian Dynasty, I think their machines are covered by a company in Australia. My understanding is most machines that are developed by a country in that country there is a laboratory that regulates those machines to ensure that things like winning percentage are maintained at a certain percentage and usually that is done by law. In the United States in Vegas I believe a Global Laboratories is the company that ensures those standards. They can ensure things that each machine has a software and hardware installed so that the government regulators will be able to track the winnings that is the purpose of these types of organizations. Now in Asia, as I understand it they look to Australia and I think the reason why there is more than one organization here is although Global Laboratories is included for those machines that would be purchased out of the United States if there are machines that are tailored to the market in this case here the CNMI’s market would mostly come from Asia probably China and Korea. For those types of machines that market likes to play it might not be governed by Global Laboratories International and that is why you have this second SIQ Gaming Laboratories. So I guess the intent here is to ensure what machines we do allow to tailor to the market that the CNMI will have is also that those machines can be regulated and that the CNMI’s interest are protected. So the issue of monopoly, I do not think applies in this case and if need be and once this thing starts up and Korean tourist say “we prefer these kind of machines” but they are not regulated by either of these two organizations, we may have to amend it further to find the company that would be able to regulate it. So I think having two in this case kind of covers the basis. Further questions?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So the motion by Representative Sablan on the first floor amendment has been offered, seconded and has been discussed.

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the first floor amendment offered by Representative Sablan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Since Representative has already offered the motion for the second floor amendment and it has been seconded, discussion on the second floor amendment.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the second floor amendment offered by Representative Sablan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The third floor amendment is relevant to page 4, lines 11 through 13 and let me just read it out. “(b) In order to be exempt from this article, the gaming activities described under subsections (a)(6) must be operated only within a hotel or resort

premises having 100 or more rooms or with fewer than one hundred rooms so long as the hotel is attached to a golf course.” The motion has been offered by Representative Sablan and has been seconded, discussion. Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just concerned that we are stating here to have “one hundred or more rooms.” Maybe on the end there if there is no objection from the author to just include “operating rooms.” We are putting here under the second amendment for the Five Million bonds that the hotel shall be completed and operated. Here we are stating 100 or more rooms but not stating if they are operating. So if they have 100 rooms, but yet only 50 are operating but yet with a golf course then that means they can still operate with only 50 rooms open. That is my concern just like the incident with Dynasty now, they have 400 rooms, but they do not have 54 rooms operational due to fixtures broken or the TV or the bed so the rooms are not available. So my concern is we are downgrading to 100 rooms but yet we are not indicating if they have to be operational or not. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan for your concern. I believe Representative Sablan wants to respond. You are recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you. I thank my colleague from Tinian for his concern. Primarily, amendment 2 basically if you read it closely is to allow a company or investor to operate these machines in an alternative offsite location upon posting a Five Million Dollar construction bond and that is for those who intend to invest in a hotel and if that is their desire and their business proposal then upon posting of the Five Million Dollar bond that amendment continues to say that the construction of a hotel with not less than a hundred rooms will commence with between 24 months posting and that the hotel shall be completed and operating within 36 months. Basically, those two provisions put together is to ensure that the posting of the bond is to allow the interim operation – the time frame is to ensure that the hotel is actually constructed and the language that says “completed and operating” is to ensure that the investor who posted the bond actually completes the project and actually puts the hotel in operation. We do not want anybody that takes advantage of this provision only at the end of the 36 months to walk away and say they have constructed a hotel, however the word there and I insisted on the word there “operating” to ensure that the project is actually completed before they are relieved or have the Five Million bond released to them and that is primarily the difference. The second part with the hundred rooms or so is basically to include on Saipan for example, we have a couple of major hotel developments that are currently on the books. One is something that have been in the media mainly Coral Ocean Point (COP). COP has less than a hundred rooms but we want to afford them the opportunity to avail with this program or the intent of this legislation. So again I hope that my colleague from Tinian understands the differences or principle between the two amendments, amendment two and amendment three. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Further questions?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the third floor amendment offered by Representative Sablan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back to the main motion and I now turn it over to the Floor Leader. I believe we have a standing motion?

