



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2013

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, 6th Special Session

Friday July 19, 2013

The House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Sixth Special Session on Friday, July 19, 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: Will the Clerk please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and eighteen members were present. Representatives Antonio R. Agulto and Ralph N. Yumul were absent.

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, eighteen members are present and two members are absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Clerk. We have a quorum. The two members that are absent Representatives Yumul and Agulto are excused for today's session. Before we go on to the next item on our agenda which is the public comments; I just want to inform the members and those out there who are going to be making comments that we will only be acting on the budget bill today; there are many committee reports; bills; and resolutions that we could act on, but I ask for your indulgence aside from some Senate Communications that I will be referring to committees, I will be asking the Floor Leader to place the budget bill onto the Bill Calendar for action. So public comments can be received on other bills, but we will be acting on the budget bill today. So with that any member out in the gallery who wishes to make public comments may step up to the podium and state your name for the record. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments on H. B. No. 18-98 which was part of the Day's Agenda:

Ms. Sonia Camacho – CNMI Judicial Branch.

Mr. Michael Stanker – CNMI Law Revision Commission

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to adopt, First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 18, 2013, so move.

First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 18, 2013

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of our First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 18, 2013, discussion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I call for the vote I ask that you work with the Clerk to make minor changers if there are any.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, First Special Session Journal – April 18, 2013 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We proceed down to Item 4, Introduction of Bills, and before I recognize the first member under introduction, are there any new bills, resolution, and other communications which have not been prefiled. We do have one, Representative Antonio Sablan, please get it to the Clerk so that we can have that numbered and I would then ask the Floor Leader to offer a motion to suspend Rule IX Section 4 (d) to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items on the agenda. And I would like to remind the members that we cannot act on any new bills that did not meet the 24 hours requirement. Floor Leader, recognize.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend Rule IX Section 4(d) to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items on the agenda, so move.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion suspend Rule IX Section 4(d) to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items on the agenda with the following results:

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
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	yes
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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. And with a vote of 18 yes the motion to amend the Day’s agenda is hereby adopted by the House. I now recognize Representative Villagomez.

House Bills:

Representative Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Introducing H. B. NO. 18-94, “To repeal and re-enact P.L. 17-69 to effectively repeal and re-enact Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code, sections 6106(i), 6513, and amending section 6514 to add a new subsection as set forth herein”. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 18-94: To repeal and re-enact P.L. 17-69 to effectively repeal and re-enact Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code, sections 6106(i), 6513, and amending section 6514 to add a new subsection as set forth herein.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on July, 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Villagomez. H. B. No. 18-94, will be referred to the Committee on Commerce. I recognize Representative Conner.

Representative Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am officially introduced H. B. No. 18-95, “To amend Public Law 17-8 Section 2, as amended by Public Law 18-11, to include necessary changes to earmark 10% matching fund in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for Grant 11440661, The Tinian Rota Veterans Cemetery Project, of the reprogrammed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) as appropriated under Section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56; and for other purposes. And Mr. Speaker and members if there are no objections, I would like to respectfully request the Floor Leader place this bill on the Bill Calendar for the purposes that the grant deadline is by August 15. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 18-95: To amend Public Law 17-8 Section 2, as amended by Public Law 18-11, to include necessary changes to earmark 10% matching fund in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for Grant 11440661, The Tinian Rota Veterans Cemetery Project, of the reprogrammed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) as appropriated under Section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56; and for other purposes.

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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is a request to place H. B. No. 18-95 on today's Bill Calendar, and I have no objections with the request, however, we will not act on the bill today, but act on it on the next session. So I recognize the Floor Leader for the motion.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per your conversation with Representative Conner, I now make the motion to suspend Rule 7, Section 9, to place H. B. No. 18-95 on the Bill Calendar. Thank you.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The motion has been offered and was seconded, discussion on the motion.

There was no discussion and the motion to place H. B. No. 18-95 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We now move on to the next mover. I recognize Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce H. B. No. 18-96, "To authorize the Marianas Visitors Authority in consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife to charge entry fee by amending 2 CMC Section 1643; and for other purposes.

H. B. NO. 18-96: To authorize the Marianas Visitors Authority in consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife to charge entry fee by amending 2 CMC section 1643; and for other purposes.

REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Roman Benavente. H. B. No. 18-96 will be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. I recognize Representative Conner again.

Representative Conner: I am officially introducing H. B. No. 18-97, To allocate funds received pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229. Introduced by myself and colleague Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb.

H. B. NO. 18-97: To allocate funds received pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229.

REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself* Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Conner. H. B. No. 18-97, will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Representative Antonio Sablan, recognize.

Representative Antonio Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Introducing H. B. No. 18-98, To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2014.

H. B. NO. 18-98: To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2014.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, and Ramon A. Tebuteb) on July 19, 2013, and calendared.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And Chairman Sablan, I believe you one of your request that this be acted upon today.

Representative Antonio Sablan: Yes, and if there are no objections I would like to request H. B. No. 18-98 to be placed on today's Bill Calendar for action. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Antonio Sablan, I recognize the Floor Leader for the motion.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now make the motion to suspend Rule 7, Section 9, to place H. B. No. 18-98 on the Bill Calendar for today's action, so move. Thank you.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The motion has been offered to place the budget bill on today's calendar and was seconded, discussion on the motion. Ready.

There was no discussion and the motion to place H. B. No. 18-98 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Members. Regarding H. B. No. 18-99, which is authored by Representative Agulto who is not here, are there any written authorization given to members for the introduction of the bill? I recognize the Vice Speaker on for the introduction.

Vice Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, from Representative Agulto, his request to designate the Speaker to be allowed to speak on his behalf. I take it to mean, that you are back as the Speaker, so you privileged on his behalf. And that is under HSE. COMM. 18-50.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Vice Speaker. I think he authorize the Speaker to speak on his behalf and will construe that – that includes the introductions of his bills. So with that, by request, introducing H. B. No. 18-99, To amend certain sections of Public Law 6-37, The Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989, codified as amended at 2 CMC §§ 3411-3416; and for other purposes, introduced by Rep. Antonio R. Agulto. And H. B. No. 18-99, will be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 18-99: To amend certain sections of Public Law 6-37, The Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989, codified as amended at 2 CMC §§ 3411-3416; and for other purposes.

REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Also introducing on behalf of Representative Agulto, H. B. No. 18-100, To amend 1 CMC sections 9301 and 9302 relating to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission; and for other purposes. And H. B. No. 18-100, will be referred to the Committee on Commerce.

H. B. NO. 18-100: To amend 1 CMC sections 9301 and 9302 relating to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission; and for other purposes.

REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I now recognize Representative Leon Guerrero.

Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am officially introducing H. B. No. 18-101 To enact the “Law Enforcement Mandatory Drug Testing Act of 2013” and provide for mandatory drug testing of all law enforcement each year. Introduced by myself and co-authored by several members. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 18-101: To enact the “Law Enforcement Mandatory Drug Testing Act of 2013” and provide for mandatory drug testing of all law enforcement each year.

REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, and Mariano Taitano) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Leon Guerrero, please continue on to the next introduction.

Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am officially introducing H. B. No. 18-102, To amend the forfeiture laws by making both real and personal property subject to forfeiture and eliminating the requirement of a jury trial. Introduced by myself and co-authored by several members. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 18-102: To amend the forfeiture laws by making both real and personal property subject to forfeiture and eliminating the requirement of a jury trial.

REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Mariano Taitano, and

Edmund S. Villagomez) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Leon Guerrero. H. B. No. 18-101 and H. B. No. 18-102 will be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. I now recognize Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am officially introducing H. B. No. 18-103 To amend 9 CMC Section 8210 Penalties for Violations of 9 CMC 8203 and 8204 (a) Civil Fines and Section 2107 Registration: Expiration and Renewal; and for other purposes. I invite any of my colleagues who would like to co-sponsor this bill. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 18-103: To amend 9 CMC Section 8210 Penalties for Violations of 9 CMC 8203 and 8204 (a) Civil Fines and Section 2107 Registration: Expiration and Renewal; and for other purposes.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. H. B. No. 18-103, will be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Are there any further House Bills. I recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Officially introducing H. B. No. 18-104 To provide for a tax rate for foreign corporations earning income from outside of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

H. B. NO. 18-104: To provide for a tax rate for foreign corporations earning income from outside of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on July, 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Antonio Sablan. H. B. No. 18-104 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Are there any more House Bills for introduction before we proceed forward, there being none. I now recognize Representative Leon Guerrero.

House Local Bills:

Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am officially introducing, H. L. B. No. 18-21, To amend 10 CMC section 3618 to provide monetary fines as an alternative to imprisonment for illegal cockfight activity. Introduced by myself and several others.

H. L. B. NO. 18-21

To amend 10 CMC section 3618 to provide monetary fines as an alternative to imprisonment for illegal cockfight activity.

REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 19, 2013.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Leon Guerrero. Are there any more House Local Bills? There being none, we move forward to Item C and I recognize Representative Roman Benavente.

House Legislative Initiatives:

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce H. L. I. No. 18-7 To amend Article XV, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes. Thank you.

H. L. I. NO. 18-7: To amend Article XV, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes.

REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero) on July 19, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Education.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Roman Benavente. H. L. I. No. 18-7 will be referred to the Committee on Education. Are there any more House Legislative Initiatives, if none, we proceed to Item 5, Introduction of Resolutions. And I recognize Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Introducing H. Res. No. 18-30 Respectfully urging the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to direct the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to solicit proposals for Renewable Energy Sources for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

H. RES. NO. 18-30

Respectfully urging the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to direct the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to solicit proposals for Renewable Energy Sources for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Introduced by **REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on July 19, 2013, and calendared.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. The Speaker may place Resolutions on the Resolution Calendar without objections from the members. I will

place this on the Calendar for action on the next House Session. Are there any other House Resolutions for introduction? None.

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We now move down to Item 6, Messages from the Governor.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker we have Governor's Communications 18-55 to 18-64.

GOV. COMM. 18-55: (6/21/13) Informing the House of his nomination of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing Saipan. [*Deadline: 9/13/13*] referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications on July 19, 2013.

GOV. COMM. 18-56: (6/25/13) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Glenn D. Cunningham, Physician (Orthopedic Surgeon), at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to receive an annual salary of \$185,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 18-57: (6/26/13) Inviting Members of the Legislature to a Leadership Forum on July 2, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the Administration's main conference room. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 18-58: (6/30/13) Executive Order 2013-13 – 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. 18-59: (7/2/13) Informing the House that he signed into law H. B. NO. 18-50, HD1 (Pension Obligation Bond Authorization Act of 2013). Became Public Law 18-12. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 18-60: (7/8/13) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. No. 18-9 (Amending the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act (re: to include construction and repair of gov't building and structures)) [*Deadline 9/6/13*]

GOV. COMM. 18-61: (7/8/13) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. No. 18-21, HD1 (Employment Tax Credit) [*Deadline 9/6/13*]

GOV. COMM. 18-62 (7/15/13) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. NO. 18-10, D6, (Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.). Became Saipan Local Law 18-4. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 18-63: (7/15/13) Informing the House that he disapproved H. L. B. NO. 18-11, (To establish a Tinian Medical Assistance Review Board.). [*Deadline 9/13/13*]

GOV. COMM. 18-64: (7/11/13) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Charles E. Brasington, Assistant Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$54,000. [For info]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Clerk. On GOV. COMM. 18-55: (6/21/13) Informing the House of his nomination of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing Saipan. [*Deadline: 9/13/13*] This communication is referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications. Chairman, Leon Guerrero, the Legislature has 90 days upon receipt of this nomination to act. There are pending documents i.e. drug test results so take note of that. And once you receive all the information you can present your recommendations to the full body for action.

Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero: So noted, Mr. Speaker.

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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: State your point.

Vice Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Since this being a public utilities issue, I do not know whether the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications should also be a body to look into Mr. Guerrero's nomination or jointly with Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Vice Speaker, that is a good recommendation. This is will be a joint referral to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications. Further discussion under Governor's Communications, none. We move down to Item 7, Senate Communications, Floor Leader recognized.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under item VII, we have three Senate Communications for action and therefore, I now make a motion to accept all Senate Communications, so move.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. And the motion is to accept Senate Communications 18-48 to 18-56 it has been seconded, discussion.

Several members voiced "ready".

There were no discussions and the motion to accept Senate Communications 18-48 to 18-56 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

SEN. COMM. 18-48: (6/19/13) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 18-4, S1, entitled, “Respectfully petitioning the United States Congress to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to affirm that all Americans shall be given the same consideration when it comes to compensation for exposure to radiation from the U.S. nuclear testing and to increase compensation for those affected,” which was adopted by the Senate on June 19, 2013. [*For action*] - *Referred to the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs on July 19, 2013.*

SEN. COMM. 18-49: (6/19/13) Returning H. B. NO. 18-28, HD1, “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2014 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., which was passed by the Senate with amendments on June 19, 2013, in the form of **H. B. 28, HD1, SD1.** [*For action on Senate amendments*] - *Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on July 19, 2013.*

SEN. COMM. 18-50: (6/19/13) Returning H. B. NO. 18-50, HD1 (To authorize the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds on behalf of the Commonwealth in an amount up to three hundred million U.S. Dollars to pay the Commonwealth Government’s obligation to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.), which was passed by the Senate without amendment on June 19, 2013. [*For info – Became P.L. 18-12*]

SEN. COMM. 18-51: (6/19/13) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 18-21, HD1 (To amend 1 CMC § 8282; and for other purposes.) on June 19, 2013. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 18-52: (6/19/13) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 18-22, HD1 (To amend 6 CMC § 1434(b).) on June 19, 2013. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 18-53: (6/26/13) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 18-5, entitled, “Honoring the life and achievements of Anthony Pellegrino and commending him for his distinguished contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and service to the people,” which was adopted by the Senate on June 19, 2013. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 18-54: (6/26/13) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 18-15, entitled, “Honoring the life and achievements of the late Honorable Senator Luis Palacios Crisostimo and commending him for his dedicated services and contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people,” which was adopted by the Senate on June 19, 2013. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 18-55: (7/5/13) Returning H. B. NO. 18-64 (To amend Rota Local Law No, 17-6; and for other purposes.), which was passed by the Senate without amendment on July 12, 2013. [*Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 18-56: (6/19/13) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 18-5, entitled, “To provide legislative approval to the request made by the Law Revision Commission

to reprogram more than ten percent of its lapsed personnel funds,” which was adopted by the Senate on July 12, 2013. [*For action*] - *Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under Senate Communication 18-48, Transmitting for House action S. J. R. NO. 18-4, S1, entitled, “Respectfully petitioning the United States Congress to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to affirm that all Americans shall be given the same consideration when it comes to compensation for exposure to radiation from the U.S. nuclear testing and to increase compensation for those affected,” which was adopted by the Senate on June 19, 2013. [*For action*] - *Referred to the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs on July 19, 2013.* Under Senate Communication 18-49 returning H. B. NO. 18-28, HD1, “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2014 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., which was passed by the Senate with amendments on June 19, 2013, in the form of H. B. 28, HD1, SD1. [*For action on Senate amendments*] - *Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on July 19, 2013.* Under Senate Communication 18-56 Transmitting for House action S. J. R. No. 18-5, entitled, “To provide legislative approval to the request made by the Law Revision Commission to reprogram more than ten percent of its lapsed personnel funds,” which was adopted by the Senate on July 12, 2013. [*For action*] - *Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.* I now ask that we proceed down to Item 16 on today’s Order of Business, Bill Calendar. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I now make the motion to suspend Rule 9, Sections 8, 9, and 10 for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. No. 18-98, so move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion has been offered by the Floor Leader for the suspension of Rules and it has been seconded, discussion on the motion. Ready.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule 9, Sections 8, 9, and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. No. 18-98 so move.

H. B. NO. 18-98: To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal

Year 2014. Introduced by **REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, and Ramon A. Tebuteb) on July 19, 2013, and calendared.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The motion has been offered for the passage H. B. No. 18-98 and has been seconded, before we go into discussion, we will take a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:01 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We return back to our session. Before we broke off for a short recess, the Floor Leader had offered a motion for the passage of H. B. No. 18-98 and left off under discussion. So are there any discussions on H. B. No. 18-98, the budget bill. I recognize the Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically H. B. No. 18-98 is to provide for the funding for Fiscal Year 2014 and the bill as introduced today pursuant to H.C.R. 18-1 that was adopted by the House in May. Since the adoption of the H.C.R. 18-1 the Committee on Ways and Means had scheduled numerous budget hearings with some critical department and agencies and through the hearing process some changes were made to the proposed budget as submitted by the Governor. The House through the adoption of H.C.R. 18-1 is basically tasked with the legislative responsibility of trying to allocate general revenues in the amount of \$123,400,000 from local revenue and resources. Also, included in H. B. No. 18-98 is the submission budget from DPL (Department of Public Lands) in the amount of \$5,260,796 for a grand total of \$128,660,796. Aside from the general revenue and resources also, coming from the Administration is the identification of some outside sources that are not subject to appropriation and I ask the members to go to page 27 starting on line 4 Section 711, entitled Outside Resources. From the Administration came the following identified revenues sources from the Tobacco Settlement and Tobacco Controlled Fund, \$2,924,237 goes to the Medical Referral for Medicaid reimbursement; \$355,763 for a total of \$3,280,000 from the Tobacco Settlement and Tobacco Controlled Fund. Also coming from Compact Impact the Administration has identified a total amount in of \$1,930,443 distributed proportionately and I believe pursuant to the Compact Impact guidelines among the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Office of the Governor, Office of the Public Defender, Northern Marianas College, and the Public Schools System. Also, identified are resources or revenue in the amount of \$1.4 Million coming from the Commonwealth Worker Fund. The expenditure plan that came from the Governor allocated \$700,000 each to the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College. The Committee in reviewing this particular source of revenues, the Commonwealth Worker Fund included the provision under Section 712 recommending to the Governor that the Governor reallocates the Commonwealth Worker Fund of \$1.4 Million as follows: \$500,000 to the Public Schools System; \$500,000 to the Northern Marianas College; and \$400,000 to the Northern Marianas Islands Trades Institute or other appropriate job training programs. And basically during the budget process the committee identified some resources and basically have taken into consideration that we are dealing with approximately \$123 Million budget. The

committee identified the minimal amount of roughly \$280,000 that we had redistributed to the following: approximately \$149,000 goes to the Judiciary; funded two positions to the Medical Referral in the amount of \$25,000 each for the Medical Referral Office in Honolulu; I believe \$35,000 or \$30,000 of that went to the lease of a vehicle for the Medical Referral operations. We also provided a minimal amount to Ayuda Network; Professional Licensing Board. So basically the committee took its time and made the tough decisions in reallocating the amount. In regards to the respective First and Senatorial District it was the position of the committee to respect the understanding that came forth from the Administration in regards to the budget allocation for the respective Senatorial Districts and the committee did not make any changes to those except for I believe on Tinian, a funding was shifted around to provide for one full time position to the Department for Commerce for a Statistician. Also the proposed budget included 100 positions to be held in reserve to address any future critical needs within the Administration. The committee came to the consensus that – that amount would be reduced and it was reduced down to the current level of 25 positions. Also Parks and Recreation there is a privatization plan coming from the Administration to privatize the services being provided by Parks and Recreation. The committee was concerned in regards to the time-frame between now and October 1st. So we put back the 25 positions without any funding as a fallback in case the privatization plan by the Administration is not ready by October 1st. Other than that Mr. Speaker and members we pretty much went along with the proposal as it came Administration. We are mindful although the revenues increased for this fiscal year, \$10 Million additional identified resources went directly to the Retirement Program. So we were still left with practically the same amount from the previous years but in reviewing the individual departments' individual budget I believe there was a significant increase from some critical agencies such as the Department of Public Safety; Corrections; PSS and others. So we are as a committee Chairman for Ways and Means I would like to ask the members for their support in regards to the passage of H. B. No. 18-98. I believe there are some minor floor amendments that will be offered, but I believe that the committee has done its due diligence in looking closely at the limited resources that we have. Although in the past budgets were passed in what you would call lump sum budget, it was the committee's position that we move away from that to ensure that the departments and agencies exert more control in their expenditures and accountability in the funds provided to their department through the upcoming 2014 budget. And with that, Mr. Speaker and members I ask for your full support so that we can get the budget process going and move it on to the Senate and try to avoid the eleventh hour situation in regards to the 2014 budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. Are there any further discussions? I recognize Representative Seman.

Representative Richard B. Seman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope I am not out of line here, since you mentioned, Representative Sablan *pot ayu i Parks and Rec* in the event that they do privatize the program, what would happen to all the benefits that the staff currently have as government employee and especially *ayu eyon-niha within grade increase* that have been suspended over the last fifteen years. We always come up with the notion that if the economy improves we will compensate people accordingly to what they have earned over the years. So I am just kind of wondering about that and I am sorry to bring that up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Antonio Sablan, would you like to respond.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the question from our colleague from Precinct 1, basically, again, when it comes to privatization or phasing out of a particular function there is always the human factor. And what we have are approximately 24 – 25 employees within the Division of Parks and Recs that might potentially be out of a job, however, these employees are civil service and have civil service entitlements and protections and it is my understanding that the Secretary of the Department of Land and Natural Resources have brought the issue to the Administration. The Administration I believed has tasked the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Personnel in regards to the future or the situation the concerns in regards to these current employees. And that is exactly why the committee took the position of providing for a fallback plan just in case the October 1st comes and the implementation of privatization plan is not ready. We want to make sure that the employees currently working for Parks and Recs continue to provide the services. What we also have to bear in mind the committee took into consideration that the services provided by Parks and Recs is very instrumental and critical to what is going on in regards to our ongoing recovery in our tourism industry. The services provided are maintaining of our beaches sites and other tourists sites. So I believe it is a good plan that is included in here to provide for the fallback just in case October 1st comes and the privatization plan is not quite ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Seman are you...

Representative Richard B. Seman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that much consideration have been put into placed for our colleagues I call them colleagues they are government employees, they are not making much, but they work hard.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I am glad that the committee also recognizes that they did spend considerable amount of time meeting not only with our legal counsels, but with the Administration – the Governor himself and the Office of the Attorney General to make sure that those issues and concerns are taken into consideration. I now recognize Representative Janet Maratita.

Representative Janet U. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, just a question here to the Chairman. Are we considering the requests of the Judiciary as per today's public comments?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: To respond, Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I believe that the issue raised through public comments from the Judiciary has merit, and I am ready to offer a floor amendment to address the concerns in regards to the Law Revision Commission. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Maratita. Are there any further discussions? I recognize Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to recognize and acknowledge the hard work of the Committee on Ways and Means. I know that this is not an easy task, I would also like to recognize that they have managed to bring this budget out as early as we can so that we can pass the budget on time and not to have to face a crisis. Just for clarification purposes, so what we are talking about is that we are staying with the resources

and was transmitted over in April of this year in terms of what revenues are for the CNMI, no additional resources are transmitted over, so we are staying with that. The second question is, are the worksheets, Mr. Chairman a part of this budget package the bill itself because we see a different version now compared to what was passed last year, FY 2013, it is within the sections of the bill. Right now the budget worksheets are made a part as attachments so it is a part of the law I guess if it should pass into law that it is a part of that bill?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: To respond, Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, again Mr. Speaker. To respond to colleague Ogomoro's question. To question number one, in regards to the additional resources, I know that the Governor has come out publicly and said that the potential for \$14 Million additional revenue, but I believe that – that has not come forth from the Administration to make it an official communication with the House. However, it is our understanding that it will be forthcoming once the current FY 2014 budget is signed into law. So your question whether we worked with the revenue transmittal that was provided in April, yes, that is the number that we worked with. Your second question, with regards to the budget worksheet, basically, the committee adopted the position that we should move away from the lump sum budget. That the lump sum budget although creates flexibility in regards to the departments on how they can meet shortfalls here and there, I believe a lump sum budget will also at the same time create an atmosphere where departments tend to exert or practice less control in expenditures. I believe if you know that you got so much amount to spend on fuel and lubrications for example, for maintenance, that you will control those. I think both essential is like expenditures on utilities, I believe if departments are made accountable and say that they know that they got \$80,000 or \$20,000 for utilities that they would be more in the position to monitor and control expenditures. The committee wanted to go further than the current version. We wanted to include the personnel worksheet, however, due to consideration and time we have we went ahead with the current version and as part of this budget we are attaching the Appendix to include the Schedules attached to the budget act and that would be the guideline for expenditures for the respective activities. So again, this is a change from previous budgets. Now I believe departments and agencies will have a guideline in regards to how and how much they can spend for a particular activity and which is why exactly I called for a short recess earlier so that I could address the concerns raised by the Judiciary in regards to the business class under the Law Revision Commission. And that is exactly the intent of adopting the current budget format. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Ogomoro, you still have the floor.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to just working on the worksheets and just so that we recognize that there will be somewhere down the road there will arise a need to make some changes within the amount. Because I do share the concerns that we should live within the means – I mean whatever is appropriated for that particular agency that agency needs to stay within that amount. But should a problem arise down the road during the fiscal year that there is a real need to move amounts around, do we have a flexibility just a language that will enable the manager of that agency to be able to do that and not be restricted.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman, Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Let me try to answer that and then turn it over to the legal counsel. Basically I am not sure exactly how far and how much of a – although the expenditure authority are clear in the bill, I am not sure exactly how much of a reprogramming authority they have, but as much as possible I believe any deviation from the schedules I would assume would need to be addressed in the future. There is no sense writing the guidelines and lift the option that you can do whatever it is that you want with this amount, might as well give them a lump sum budget. So I sincerely hope that when crisis or issues that may arise in the future in regards to this budget that those issues be brought to the attention of this Legislature. There is no provision or there is nothing that prohibits this body from reassessing the current budget bill once it is signed into law. We need to understand we should be expecting a supplemental budget and all those would have to be tied into together in regards to ensuring that critical and essential services are funded, but at the same time that costs are controlled.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Mr. Speaker, I will yield for now.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I entertain more discussions, I just want to further clarify that for Representative Ogomoro and legal counsel can correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that the Planning and Budgeting Act does allow for expenditure heads I think up to 10% reprogramming authority and need be the Governor has a 25% reprogramming authority which the department heads can also work with the Administration. So with that, I saw Representative Santos raise her hand.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman Sablan, earlier you mentioned that the committee stands by its decision not to make any changes as to the First and Second Senatorial Districts' proposed budget as a result of what has been signed between the Administration and the Mayors of these respective Senatorial Districts. Now, is this then one of the reasons why the recommendation proposed by the Rota Delegation was not taken into consideration, just answer with a yes or not.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Sablan, you may respond.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for recognizing me again. No, that is not the reason that we did not make any changes. I believe you and I had numerous discussions. I believe we talked about this a few minutes ago. It was my understanding that although you had made known you intention to make some changes to the First Senatorial District budget in regards to the shifting around of FTEs it was my understanding that you would wait for - those changes would be made once the budget gets to the Senate. So if there is a misunderstanding between ourselves then we will consider it a misunderstanding, but that is not the reason for not making any changes in regards to the First Senatorial District budget. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further discussions? I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to commend Chairman Sablan during the process of the budget within the committee and the Chairman and most of the members who were present the Chairman allowed each and every member the

opportunity to make recommendations, changes, to provide feedback and any other recommendations other than what is already being considered with respect to the submission by the Administration on the budget. So with that I would also like to commend the other members of the committee on the time as well as all the efforts that were put into work of the committee. If you note I also appended my signature on the budget submission as prefiled, meaning that I concur with the committee work. There were other recommendations and amendments offered by some of the members and because of the process that Chairman Sablan has continued and consistently provided during the budget process within the committee I also would like to acknowledge the hard work of all those involved especially our legal counsels and legislative aides. As Chairman Sablan had indicated earlier the committee's action during that process identified \$290,692.00 and this amount was distributed by way again of the committee's action and recommendation throughout the budget. The members also need to take note on the outside sources included in the budget and not identified by the Governor basically it means, hands-off Mr. Legislature this is my authority such as the Compact Impact and all those others that ranges within about \$6 Million - \$5 Million came from the Public Lands, again it is also close to hands-off Mr. Legislature this is only for informational purposes. And so with that Mr. Speaker, I have a propose amendment on Public Lands and would like to now distribute this to the members for their consideration on the propose amendment. The proposed amendment we will have the Clerk get the original proposed amendment. Basically what Public Lands has provided this body is at \$5.2 Million – what the written proposed amendment on the floor now is to deduct \$2 Million from the Class Objects specifically within the budget that was prefiled under all others budget only. Basically this is to eliminate all others account and fairly and legally compelling the Department of Public Lands to make the transfer of that \$2 Million to Marianas Public Land Trust. So move.

Floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb is as follows:

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Adopted
7/19/13

HB 18-98
Floor Amendment

- I. Amend Schedule A "Public Lands" to deduct 2,000,000.00 (two million) from Public Lands' Object Classification Code 62670, "All Others Budget only" account and recalculate accordingly.

This is for the purpose of eliminating the "All Others" account and legally compelling DPL to make the appropriate transfer of the remaining sums to MPLT in the amount of \$2,000,000.00.

- II. Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

Dated: 7/18/13

Offered by: 
Rep. Ramon Tebuteb



The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion has been offered by Representative Tebuteb to amend H. B. 18-98 and has been seconded. And we will go into discussion but members are just now getting a copy of the bill I will allow for a short period to review the proposed floor amendment. I recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to basically to ask for clarification from legal counsel with regards to the amount of \$2 Million and I am trying to figure out whether this \$2 Million is under "all other budget" only – whether this was the amount identified for the proposed homestead programs on Tinian, Rota, and I believe one here on Saipan. John Cool? It is object class code 62670.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Legal Counsel.

LC Joseph LG. Taijeron, Jr.: Chairman, we understand where it is coming from – we do not know what the DPL on Tinian uses.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Clarification for the members specifically whether this is the amount of money that is identified for the proposed homestead programs on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman, I believed Representative Sablan is correct I believe the object code 62670 under the budget worksheet under Public Lands there is an object code of \$2 Million and I believe in the budget submission you are correct, Representative Sablan,

Public Lands had stated that the \$2 Million Dollars would be used for homestead development for the three Senatorial Districts. So Representative Tebuteb, would you want to further clarify?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. Although it is not necessarily official I would consider the public statement from the Department of Public Lands that there is within their resources or accounts at \$8 Million.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there further comments? Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: What we are discussing Public Lands' appropriation. Now what happens if they received – they generate more than the \$5.2 Million – what happens to the rest of the amount? If anything is realized on top of the \$5,260,796.00.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The legal counsel can clarify this, but Representative Ogumoro what is budgeted to Public Lands they can expend under a reasonable operating expenses – anything not budgeted should be remitted to the MPLT per the Constitution.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: So is that what we were supposed to get from the legal counsel then?

LC Joseph LG. Tajjeron, Jr.: I concur with what the Speaker said. Unfortunately the reality may be different.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: So I guess that is where my problem is coming in I am having problem here. Where are saying we cannot touch that here that the Legislature has to approve so is this the same language legal counsel? It seems to me I do not really have time to review prior year's appropriation and the language in the bill relative to Public Land but is that happening? I have not heard of any appropriation for anything above the \$5.2 Million or any act of the Legislature on anything above \$5.2 Million – so where is the money.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I am glad that the representative from Precinct 3 raised that and that is exactly the reason why I am proposing this. Within the past many years and I am going to stick within the past two fiscal years. The Public Lands provided information that they have in their budget \$3 Million. So basically from \$3 Million to now \$5 Million for the past fiscal years they were able to operate the Department within the \$3 Million budget. At some point I believe a couple of budget years ago the Public Lands submitted \$5 Million and then subsequently renege and pulled that back and I told this body that, no, we identified for your information, Mr. Legislature, \$3 Million. So within the past years Public Lands has been operating under \$3 Million. So this additional \$2 Million that I have now examined thoroughly is that this would be only appropriate at this point for this body to move to MPLT.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Ogumoro if I may elaborate further, prior to this fiscal year budgets for the Department of Public Lands has only been provided to this body for informational purposes. We never budget the DPL since its inception, I think this year the Legislature is now taking a proactive stance to provide them with an appropriation that they should stay within. I see that Representative Tebuteb is proposing to amend this worksheet to

remove the \$2 Million which the DPL say it would be used for homestead development, although the budget category that \$2 Million was put is under just an “all others” we cannot compel them to use it for homestead. If it goes into that “all others” budget category they can basically use it for whatever they want. And they are not compelled to use it for homestead development. So I see the intention of Representative Tebuteb and I think this body is within its authority to make that discretionary amendment. Are there any further discussion? Representative Ogumoro, did you want to continue?