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: We have a standing motion.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The motion has been seconded so I now open it up to the members for any further discussions on the main motion as amended.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: For clarity Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognized.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: We are on the main motion and the main motion is for the passage on First and Final Reading on House Bill 18-51, HD4 so move.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered by the Floor Leader and seconded, ready?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-51, HD4 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | no                        |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, 14 members voted “yes” and 1 member voted “no.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 14 “yes,” House Bill 18-51, HD4 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader, let us now – if there is no objection – we go back to item XV Resolution Calendar so that we can dispose of some of the resolutions in there.

## **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are on item XV Resolution Calendar. I can clump it or we can go one by one. Let me start with House Resolution 18-20, “To applaud and recognize the Pacific Islands Club contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas community.” Motion is for the adoption of this House Resolution.

### **H. Res. NO. 18-20**

To applaud and recognize the Pacific Islands Club contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas community.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered by the Floor Leader and seconded, discussion. Under discussion, Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Just briefly Mr. Speaker. Since the operation of Pacific Islands Club (PIC) through the years, PIC has quietly has done its part in its community services. If you read the resolution they have participated in a lot of the community events, however of particular contribution that I want to put forth is their continuing assistance in the schools in the Southern part of Saipan, both to Kobler and the San Antonio Elementary School, they provided water and made their facilities available for the students in the area. So again this is to recognize their many years of long standing contribution to the community. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Further Comments.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 18-20 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the motion for adoption of House Resolution 18-19, “To applaud and commend Mrs. Maryjane L. Fleming for her outstanding services as a volunteer at Koblerville Elementary School as a librarian.” So move.

### **H. Res. No. 18-19**

To applaud and commend Mrs. Maryjane L. Fleming for her outstanding services as a volunteer at Koblerville Elementary School as a librarian.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 18-19 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: House Resolution 18-17, “To amend HR 18-1, House of Representatives Rules of Procedure, Rule V, Section 8, Dress Code.”

**H. Res. No. 18-17**

To amend HR 18-1, House of Representatives Rules of Procedure, Rule V, Section 8, Dress Code.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion. Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Mr. Speaker just a quick question, do the females in our body have to wear shirt and tie with this resolution?

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker since I am part of the Special Committee you created.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: In response, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: That will be up to the female.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Further comments Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Mr. Speaker aside from suit and tie can be island wear too?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Roman Benavente. I think when the committee proposed this there was some discussion in the leadership and I think an agreement was reached that when sessions fall on a Friday, Friday is traditionally known to be island wear day that when sessions fall on a Friday that allowances can be made for the members to dress not traditional but in the island wear attire. The mover is not here and I was hoping he would offer a floor amendment to allow for this island wear. Recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: I think the motion was for the adoption.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright for the adoption. The legislative record will show and the journal will reflect that it is a legislative intent that we observe island wear on Fridays if session fall on that day. So with that further discussion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the adoption of House Resolution 18-17 with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 15 “yes,” House Resolution 18-17 hereby passes the House.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is on House Concurrent Resolution 18-1, the motion is for the adoption.

**H. C. R. NO. 18-1**

To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2014, beginning October 1, 2013, and ending on September 30, 2014.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion is offered and seconded for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 18-1, “To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as

amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2014, beginning October 1, 2013, and ending on September 30, 2014.” It has been offered and seconded, discussion. Can I ask the author of the Concurrent Resolution to just briefly inform the members of the committee’s review of the anticipated recourses as presented by the Governor?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the budget process the committee scheduled a meeting with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Secretary of Finance last Friday upon which that the purpose was to explain in details that the strategies used to establish the numbers provided to the Legislature in regards to the 2014 budget. During that meeting the different scenarios and strategies used to explain the revenue of projection as well as the final numbers that has been made available to the House, I believe those that were present are comfortable with the projections. I think it is a combination of a lot of factors. One, the administrations across the board cut of existing or current expenditure level. They also used elimination of all vacancies and they also used the revenue anticipation based on the economic indicators such as the increase in the tourism numbers as reflected in the hotel occupancy and other related taxes. We have also taken into consideration the anticipation or consideration of the pending revenue generating legislation currently in the legislature. So overall as a result of that, the presentation last Friday, the committee has come to a conclusion to put forward this House Concurrent Resolution adopting the revenue projections as forwarded from the administration and I ask the members that we support and adopt this resolution and this is required by the Constitution and I believe the budget act as part of the official function of the legislature. And upon the adoption of the Concurrent Resolution today the committee intends to commence a meeting sometime next week to draft a hearing schedule for those departments that the committee has identified as having concerns or those that we want to bring in and conduct the hearing. So with that I ask the full support of the members in adopting House Concurrent Resolution 18-1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for enlightening the members. Further discussions on House Concurrent Resolution 18-1.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 18-1 with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Representative Teresita A. Santos          | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano             | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb            | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul              | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero          | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 15 “yes,” House Concurrent Resolution 18-1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A motion for adoption Commemorative Resolution 18-2, “To recognize and commend Northern Arizona University, its faculty and students for choosing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as its destination for their scientific research in the field of conservation.” So move.

**C. Res. NO. 18-2**

To recognize and commend Northern Arizona University, its faculty and students for choosing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as its destination for their scientific research in the field of conservation.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded for Commemorative Resolution 18-2, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Commemorative Resolution 18-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Motion for adoption, House Joint Resolution 18-7, “Respectfully requesting the Marine Monument Advisory Council that the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument Visitors’ Center be located at the Marpi area (Lot. 009C06) (17,107.24 square meters) in Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” So move.

**H. J. R. NO. 18-7**

Respectfully requesting the Marine Monument Advisory Council that the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument Visitors’ Center be located at the Marpi area (Lot. 009C06) (17,107.24 square meters) in Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded, discussion. Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Just for clarification if I may ask the Floor Leader who is the sponsor to give us an idea of the approximate location of the lots identified in the resolution.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The approximated location with respect to lot number 009C06 containing the 17,000 plus square meter is above As Matus homestead that is the former radar station. If you want me to be more specific on reasons on why such a choice, I can go further.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I asked approximate and you were very precise, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Ready for the question.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 18-7 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker at the request of the author, I am going to ask that we move to the Bill Calendar?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any objections to going back to the Bill Calendar?

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

*There was no discussion made for the following resolutions.*

**H. Res. No. 18-15**

Respectfully urging Governor Eloy S. Inos to overhaul the medical referral office in order to improve services for the patients of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**H. Res. No. 18-16**

Respectfully requesting Mr. James Deleon Guerrero, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to enforce bicycle laws.

**H. J. R. NO. 18-5**

To fully support the five-year extension of the transitional period of the Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker Program beyond December 31, 2014 so that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will have an adequate amount of time to fully adjust to the transition.

**H. J. R. NO. 18-6**

Respectfully urging Governor Eloy S. Inos to concur and support the opinion of the Attorney General that former Governor Benigno R. Fitial had no authority to enter into the Power Purchase Agreement with Saipan Development, LLC.

## BILL CALENDAR

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We are back now on item XVI of our Order of Business.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: The motion is for the passage on First and Final Reading of House Bill 18-17, “A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 17-8 Section 2 to include necessary changes to finalize projects associated with the original intent of the reprogramming of the One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) as appropriated under Section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56; and for other purposes.” And this is also related to findings or recommendation by the Standing Committee Report 18-8, so move.