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker. So if they receive anything above the – the way that the language appears on the bill we are appropriating \$5.2 Million approximately, so anything above \$5.2 Million would have to come to us for further action. Now let us say we drop that and the approval goes for the amendment that is now offered by Representative Tebuteb, where do we go from...

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: To clarify, Representative Tebuteb’s amendment is to remove \$2 Million from the \$5 Million. And the \$2 Million will then not be a part of the operating expenses which means it would be remitted to the MPLT. For further clarification, Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: That this Legislature does not appropriate Public Lands budget.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think the clarification is this Legislature can from the land lease revenues can appropriate funding to the Department of Public Lands, however, it cannot take those moneys and appropriate it outside of Public Lands. We can appropriate it, but we cannot distribute it. What we do not appropriate to Public Lands in excess would be remitted to MPLT and only MPLT. Are there any further? Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend the mover of the floor amendment and I am ready to support the floor amendment. However, and I know the \$2 Million is designed to take care of the homestead improvement for each Senatorial District, I just want to clarify from the Chairman, if there is any ongoing projects on any Senatorial Districts in regards to homestead improvement – because I do not want to put in my support and yet we are going to short-change the ongoing projects. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Would the mover like to respond?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: If I understand correctly the Floor Leader is asking if the Chairman – I am not sure if it is Chairman Sablan, we have a lot of Chairmen in here – on any ongoing projects with respect to the other senatorial districts on homestead program. Do I understand correctly?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Mr. Speaker, I do understand the Committee on Ways and Means did conduct a Public Hearing with DPL and I am sure they have mentioned something in regards to the ongoing – I just thought I asked that question.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. For further clarification I recognize the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the idea behind this amendment is during the budget process it came to the committee coming directly from DPL there are a number of so called accounts currently under the custody of DPL from which I believe a current balanced amount if I remember correctly, is approximately \$8 Million. And if the \$2 Million identified in this business object class code in the amount of \$2 Million is remitted to MPLT I believe the mover is working on the premise that there is still \$6 Million out there under the control of DPL from which funding can be tapped to move forward with any homestead program. Currently under process or in the process of being implemented. Again, I cannot speak a hundred percent in regards to the intent of the mover other than that \$3 Million in terms of operational or administrative cost by DPL is a number that was justified to the committee pursuant to the submission of their personnel and all others worksheet. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. I believe Representative Santos had her hand raised.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: I just hope that this information may help the question raised by our good Floor Leader here. On Rota, I understand that there is an ongoing homestead project such as that in Fina'fa and that requires funding for the infrastructures in that subdivision. The subdivision has a total of about 148 lots and I understand that DPL the responsibility to shoulder any cost for infrastructure that is within a homestead subdivision. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Santos. I recognize Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: So just because of what Congresswoman Santos had just said, is this going to complicate the work of DPL if we hold back the \$2 Million? I just want clarification on this amendment. I do share the concern that is now raised by Chairman Tebuteb, but I am also wondering if we take that \$2 Million away if it is going to hamper the operations and the work that the DPL is doing to make sure that our homesteads are taken care of. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro, and to respond I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To respond to Representative Ogumoro's question – no.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And Representative Santos'.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: No.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I think partake in that department meeting and I do recall the \$2 Million that they set aside basically was just \$1 Million Tinian, \$1 Million Rota, I think it was for those two senatorial districts. What was absent was any detailed budget as far as what those \$1 Million will be used for – it seems like they just plugged in a Million dollars without any real budget as far as how much will be used for surveying, how much will be used for clearing or any of the development work for any homestead. Unfortunately it was not clear enough. So are there any further discussion? Ready.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the Speaker called for a voice vote for the adoption of the floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb; there was a division on the floor; the Speaker called for the roll with the following results:

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
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	no
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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of thirteen voting yes, the floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb is hereby adopted. I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have another floor amendment and I would like the Sergeant at Arms to pass it out and the original will go to the Clerk. While the Sergeant at Arms is distributing the proposed amendment, I would like to note to the members that that one for your information and the other is the proposed amendment.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, you may read your floor amendment while it is being distributed to the members.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Saipan Local Law 16-4, subsection 2 (c) and this is the local law that was provided for the Rota Gaming Commission seed money. And so basically what is happening and this proposed floor amendment is on Schedule A and that is from the Rota, First Senatorial District Business Unit Mayor, Rota on 1065 is amended to delete \$290,000 from the \$679,241 under the utility class object code of 62710 utility power under the Rota Mayor's Office – so move.

Floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb is as follows:

HB 18-98
Floor Amendment

HB 18-98 is amended as follows:

- I. Schedule A, Rota First Senatorial District, Business Unit Mayor Rota 1065 is amended as follows, and totals recalculated accordingly:
- “Object Classification Code 62710 Utilities Power ~~679,241~~ 389,241”
- II. Schedule A, Mayors Third Senatorial District is amended by adding a new column titled “Third Senatorial District Delegation, SLL 16-4, §2(c)”, and in the new column amending Object Classification Code 62670 All Others (Budget Only) by adding \$290,000

Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

Dated: 7/18/13

Offered by: 
Rep. Ramon Tebuteb

Reviewed by 
Legal Counsel

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, can you enlighten the members as to the intent – I know you talked about earlier, the Saipan Local Law - just so that we understand this clear, you are proposing to take \$290,000 from the First Senatorial District under the business unit utility power for the Rota Mayor's office – reduce it from \$679,241 down to \$389,241 and basically reappropriate that funding to the Third Senatorial District Mayor – is that the intent?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Further to that Mr. Speaker, will be to the Third Senatorial District Delegation that will be under the object code of the Saipan Third Senatorial Mayor under all others and so you have under all others under that object classification code 62670, adding a new column, under the budget sheet. And if I may continue, Mr. Speaker, on the second sheet provided for reference to the members are during the Seventeenth CNMI Legislature through the Rota Legislative Delegation the process for budgets under the Rota Delegation either the general appropriation or the Gaming Commission or the Poker fees collected under the Rota Law – you will see that during the Seventeenth Legislature the Rota Delegation were able to appropriate \$922,000 during that Legislature - \$209,000 are and all those appropriation identified – the enumerated indicated \$209,000, the mover on this proposed amendment is conscious of this

dialysis amount and so we do not want to infringe on that, but when you look at the other appropriations for the Rota Mayor's operations and combine that with the Rota Gaming Commission that goes up to about \$500,000. The mover is basically showing that the Rota Legislative Delegation is able to pay this back to the understanding with the Saipan Local Law 16-4.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. A motion has been offered and I has been seconded, are there any further discussion on Representative Tebuteb's floor amendment. I recognized Representative Santos.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Mr. Speaker and members I strongly believe it is completely and injustice to penalize the municipality's budget to satisfy the financial obligation of the Rota Gaming Commission's debt. If anyone should pay for this debt it should be the agency affected an agency that benefited which was never the municipality of Rota. Previous appropriations have been made or introduced in this Chamber which appropriations have been provided to each of the members here based on this paper that was just recently passed to each one of us – but there was never an objection. And so I am not too sure if the mover of this amendment finds it that it may be the right time now because we are deliberating on the CNMI's fiscal year's 2014 budget. While I understand and I have been admitting, acknowledging, and recognizing that, yes, the Rota Gaming Commission have this debt to the Saipan Delegation. But I have been also requesting for consideration until such time that our lone Casino Industry in the island Rota is able to generate revenue to sufficiently satisfy this outstanding debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Santos and I believe the mover wishes to comments, Representative Tebuteb, you are recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker - or perhaps to even clarify part of statements made by the good Representative of the First Senatorial District. The Rota Local Law 17-4 was introduced by the good Representative at about \$438,000 – the objections that was made by this mover was taken into account and asked by the author of that Rota Local Law that, yes, we will consider. And so that was taken nicely and so thus it indicates that even the \$461,000 Rota Gaming Commission appropriation was never considered by the Rota Legislative Delegation, who has the authority for their municipality to appropriate funds including the Rota Gaming Commission – part of the \$402,000 to the Rota Gaming Commission as proposed and passed into and became Rota Local Law 17-4 from the good Representative - \$312,000 were for the Rota Gaming Commissioners and the rest were for professional services, none were considered for the payment of that obligation.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. Are there further discussions, I recognize Representative Santos.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you, I would like to put this on record. I recalled that there was a local appropriation and this was during the Seventeenth Legislature where I included a certain percentage to the Saipan Delegation to satisfy at least a little or to show good faith that the Delegation is serious in attempting to repay the Saipan Delegation for the Rota Gaming Commission's debt. However, and I can correctly recall the

Chairperson of the then Rota Delegation together with the Chairman of the Saipan Delegation who is still the good Chairman of the Saipan Delegation today met and they amicably resolved the situation, whereby, the Chairman of the Saipan Delegation informed our Rota Delegation Chairperson then, to go ahead and take that certain percentage out and instead allocate that for the dialysis and the terminally ill patients. And so I do not understand what our good Chairman of the Saipan Delegation is trying to say now. At one time we attempted to provide, but then you said, no thank you go ahead and take that and instead allocate the amount to the dialysis and of course we greatly appreciated that. And so we thought including that any subsequent local appropriations that we no longer have to take into consideration that debt until such time that the Rota Gaming Commission or our casino industry generates again enough revenue to be able to pay back what was owed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: For the last time and I think this will be our last discussion – I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and this will be the last comment. And I can directly deny that the reason is that, as the Chairman of the Saipan Delegation it requires me to go back to the members and seek their direction – I think that is clear cut. I do not have any authority on what to do within the Rota Legislative Delegation.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just trying to figure out because I am looking at my sheet and I have not seen any a figure or number \$312,000 perhaps the Chairman can clarify the intent of that \$312,000?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I recognize the mover.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Miscellaneous Communication 17-13, this is a respond from the Rota Gaming Commission to the Chairman on the Chairman's letter dated May 18, 2010. And basically what I did or on behalf of the members is that I had written the Chairman of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission then, Diego Songao in this May 18 letter requesting what is the status of the payback. And let me correct myself and Chairman Songao provided and it is in the communication and is on record and the Commissioner's salary is at \$215,000; the professional services are \$46,000; and the rest is distributed throughout the Commission's operations. So it is \$215,000, my apologies.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader, are you – okay, members are there any further comments? I will allow for one last – I recognize Representative Santos.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this last opportunity. Again I appeal to our good members to not support this amendment because I am sure that each and every one of us here do not want the island of Rota to have a blackout. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Santos. Are there any further discussions? Reading.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb was carried by voice vote; with Representative Santos voting “nay”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Sergeant of Arms to pass this out – this is my last amendment and the original amendment will go to the Clerk.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, as the Clerk goes around passing out the copies could you go ahead and read the floor amendment.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a little bit lengthy. At the onset of my comment the committee’s action identified \$290,000, during the process of the budget Representative Yumul and this amendment is on behalf of my colleague from Precinct 3 and also as cost-cutting Chairman. The Chairman has also identified during the process about \$2 Million but we cut it down to \$1.3 Million further to that and because of the discussion during that process the amendment by Representative Yumul did not go through and respectfully we recognize that as the part of the work for from the committee. So this proposed amendment has identified \$892,770 from the specific object codes and basically it is taken from item one, Schedule A, Office of the Governor basically taking out \$250,000 from the Office of the Governor under all others; and also taking out \$250,000 from the Office of the Lt. Governor from object codes all others professional services and travel; and also taking out about \$342,770 from the Corrections from the wages and salaries and took out \$50,000 from the Legislature from the object classification code 61100 wages and salaries and the total amount again is \$892,770 and plugged it into the Independent Program under business unit Medical Referral and that business unit is 1979; and the new figure for the Medical Referral and these are outstanding obligations even dating back to 1997 the new figure is now from \$22,000 as proposed by the Administration with this new identification the new amount is \$915,533 so move.

Floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb is as follows:

HB 18-98
Floor Amendment

HB 18-98 is amended as follows:

- I. Schedule A, Office of the Governor, is amended as follows, and totals recalculated accordingly:
 "Object Classification Code 62670, All Others (Budget Only) 423,666 173,666"
- II. Schedule A, Office of the Lt. Governor, is amended as follows, and totals recalculated accordingly:
 "Object Classification Code 62670 All Others (Budget Only) 223,059 23,059
 Object Classification Code 62060 Professional Services 40,000 15,000
 Object Classification Code 62500 TRAVEL 40,000 15,000"
- III. Schedule A, Corrections, Business Unit Corrections 1335 is amended as follows, and totals recalculated accordingly:
 "Object Classification Code 61090 Wages and Salaries-Civil SVS
 1,432,526 1,089,756"
- IV. Schedule A, Legislature, Business Unit Legislative Bureau 1770 is amended as follows, and totals recalculated accordingly:
 "Object Classification Code 61100 Wages and Salaries-Ungraded
 1,620,223 970,223"
- V. Schedule A, Independent Programs, Business Unit Medical Referral 1979 is amended as follows, and totals recalculated accordingly:
 "Object Classification Code 62060 Professional Services 22,763 915,533"
- VI. Page 28, line 15, add the following new section:
 "Section 713. Medical Referral.
 Of the amounts appropriated under Independent Programs, Business Unit Medical Referral 1979, \$892,770 is specifically appropriated for the payment of past due obligations to Guam Memorial Hospital."

Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

Dated: _____

Offered by: 
 Rep. Ramon Tebuteb

Reviewed by: 
 Legal Counsel

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Everybody should have a copy of the floor amendment. Discussion, I recognize Representative Ogomoro. Are there any objections to – Floor Leaders?

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: No an objection but perhaps a recommendation and I am sure that there are other floor amendments to be presented. I ask the members to provide copies to the members so that way we would also have the opportunity to review it over lunch break. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The recommendation is that we allow all of the proposed floor amendments to be offered so we can review them, however, I do not know procedurally wants a floor amendment has been offered we need to dispose of it before we move on to any other floor amendment, so I do not know if that will work. So because this amendment is a little lengthy why not we go and recess for lunch and members can review it and then we can entertain any further floor amendments after lunch. We will instruct the Sergeant at Arms to secure the Chamber. So with that are there any objections?

There were no objections raised on the floor.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So we will recess for lunch and be back here at two o'clock.

The House recessed at 12:50 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We return back to our session and before we recessed for lunch Representative Tebuteb had offered a floor amendment which every members should have a copy of and should have reviewed through lunch. The motion was offered and seconded, so I will now open up the floor under discussions for any members. Representative Tony Sablan recognized.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I believe before we recessed for lunch our good colleague Representative Tebuteb offered his last of three amendments for the day and basically it is to take approximately \$870,000 total from various accounts and reallocate the amount owed by the Medical Referral to the Guam Memorial Hospital. And although this obligation is one of the current obligations owed by the Government I believe that this amount is substantial to try to take out of the current budget knowing that the Administration and both OMB (Office of Management and Budget), and the committee has looked over the current budget proposal very carefully in regards to what we can remove and move around. I believe some of the proposals currently included in this amendment were discussed by the committee and were rejected by the committee. The particular concern are the approximate \$342,770 that will be taken from the current budget for the Department of Corrections – this particular issue was deliberated upon I believe for about a couple days and the committee decided that to leave this particular funding alone. And basically we had issues with the current understaffing and the dramatic increase in the prison population of up to 240 inmates being watched over by I believe less than fifty or around fifty positions – basically we shifts that are operating with 8 to 9 officers standing watch over an average of 240 inmates which should be a concern. So again, although the intended purpose is to take care of an outstanding obligation at this time I find it hard for myself to support this amendment. On others it attempts to reduce the budget of the Governor by approximately \$250,000 the same amount for the Lt. Governor’s account; the Legislative Bureau account by \$50,000 – so again I would have to respectfully inform my good colleague that I am not ready to support this particular amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Are there any further discussion? Are we ready.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Tebuteb was defeated.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Further discussions. I believe Representative Chris Leon Guerrero has a floor amendment.

Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to officially offer a floor amendment on page 20, Line 20, Amend “701” to “700” and add new section 702 “Judicial Branch” and renumber all sections accordingly. The new section 702 shall read as follows, (a) Notwithstanding 1 CMC §7204, without prior legislative approval, no funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch in schedule A in Business Unites 1690, 1691, 1692, and 1694 shall be reduced. The Chief Justice shall be the expenditure authority for the Judicial Branch. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Floor amendment offered by Representative Leon Guerrero is as follows:

HB 18-98 HD _____
Floor Amendment

- I. Page 20 line 20: Amend “701” to “700” and add new section 702 “Judicial Branch” and renumber all sections accordingly.
- II. The new section 702 shall read as follows:
- “(a) Notwithstanding 1 CMC §7204, without prior legislative approval, no funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch in schedule A in Business Units 1690, 1691, 1692, and 1694 shall be reduced. The Chief Justice shall be the expenditure authority for the Judicial Branch.”
- III. Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

Dated: 7-19-13

Offered by: 

Rep. Chris Leon Guerrero

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: It has been moved and seconded, discussion on the motion. Ready.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Leon Guerrero was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Camacho you are recognize.

George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to offer a floor amendment -

Floor amendment offered by Representative Camacho is as follows:

HB 18-98
Floor Amendment

I. Page 18 lines 11-13 which currently reads as follows:

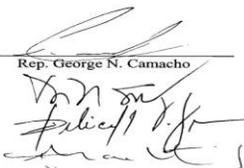
be considered creating a vacant position. Any funds realized as a result of position vacancies shall be retained by the business unit in which the vacancy occurred. The provisions of 1 CMC §8135 and 1 CMC §8253 are suspended for the period of this Act.

shall be amended to read as follows:

~~“be considered creating a vacant position. Any funds realized as a result of position vacancies shall be retained by the business unit in which the vacancy occurred.~~ **transferred forthwith to the CNMI Retirement Fund account.”** The provisions of 1 CMC §8135 and 1 CMC §8253 are suspended for the period of this Act.”

- I. Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

Dated: 7/19/13

Offered by: 
Rep. George N. Camacho

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion has been offered and seconded. Discussion on the motion? I recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: At this time and I understand that you were ready to pose a question to the legal counsel with regards to the proposed amendment – I would yield and offer my comments afterwards. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I yield with that – I was going to ask about the provision of 1 CMC 8135 and 8253 but it does not appear that – that language is being amended that is part of the original budget bill – so I will yield and recognize the Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Again my concern in regards to this particular amendment is the current language in the bill is basically to ensure that any money identified for a particular business unit remains within that business unit and shall not be used anywhere else. I believe the current or the previous administrative provisions in regards to this similar to this issue is that any funds realized in result of this shall be used for deficit reduction – I believe that particular vision really has had no impact in regards to deficit reduction, however this particular revision is inserted here to ensure that again, accountability, that money appropriate for a particular business unit remains with that particular business unit. We have to also be mindful that position vacancies already have a ninety day filling restriction. The amount to be realized from such temporary vacancies, I believe are minimal and I believe it will be more of an administrative burden to execute rather than to make any significant impact in regards to addressing the CNMI or the amount owed to the NMI Retirement Fund by the Central Government. So at this time, I would like to ask that the members to seriously give this floor amendment due consideration. I believe that when we are talking about \$300 plus Millions and any funds realized from an FTE

that becomes vacant on a temporary basis within the ninety days would be really insignificant for this bill to require Finance to be charged with this responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Are there any further discussions? Ready.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the Speaker called for a voice vote for the adoption of the floor amendment offered by Representative Camacho; there was a division on the floor; the Speaker called for the roll with the following results:

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	no
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	no
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	no
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
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	yes
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	no

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a vote of nine “yes” the floor amendment as offered by Representative Camacho is hereby adopted.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to offer a floor amendment and it is amending Schedule A – this is to address the concerns raised by Judiciary this morning during the public comment period. So offered.

Floor amendment offered by Representative Antonio Sablan is as follows:

**HB 18-98 HD _____,
Floor Amendment**

- I. Amend Schedule A “ Judicial Branch ” Administration 1694
Department/Agency Business Unit
- by **deducting** Twenty-Six thousand Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight (26,298)
spell out amount numerical form
- from Professional Services, 62060
Object Classification Object Classification Code
- II. Amend Schedule A “ Judicial Branch ” Law Revision Com 1692
Department/Agency Business Unit
- by **adding** Eight thousand (8,000.00)
spell out amount numerical form
- to Wages & Salaries Ungraded, 61100 and
Object Classification Object Classification Code
- by **adding** Ten thousand-Four Hundred and Twenty-Five (10,425.00)
spell out amount numerical form
- to FICA Contribution, 61196 and
Object Classification Object Classification Code
- by **adding** Seven thousand-Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three (7,873)
spell out amount numerical form
- to all others (Budget Only), 62670
Object Classification Object Classification Code
- III. Recalculate all related figures revised by amendments I, and II, accordingly.
- IV. Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Discussion on Representative Tony Sablan’s floor amendment.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Antonio Sablan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The floor amendment is hereby adopted. Representative Villagomez you are recognized.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my floor amendment is to amend Schedule A under other programs, CHC subsidy business unit 1507 by deducting the amount of \$500,000 from Transfer out –Government Agency unit 65800; and then amend Schedule A “Independent Programs” Medicaid reimbursement business unit 1951 by adding the amount of \$500,000 to professional services unit 62060; recalculate all related figures revised by amendments I, and II accordingly.

Floor amendment offered by Representative Villagomez is as follows:

**HB 18-98
Floor Amendment**

- ~~Other Programs~~ go
- I. Amend Schedule A “ Other Programs ” CHC Subsidy 1507
Department/Agency Business Unit
- by deducting the amount of five hundred thousand (\$ 500,000.00)
spell out amount amount in numerical form
- from Transfers Out Govt Agency 65800
Object Classification Object Classification Code
- II. Amend Schedule A “ Independent Programs ” Medicaid Reimburs. 1951
Department/Agency Business Unit
- by adding the amount of five hundred thousand (\$ 500,000.00)
spell out amount amount in numerical form
- to Professional Services 62060
Object Classification Object Classification Code
- III. Recalculate all related figures revised by amendments I, and II, accordingly.
- IV. Consistent with the intent of the foregoing 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.

Dated: 7-19-13 Offered by: 
Rep.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A floor amendment has been offered by Representative Villagomez and has been seconded – discussion on the motion. Just to clarify Representative Villagomez you are basically taking out \$500,000 from the subsidy that we are providing to CHC and plugging that into the Medicaid Reimbursement which falls under the Independent Programs. I just want to find out from our Bureau staff as these changes are being made the changes are being applied to the appendix A – to the worksheet, right. And also in case it is reflected in the budget bill itself those changes are being applied as well? Okay thank you. I believe Representative Ogumoro had her hand raised.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Just for clarification and to make sure that I understand the figures – so from the schedule can I just reiterate that to make sure that I am correct with my figures – the \$1.2 Million will be reduced by \$500,000 and that subsidy that can be used for anything else – the subsidy that is showing as \$1.2 Million it can be used for anything for CHCC.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: In response, Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the question is the amount provided under CHCC subsidy object class 1507 in the amount of \$1,220,762 basically this is an amount that is being provided from the general revenue given to the Health Care Corporation to support its operation – this would be on top of whatever revenue would be generated by the Health Care Corporation from its billing and I guess the matching from Medicaid – so yes, this is a lump sum I guess that we give to the Corporation which would be then decided by the Board in where it goes within the needs of the Corporation.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogunoro: The amounts for CHCC we will be seeing the \$871,073 plus the \$2,924,237 from the Tobacco Fund going to Medical Referral; and then for Medicaid Reimbursement we will be seeing \$3,945,307 plus \$355,763 plus the \$500,000 that we are moving from the subsidy figure item; and coming in from the Compact Impact amount \$779,238; am I correct with those figures that would constitute the total amount reflected now for CHCC.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes, and basically again the outside sources under Section 711, is revenue being provided for informational purposes to this body and we do not touch those. But the proposed amendment basically tries to reallocate the \$1.2 Million that we have identified from local revenues that is identified as CHCC subsidy that goes directly to the Health Care Corporation. And I guess and I am not sure – basically I guess the intent is to provide additional funding in the amount of \$500,000 to the Medicaid Reimbursement and basically we will recover may be roughly sixty to fifty depends on the matching funds right. So I am not sure how this would impact the overall operations of the Corporation other than and I know that the more we provide for Medicaid Reimbursement the more that we can get back in matching. So I believe it is an amendment that we can support basically we did not move this money out of the Medical services we basically just moved it within the Corporation and identified that specific amount as being reserved for Medicaid Reimbursement matching.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Conner, recognized.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanting to see if there is any more clarification to this proposed amendment by the mover, what is the rationale behind it – if we can get an explanation?

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: It is just to meet the matching funds pretty much. We have seen throughout the years – yes, Medicaid. We have seen throughout the years clinics closing and our residents are having limited access and I want to make sure we meet those requirements so that the health of our residents could have the access to the medication and all the things that they need pretty much.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Do I still have the floor, Mr. Speaker, okay. The reason why I am asking colleague Villagomez is do you have anything from the Medicaid Office stating that the amount that we are providing is insufficient or not enough for that matter?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Yes, I do have in front of me from the Medicaid office as well as from the Medical Referral office information that would show that there are outstanding obligations that goes back to 1997; 2006; 2009; and that was also part of the amendment that I had offered earlier that was voted down by this body on the proposal submitted by Representative Ralph Yumul, about \$800,000. So what I have here is that there is an outstanding of \$3 Million this is for the Medicaid and on the Medical Referral there is still close to \$3 Million too but this is up to July of this year (2013). So you will notice that there are at least from the information that I have you will notice on the average there is usually about \$5 Million every year on an average. So even the proposal that Representative Villagomez is doing can work a little; still not enough, the proposal that I submitted that was shut down by this body, is also in the same line with Representative Villagomez.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: But that is for Medicaid not Medical Referral.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I am referring to both. On an average there are outstanding but the average there is about \$3 Million but the outstanding that I have in front of me is about the same. So on an average it is about \$6 Million on both.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: The reason why I am asking is, Mr. Speaker, do I still have the floor.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Continue.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: The reason why I am asking is I am wondering if we shift this money which I understand it is going to go back to the Corporation, but taking into account the clinical services for the indigent population, from the Department of Corrections for the consent decree requiring medical care, and for the salary compensation for the Chief Executive Officer; Chief Financial Officer which if we do not fill these positions then CMS could eventually shut the hospital down. And if we were to take the CHCC subsidy to throw it over to Medicaid but then CMS comes in and shuts us down because we are not in compliance with what we are trying to provide. I am just trying to look at the rationale behind this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Conner. I recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: And my rationale is to make sure we get those reimbursements.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Mr. Speaker, if I may again. Colleague Villagomez I did spoke to the Administrator for the Medicaid Office and the amount that we are proposing is

sufficient enough, she said. So that is why I am trying to discern the rationale behind this amendment because I do not see putting it under the Medicaid Reimbursement. I understand we will get funding forthcoming by matching but if CMS shuts down the Health Center then what is the use. We would then have to go back and rectify the matter so that is why I am trying to discern how we are going to go about this. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Okay, let us put it to vote. Are there any further discussion? I recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, if you look at Schedule A under the Medicaid Reimbursement we did provide for \$3,945,307 for Medicaid Reimbursement. And I do echo the concern and basically if it is within the Corporation and here we are trying to decide for them where exactly this amount goes that will be the only concern, but addressing this to colleague I am just curious why we at this time we are seeing the need for this particular request and I am not sure whether a specific request came from the Administrator or from this Agency I am just curious myself. Again, it is money that remains to be available for the medical services – but I am just curious. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: And I will just answer in terms of the history of this amendment. On Monday, I met with Chairman Tebuteb and he was discussing his amendment with me that he offered that got shot down but he kept saying Medicaid so I was on board until this morning. I brought it up to him he was like I meant to say Medical Referral. So I was thinking of this amendment for a while and when he brought it up to me – what he meant to say is Medical Referral but he kept saying Medicaid and so there was that confusion and he clarified it when we were on break so that is why I did this amendment to take care of the Medicaid. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognize, Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Yesterday we had a visit and copies were provided to the Chairman of Health Committee from Public Health – and in the outstanding claims not processed that I am holding as I have indicated outstanding of about \$3 Million it does not include the Pacific Health outstanding – and the outstanding per the information provided to the Chairman is \$1.3 Million. So further to that I think it is still almost in the negotiating process because part of the Pacific Health Inc. payment arrangement through an MOU with the Administration to date continues not to be met. So they are still negotiating but at this point without this sort of amendment that I had provided earlier or what Representative Villagomez is attempting to do then it would be weak upon the health providers to move on with until such time this government show some sort of faith in trying to pay off all or at least some in part the outstanding obligations.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. I recognize Representative Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Mr. Speaker I just want to make a comment with regards to Medicaid because I have encountered individuals who are denied in getting their medications and stuff like that and being denied to be accepted to receive medical services. And let us say that all of us family who have may be just unfortunately we have families that are not working

for the government and do not have the insurance and what not they do not have the luxury of having an insurance coverage – so I think by all fairness, Mr. Speaker, this is just my comment to everyone but in all fairness I think it is eminent that we support the bill to at least try and help the Medicaid patients who are having a hard time receiving medical services. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. If there is no objections from the members, can the Chair weigh-in on this issue.

There was no objections raised on the floor.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think both arguments are very valid. I trust that the Chairman and the committee has come up with the figures for the Medicaid reimbursement based on consultations with Medicaid. The concern I see now is not that I am opposing the intent of this floor amendment I am just a little concern that this taking it out of the CHCC subsidy would impact – one, the Department of Corrections; when we were reviewing the budget for the Department of Corrections that question was specifically asked; was the committee going to put in budget into DOC's account to help pay for the services that CHCC was providing to Corrections and the answer was no, because it would be built in into the CHCC subsidy. And so if now we are going to cut from that then as Representative Trenton mentioned this could jeopardize the services to Corrections which would not only perhaps affect the issue of the hospital but also with the consent decree with the federal government and the Corrections. So there is potentially more than one impact here. And Representative Conner, there were two other issues you talked about; one is the services to the Corrections, what was the other two?

Representative Trenton B. Conner: The indigent population to be provided services and the salary compensation for the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer positions which is mandated by the CMS to be filled.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And those two issues could compromise our certification for Medicaid of the hospital as well. And so it is a touchy issue I ask that you really consider it – the intent is good and it is almost similar the goals are pretty much the same but because of the possible consequences I am hesitant to – Representative Sablan did you want to comment?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes, Mr. Speaker I believe this is a very sensitive issue and at this time I would like to ask if there is no objection that we take a short recess.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Before you call for a recess because as you and some members mentioned the Department of Corrections if the consent decree is an issue and when the Commissioner and their Assistant Attorney General met with the committee members there was not really a clear cut concern from either of the two parties that I mention. One seem to say be careful on the consent decree and the Assistant Attorney General seems to indicate that we will be meeting the consent decree. And also because of the amendment that was shot down to pay our outstanding medical referral obligations – examination of the last three fiscal years under the Department of Correction shows that they have been spending 81% below their budget for the past fiscal year and that is part of reason why and what was identified through Representative

Yumul's attempt was about \$800,000 but for compromise cut it down further – the amendment that was shot down earlier was even further and that took into account even the additional FTEs requested on top of that it begins to melt into the health cost per inmate versus let us say \$11,000 per annum government employees. So those are some of the things that at least through my discussion with some of the members as well Representative Villagomez, but even to the extent of the ratio per inmate, that was never part and is never mentioned in the consent decree. So you have that debate of trying to figure out our constitutional obligation for each individual person's right per inmate or per \$11,000 per annum government employees – the word that was used throughout the discussion was adequate – so what is adequate to you may not be adequate to others and that is part of why we at least through the proposed amendment that is in front of us now and what was shut down is very specific based on real figures. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I am now going to call for a short recess.

The House recessed at 3:05 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:31 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We return to our session and during recess the compromise that we reached is that we would put it to vote. Now before putting it to vote I have been listening some of the members were still unclear as to the effect of this proposed amendment. If there are no objections I would like to ask our legal counsel to kind of share with us his insight. So John will you do us the honors.

LC John F. Cool: The Administration has designated the Commonwealth HealthCare Center as the primary Medicaid provider so that the patients do not go to private doctors they go to CHCC now. And Medicaid reimbursement will primarily be paid to CHCC. So the amount that we put in the Medicaid reimbursement account will be matched by federal funds on the ratio of 45% local and 55% federal. And so by whatever money we put into the Medicaid reimbursement account the federal government will match it by roughly basically 110%. So if we put \$500,000 into the Medicaid reimbursement account the federal matching part will be \$550,000. And so the total amount that will be available to CHCC will then be \$1,050,000.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: John I have a question. The concerns that Representative Conner had raised could it be mitigated somehow through this reimbursement?