### **H. B. NO. 18-17**

A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 17-8 Section 2 to include necessary changes to finalize projects associated with the original intent of the reprogramming of the One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) as appropriated under Section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56; and for other purposes. [*See S. C. R. NO. 18-8*]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Moved and seconded discussion. Can I ask Representative Conner to enlighten the members briefly about the intent of this bill?

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of this bill is that in the initial stage the funding was appropriated to do with the egress pavement for parking and for the dilapidated buildings to be rehabilitated and revitalized. It is unfortunate that it did not indicate that it was to also be used for the purchase of necessary equipment such as parts for the generator for the Liaison in order to get it running or parts for the A/C for the Liaison Office for the sickly that are residing. Therefore, the intent of this is to just give the flexibility for the Mayor to go with the request for proposal to include the purchase and acquisition of the necessary equipment and parts. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Further clarification from the members?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With that there being no further discussions. For the passage of House Bill 18-17, Clerk please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-17 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita        | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro     | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan           | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan         | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos          | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano             | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb            | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul              | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero          | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of 15 “yes,” House Bill 18-17 hereby passes the House. I think we are reaching five o’clock and I think we have done a lot for today. Before I turn it back to the Floor Leader, I will recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not raise this issue up if it is not in category of a revenue generating legislation, but if there is no objection I would like to ask the Floor Leader whether we can entertain House Bill 18-28 as reported out by Standing Committee Report 18-13 is to provide the tax amnesty?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There was no objection from the members?

*Several members voiced “no objection”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: But this would be the last bill we will entertain for the day. I turn it over to the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: On that note Mr. Speaker and members, motion for the passage on First and Final Reading of House Bill 18-28, HD1.

**S. C. R. NO. 18-13**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-28, entitled: “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2017 for the filing of delinquent returns under Title 4, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Act of 1982, as amended, and the payment of delinquent taxes without imposition of penalty and interest, with certain exceptions and for the waiver of penalty for failure to obtain a business license; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-28, HD1.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Is that House Bill 18-28, House Draft 1.

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Yes.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: For clarification the motion has been offered of House Bill 18-28, HD1 it has been seconded, discussion. Recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we had discussed this bill with the Secretary of Finance and her concern in regards to the intent of the bill is addressed on page 7, line 17 under Section 4, Limitations and basically it reads “(a) Previously paid interest and penalties. No person is entitled to a refund of or credit on interest or penalties paid to the CNMI prior to the effective date of this Act.” And basically the concern is that those individuals or businesses that are currently already facing some sort of recovery action by Finance shall not be entitled to this. I stand corrected if we go to page 6, the proper citation is on line 5 where it says “Exclusion. The following persons are not entitled to immunity under the provisions of this Act: (i) any person against whom a criminal or civil action has been initiated and is pending for any violation of the tax laws of the CNMI or any person being investigated for fraud; (ii) any person who has been convicted of tax fraud; (iii) any person whose source of income is illegal; (iv) any person who fraudulently files a special return under this Act.” So again, we have requested a position of Finance under this. I also understand that they are worth other previous tax amnesty and it is my understanding that those tax amnesty programs in the past were successful in recovering taxes from previous taxes. So with that Mr. Speaker, I believe that the concern of the Secretary of Finance is addressed under that provision. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for that explanation Representative Sablan, I was going to ask you to clarify that but you beat me to the punch. Further discussions on the bill?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-28, HD1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Representative Antonio R. Agulto            | yes                       |
| Representative Anthony T. Benavente         | yes                       |
| Representative Roman C. Benavente           | yes                       |
| Representative George N. Camacho            | yes                       |
| Representative Trenton B. Conner            | yes                       |
| Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz       | yes                       |
| Representative Rafael S. Demapan            | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero   | yes                       |
| Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita         | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro      | yes                       |
| Representative Antonio P. Sablan            | yes                       |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan          | yes                       |
| Representative Teresita A. Santos           | yes                       |
| Representative Richard B. Seman             | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Representative Mariano Taitano              | yes                       |
| Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb             | yes                       |
| Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez  | yes                       |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul               | absent ( <i>excused</i> ) |
| Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero           | yes                       |

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, 14 members voted “yes” and 1 member “abstain.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 14 voting “yes,” House Bill 18-28, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader for a motion to adjourn subject to the call.