LC John F. Cool: The concerns about their qualifications?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The CMS certification part.

LC John F. Cool: The CMS certification was for Medicare. The Medicaid program is run by the Commonwealth. And the Commonwealth enters into contracts with the medical providers and controls the disbursement of the fund. So unless you have a reimbursement contract with our local Medicaid office you cannot participate.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Continue Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: What do you mean, we cannot participate, legal counsel?

LC John F. Cool: We control the Medicaid program in the Commonwealth and the providers that want to participate in Medicaid need to enter into a contract with the Medicaid office in order to receive reimbursement for their medical expenses. And not every medical provider has a contract with Medicaid.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: And where does CMS play into this?

LC John F. Cool: Which one, the US certification?

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Yes.

LC John F. Cool: I honestly do not know how that affects our local decision making process on payment of Medicaid payment. I do not know if the two are linked together.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: CMS requires certification – they would certify our hospital that they are eligible because they are in conformance with the health corps that have to be applied to the hospital and without that certification we do not get our Medicaid matching.

LC John F. Cool: I am not aware of the certification process.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: So what I am getting at is that I do not want to dream of making a return when they are going to decertify us and we do not get the return.

LC John F. Cool: Yes, will would lose the entire roughly \$4.5 Million dollars.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: And my question earlier is, if we are going to take this subsidy away from the CHCC will it affect their requirement to have a Chief Executive Officer, a Chief Financial Officer, will it affect the Department of Corrections as far as the consent decree because of the \$240,000 that they need that is embedded here in this amount? And then you have to look at the indigent population whether that service will be provided to those unfortunate people out there – if we were to take this action.

LC John F. Cool: Yes, it may have an impact.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: And that is what I want to know from the mover to what extent will this affect these entities and the people so that we can have a clear sense of consciousness on how we are going to vote on this matter and not just to sit and we are shifting numbers around. With all due respect to the mover of the amendment is to get to the rationale behind this action so that we can have a clear understanding on what we are getting ourselves into. And that is my main concern. I support giving more funding to Medicaid but how can we get the money returned if we give it to them and it sits there because we get decertified.

LC John F. Cool: Yes it either could be decertified or it could not be spent and the other thing is that the money that we give now the \$1.2 Million they can use that right now for any need. If we put it into the Medicaid reimbursement they have to wait until they bill for the services and then

receive reimbursement and if you look on it on an accounting stand point the additional amount that they will receive may be spread equally over the entire period but it is probably the last funds they receive so the benefit that they would receive from the additional funding may be nine months; ten months off.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: That is what I understand – and what I am saying is, okay, we give it to them and it sits there, what about the money that they need to conform to the CMS certification process, where do we go and get that funding? That is what I am trying to get at here because this is \$500,000 that will it affect CHCC regarding the certification or not.

LC John F. Cool: That I cannot tell, but it will affect their ability to use the funds in the short-term basis since receiving the Medicaid reimbursement is likely on the long-term.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: And more than likely they will come back to us and ask us to help them out to find \$500,000 to conform to CMS certification, right, and that is my concern – where are we going to take it from if we are taking from one to the other.

LC Joseph LG. Taijeron, Jr.: How much does it cost for CMS certification?

Representative Trenton B. Conner: I would not know, legal counsel, I am looking there is a myriad of issues that the Corporation is facing right now, but they have to be in conformance with.

LC Joseph LG. Taijeron, Jr.: It could cost a million dollars; it could cost one dollar, we do not know.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: And that is the problem we are taking from whatever they need this funding for to get the Medicaid matching in order to move forward in conforming to these requirements. I yield, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are the members ready? Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: This is very short, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Corporation gain over a million dollars from that settlement, counsel, perhaps you can enlighten us whether you have any information on that and whether that amount was factored into this budget.

LC John F. Cool: No, I have no information on how that impacted the budget or whether it was even considered.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further discussions? Ready. Alright let us put it to vote.

Several members voiced “Ready”; and there being no further discussions; the Speaker called for a voice vote for the adoption of the floor amendment offered by Representative Villagomez; there was a division on the floor; the Speaker called for the roll with the following results:

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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of twelve “yes” the floor amendment as offered by Representative Villagomez is hereby adopted. Are there any other amendments before we entertain the main motion? Representative Ogumoro, recognized.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: This is not an amendment I do not have any amendments here but I just would like to make sure that I am clear on the figures for NMC (Northern Marianas College). The amount that we are giving to NMC is, \$4,162,667; and then from the CW \$500,000; and Compact Impact is \$167,000 totaling \$4,829,900. Is that what we have Mr. Chairman?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman, would you like to?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I believe the amount that is currently under and let me give a heads up to the members if you look at the original Governor’s proposal and the revised and final numbers adopted by the committee for the bill, you will see a slight reduction in all those allotments to the respective activities that had been earmarked some funding from outside sources. And basically if you recalled the message from the Governor is that those outside sources is not available for appropriation however they were included in the budget worksheet for some of the those agencies such as NMC; Corrections; and others. The committee decided to remove those outside sources amount from the total of each department allotment to ensure that the budget that we are acting on is a balanced budget. And basically if you look at the Corrections for example in the amount of \$186,000; the original Governor’s proposal will show that – that particular amount was reduced by \$186,000 if you look at the schedule for Corrections for example. So basically all those that were embedded in the original Governor’s proposal were removed to ensure that we do have a balanced budget. So the amount in the amount of I believe the \$700,000 was the original proposal to NMC from the CW funds; that amount was not subject

to this appropriation so again we removed that to ensure that the budget remains balanced. However, it is the CW funds and the other outside sources are according to the Governor's spending plan. Section 712, I believe is a new section we inserted to recommend to the Governor that \$1.4 Million in CW funds be reallocated like I stated earlier \$500,000 for PSS; \$500,000 for NMC; and \$400,000 Million for NMTI. I hope that answers the question.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that I understand that the \$500,000 available under the CW funding and the Compact Impact \$167,000 are outside of the \$4,162,667.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Once the allotment is made and remitted to NMC that will be the amount that would be available to NMC on top of what we are providing them under this particular budget.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Alright, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro, and Chairman Sablan. Are there any further discussions? Ready. I now recognize Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to make sure that we have the same understanding on the figures that are appearing on the bill. For fiscal year the total allocation for the Legislative Branch is, \$5,282,161 which is approximately \$46,148 increase of that amount over last fiscal year's budget. Mr. Chairman, just so that we are clear, may be you can enlighten us or explain a little bit about the allocation – I mean where is this increase of \$46,148 spread to; how did we program that additional increase. And also is the allocation for each of the members still the same as the prior fiscal year.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman, recognized.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Basically the budget for the Legislature remains the same; what we got from the Administration I guess is a mirror reflection of the current FY 2013 budget, the only difference you see in the schedule is the redistribution. And basically what we had was I believe close to \$150,000 - \$170,000, John; the amount that was originally included in the worksheet for the Retirement contribution that particular funding became available as we are not required to continue to do that as the \$20 Million is supposed to cover all contributions to Retirement. We distributed that amount basically to address the two positions that were taken off or remain unfilled from the previous budget request under the Legislative Bureau. We provided for funding; we added \$9,945 to wages and salaries; personnel insurance \$331; DC retirement employer contribution at \$15,000; FICA \$60; health insurance premiums \$60; Medicare contributions and these amounts are basically short falls in computation. We worked this out with OMB and they agreed with the calculation in other words the numbers that came OMB were a bit short in their computation and the committee went ahead and granted request to ensure that we cover the short fall. And the matter was brought to the attention of the committee pursuant to a letter from Director Mendiola. We also included in the redistribution we added \$20,000 for the ongoing and current termite infestation situation in the building; \$50,000 for training for some of our LA staff; \$10,000 for APIL and this is to ensure that this amount is identified in the current proposal, I know that in the past that this amount was taken out of the Bureau's operational

funding and we wanted to relieve the Bureau of that responsibility. I know that at times it creates a short-fall for them. Under all others we added \$3,771 and for utilities we added \$13,008; personnel expenditures and insurance and this again were all as a result of those short-fall in calculation \$21 for personnel insurance; for the 401K contribution we added \$746; and under all others budget only we added \$233. So basically again the funding for the Legislature remains constant from the current budget and not a dollar was added to the Legislature budget. I hope that clarifies the budget proposal for the Legislature.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman. I think that was a very detailed report on the breakdown of the Legislature. For the members information the counsel has put up the allocation for the Legislature both House and Senate. Representative Camacho, recognized.

Representative George N. Camacho: Mr. Speaker just a point of clarification – just looking at the first item up on the screen; the House Leadership is at \$136,000 and I am looking at this year's budget correct me if I am wrong right now it is right now at \$179,388. Under Public Law 17-85 it is at \$136,888 and looking at the proposal for today's session if I am looking at this correctly right now it is at \$179,388; which is an increase of \$42,000.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes, I believe that issue – out of the \$150 something that we tried to redistribute we – or somewhere I think there was like \$70 sum close to \$80,000 – John, what was the exact amount? And basically what we did because it was a small amount we went ahead and the committee decided to just split it within the House and the Senate. I think it is \$42,000 or something. John, what is the approximate?

LC John F. Cool: It was about \$87,771 and the committee divided it up \$42,500 each to the Leadership account the House and Senate; and then the difference which was \$3,771 put that in the LB all others.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: \$42,500, right? Representative Camacho you still have the floor.

Representative George N. Camacho: Thank you, Speaker. Just \$42,500 can be considered significant or insignificant but if you can may be explain the need to increase the Leadership account when all the other members budget office account remains the same; if you wanted to distribute it amongst everybody; why only the Leadership accounts?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Chairman, recognized.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Well you know what the committee was in the position to take this issue and it was decided if we divided this up, the \$46,500 divide it by 20 that a \$2,200 per member but again this was not an individual decision the was basically a decision of the committee and the committee made the decision and it was adopted as that money going to the Leadership.