*There was no discussion made for the following legislations.*

**S. B. NO. 18-21**

A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC § 8282 (death benefits); and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 18-30*]

**S. B. NO. 18-22**

A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC § 1434 (b) (resisting arrest); and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 18-31*]

**S. B. NO. 18-23**

A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC § 2208; and for other purposes. [*See Sen. Comm. 18-32*]

**S. C. R. NO. 18-17**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-61, entitled: “To repeal in its entirety 1 CMC § 8213(g), to eliminate the bonus for employees who are frozen in Step 12 and 1 CMC § 8215, to eliminate the within-grade and merit increase; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 18-61 in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 18-18**: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-62, entitled: “To repeal NMIAC section 10-20.21101 and restore mandatory salary increases for civil service employees.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 18-62 in its current form.*

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

## ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Pro Tem Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that I move to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair.

*The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The House adjourned at 5:01 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Venetia A. Sanchez  
House Journal Clerk

## APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

### SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 18-13

To establish the unarmed combat sport and to establish the athletic commission act; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, and Mariano Taitano) on April 25, 2013.

H. L. B. NO. 18-14

To impose a departure fee on each nonresident passenger who disembarks to Mañagaha Island on a commercial carrier. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 25, 2013.

### THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

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*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on 4/25/13:*

H. B. No. 18-60

To amend 4 CMC §8481 Regulation of Cable Television by labeling the existing paragraph as (a) and to add (b) and (c) to the existing regulation; and for other related purposes. Introduced by REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Janet U. Maratita, and Richard B. Seman) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

H. B. No. 18-61

To repeal in its entirety 1 CMC § 8213(g), to eliminate the bonus for employees who are frozen in Step 12 and 1 CMC § 8215, to eliminate the within-grade and merit increase; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Roman C. Benavente, and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-62

To repeal NMIAC Section 10-20.21101 and restore mandatory salary increases for civil service employees. Introduced by REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Roman C. Benavente, and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-63

To create the CNMI Wellness Program Tax Credit Act of 2013; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-64

To amend Rota Local Law No. 17-6; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-65

To preserve and designate two hectares of public land on the island of Rota for the future site of the Rota Public Cemetery; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. No. 18-66

To require bonding by persons making procurement protests. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself* Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-67

To designate 17,107.24 Square Meters of property (Lot. No. 009C06) in Marpi, Saipan for the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument Visitors' Center; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 25, 2013 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. L. B. No. 18-13

To establish the unarmed combat sport and to establish the athletic commission act; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, and Mariano Taitano) on April 25, 2013.

H. L. B. No. 18-14

To impose a departure fee on each nonresident passenger who disembarks to Mañagaha Island on a commercial carrier. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 25, 2013.

H. RES. No. 18-20

To applaud and recognize the Pacific Islands Club contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas community. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero) on April 25, 2013.

H. J. R. No. 18-6

Respectfully urging Governor Eloy S. Inos to concur and support the opinion of the Attorney General that former Governor Benigno R. Fitial had no authority to enter into the Power Purchase Agreement with Saipan Development, LLC. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Trenton B. Conner, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, and Christopher D. Leon Guerrero) on April 25, 2013.

H. J. R. No. 18-7

Respectfully requesting the Marine Monument Advisory Council that the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument Visitors' Center be located at the Marpi area (Lot. 009C06) (17,107.24 square meters) in Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 25, 2013.

C. RES. No. 18-2

To recognize and commend Northern Arizona University, its faculty and students for choosing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as its destination for their scientific research in the field of conservation. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Trenton B. Conner, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Mariano Taitano, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on April 25, 2013.

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*House information on deadlines for override: None*