Representative George N. Camacho: It does not answer my question to why – like what is the extra need for the Leadership compared to last year’s – is there more work or anything like that? If it is necessary for the committees then can we give it to the Legislative Bureau since you know the staff are very hard working – and \$42,000 they will take it and make good use of it.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Let me say this, in the Leadership right now there are 15 chairmanships and everybody is given responsibility to the respective committee. Right now we have a Leadership of 15 members and the committee decided to support the activities of the members; some of the members have conducted public hearings on Tinian and Rota and find themselves at times unable to move travel where only a couple of members needed to go and basically the committee decided to support the activities of the respective Chairmanship or Committees. And that is the decision we have to support – 15 Membership out of the current \$136,000 which was the amount I believe provided to the former Seventeenth Legislature’s Leadership in the amount of I believe 10 or 11 Leadership. I believe if you do the math and I think 11 Chairmanships versus 15, I believe this small amount is reasonable taking into consideration that now you 15 in this Eighteenth Leadership. Thank you, Chairman. And I hope that explains, colleague Camacho.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Representative Ogumoro, recognized.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Very short. Yes, Mr. Chairman I guess I have no problem with the Leadership getting additional knowing full well that the committees are working and they also need support especially when travel has to be done in terms of the public hearings that have to be conducted. I just want to make sure that I am hearing it correctly everyone is getting the same allocation. I think right now I do not know what the allocation is – is it \$70 something that still it is the same. Is the Leadership, meaning, the amount of money that will be going to the committees to be able to perform the work that is unquestionable, because I do understand, especially us in the House for those of us that have been in that position in the past like year we understand that, but just to make sure that we understand that everyone is getting the same allocation and is still the same as last fiscal year. The other thing, Mr. Chairman, I was trying or maybe I could not locate it right away, but in the past we have been trying to get our staff like for instance an Economist; somebody that will help the Committee on Ways and Means, is that something we are still pursuing because I do understand in the past we were handicapped. We do have very capable staff but they need that special person to come in and assist.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Ogumoro I think the Chairman did explained that as he was talking about it – the two additional FTEs – one of them was the Economist; and the other one I think was a Webmaster that the Bureau is asking for so that all the status of bills are updated so that members of the public can easily access what kind of legislation is being worked on, in answer is yes. Thank you, Chairman. Are there any further, ready. Okay, we now go back to the main motion as offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of H.B. 18-98, HD6 as amended, Clerk call the roll.

There was no discussion and the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to pass on First and Final Reading H.B. 18-98, HD6 with the following results:

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	absent (<i>during voting</i>)
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	no
Representative Richard B. Seman	yes
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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk, with a vote of 15 “yes” H.B. 18-98, HD6 hereby passes the House. Before I turn the mic over to our Floor Leader for a motion to adjourn – or before I turn it over to anyone; let me first take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the Chairman on the Committee on Ways and Means all the committee members for their hard work and deliberation and a lot of times working with the many different agencies to try to conduct the appropriation process and let me say you know it is an easy process to just do lump sum budgeting; I think the committee decided to take the long and hard road of actually appropriating and looking at the itemized expenditure – that is not easy. But that is the right way that it should be done. We can understand in the past that they had to do it because under austerity measures when you have limited funding and what you are giving out is not enough for the agencies you tend to give them the flexibility with lump sum appropriation – and that is not the case today and we now we are going back to the way it should be done and in this way there is accountability – agencies are given their funding but are asked to justify where their needs are and they are going to have to expend it in accordance with the way the appropriations are made. And I think it is a healthy process it is more tedious but in the long run it goes towards responsible government and accountability. And so with that I would now want to thank everybody for their participation today – I think this was one of the smoothest sessions I have ever seen and I want to thank you all for that. With that as I said, rest assured that I know that there are many bills and committee reports that we need to act on – I have asked that we hold a House Leadership next week Tuesday and plan to have the session perhaps the following day, Wednesday or Thursday so that we can act on the other pending matters in our Order of Business. I now recognize Representative Tony Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not going to allow this session to adjourn without taking the time to do the following, basically we want to extend our appreciation to the Speaker for giving his full support to the committee first of all in asking the members to kind of control their individual committee activities to make themselves available for this budget process. I want to thank the members who were 100% cooperative during this whole process I know they try to schedule and juggle obligations to ensure that they make themselves

available for all the individual budget hearings. Also I want to thank the members of the media; I know that they have done an exceptional job of taking the time to ensure that the activity of the committee reaches our public and we started out promising that we would be transparent and basically we made ourselves available to the members of the media and members of the community during this whole process. I will not forget to also mention the department heads that made themselves available from their busy schedules to appear before committee to present their justification and try to work with the committee in regards to their department's budget proposal. Individual acknowledgement to the Secretary of Finance and especially to Ms. Vicky Villagomez from OMB for making themselves available practically for every budget hearings during this past month and a half I believe. To the members thank you, we were faced with the opportunity to make the tough decisions and I think that the product that we have passed this afternoon I think is a budget that does acknowledge the requirements for ensuring that essential public services are provided as a result of this budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. I know the Vice Chairman over here has always been there and the Vice Speaker who have been there in an acting capacity in the absence of the Speaker; he was there continuing to provide his 100% support to the committee – so basically it is just to say thank you to everybody and lastly to our very dependable and reliable and I am sorry that Claire and Char are not here to hear this but I think a special appreciation should go out to them from the committee; to our legal counsels John and Joe thank you again and for the individual staffs for their individual share in making this whole budget process what it is. The committee wanted to ensure that we work on this 100% to ensure that we do not find ourselves in the eleventh hour without a budget that only creates stress for our government employees and their families and I just sincerely hope that during the step that the Senate takes up on the budget immediately so that we can continue to work together at arriving at a final version that would be acceptable to everyone and to just ensure that it is a budget that will help control cost but at the same time ensuring that essential public services are provided through the funding provided through this budget. Again Mr. Speaker and members both to I know our colleague from Rota; we had a misunderstanding with regards to the First Senatorial District request, but she was there as well as our colleague from the Second Senatorial District. So with that I would like to say thank you to everyone.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: I would just like to share to everyone as a freshman colleague at the Legislature I would like to thank everybody for extending their support to us new ones and Mr. Speaker thank you, also to the Legal Counsel; the Bureau; and everyone that is involved. I know that we have our ups and downs and we have our own attitudes and we have our divisions and joining together we all have our differences, but collectively in all I see that there is a sense leadership; integrity; and uniqueness among these group of leaders that I am privileged and honor to be part of this leadership. And again, I would like to say that it is hard to make everybody happy; and it is hard to satisfy everybody and it is also hard to make a balance and complete budget; but I think we have done our part and I think Chairman Sablan has really demonstrated his ability as far as his leadership in shooting through this budget issue and everyone that is in the committee – I thank you all for the heart of working together.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any comments, ready. Floor Leader, recognized.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

HSE. COMM. 18-46: (6/26/13) From Representative Anthony T. Benavente informing the Speaker that he will be off-island from July 1, to July 5, 2013, and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings.

HSE. COMM. 18-47: (7/8/13) From Representative Taitano informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on personal leave from July 8, 2013 to July 15, 2013, and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings.

HSE. COMM. 18-48: (7/9/13) From the Speaker informing all Members that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from Monday, July 15, 2013 to Thursday, July 18, 2013 and designates Vice Speaker Dela Cruz as Acting Speaker.

HSE. COMM. 18-49: (7/10/13) From Representative Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on personal leave from July 15, 2013 to July 31, 2013, and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings.

HSE. COMM. 18-50: (7/16/13) From Representative Agulto informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on personal business from July 19, 2013 to July 23, 2013, and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings.

HSE. COMM. 18-51: (7/16/13) From the Floor Leader informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on personal business from July 19, 2013 to July 23, 2013, and request to be excused from any sessions or meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

MISC. COMM. 18-3: (5/13/13 received 7/8/13) From the Honorable Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau appointed Mr. Joe Lifofoi, as Honorary Consul of Palau to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MISC. COMM. 18-4: (7/8/13) From Ms. Angie V. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director, enclosing a copy of Karidat's independent audit of financial statement for the years ending September 30, 2011 and 2012.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. C. R. NO. 18-11, S2: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-29, entitled: "To amend the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow Outdoor Shooting Ranges, Skeet shooting developments offering competitive rifle competition and skeet shootings and to amend the Customs Violations provisions to accommodate Outdoor Shooting Ranges and revision to correct technical errors." *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-29, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 18-34: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-36, entitled: "To establish higher mandatory sentences for crimes that occurs within 1,000 feet of tourist sites and recreational areas." *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 18-36 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 18-35: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-81, entitled: “To amend 6 CMC §3113 to improve the enforcement of the prohibitions on loitering and change the criminal penalty to an infraction.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-81, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 18-36: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-82, entitled: “To create “The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Anti-Violence Leave Act of 2013”.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-82, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 18-38: Reporting on S. B. NO. 18-12, entitled: “To amend 1 CMC §2902 regarding executive appointments; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 18-12, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 18-37: Reporting on H. B. NO. 18-42, entitled: “To set a fine schedule for possession of Marijuana non-criminal infractions under 6 CMC section 2142; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 18-42, HD1.*

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

H. RES. NO. 18-23

To honor and commend Lawrence Allan Lee for his outstanding services and contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands most especially his contribution of Higher Education to the CNMI Educational System.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: 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 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia A. Sanchez
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. No. 18-20

To rename the Kagman Fire Station #5 to “Ernie T. Dela Cruz Fire State #5”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on 6/21/13:

H. B. No. 18-86

To repeal 1 CMC § 8392 (reemployment and double dipping) (5) (c) and (d); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Special Committee on NMI Retirement Fund.

H. B. No. 18-87

To establish the offense of Abuse of authority/Issuance of Unlawful Orders. Introduced by REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*), Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Roman C. Benavente, Trenton B. Conner, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Mariano Taitano, and Ralph N. Yumul) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-88

To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by adding new section 5569 and amending section 5593 to criminalize the sale and/or resale of products purchased or obtained from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (“AAFES”) and to authorize the Commonwealth Department of Commerce, Division of Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control, the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and prosecute violations of this Act; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Commerce.

H. B. No. 18-89

To establish the offense of Obstruction or Interference with a Court Order or Subpoena and dispose of all fees within Article 1 by amending Offenses Against Public Administration, Article I, Chapter 3 of Title 6 of the CNMI Code. Introduced by REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*), Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Trento B. Conner, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Mariano Taitano, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-90

To increase all fines under Title 9 sections 1101 et seq. (Vehicle Code) of the Commonwealth Code by ten percent (10%). Introduced by REP. FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*), Representative Ralph N. Yumul) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-91

To establish a school choice program administered by the CNMI Public School System in order to increase the quality of education for all students by Fall 2013. Introduced by REP. RAMON A. TEBUTEB of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*), Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Education.

H. B. No. 18-92

To authorize the CNMI Department of Public Safety (DPS) to impound vehicles and to promulgate all policies and procedures necessary to enforce this authority. Introduced by REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Janet U. Maratita, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Mariano Taitano) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-93

To provide for Commissioners of the Public Utilities Corporation to be elected at large. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

H. L. B. No. 18-20

To rename the Kagman Fire Station #5 to “Ernie T. Dela Cruz Fire State #5”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013.

H. RES. No. 18-24

To recognize and commend Angelica Seloterio Lucero for placing First and over-all champion in the 6th-8th grade category in the 2013 CNMI PSS Island-wide STEM Fair and First Place in Division 3, the Energy and Invention Category during the 35th Annual Island-wide Science Fair held in Guam. Introduced by REP. FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ on behalf of REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on June 21, 2013 and calendared.

H. RES. No. 18-25

Respectfully urging Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider, Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue homesteads to those pending applicants who have been waiting to get a homestead lot to which they are entitled to. Introduced by REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013, and calendared.

H. RES. No. 18-26

To recognize and congratulate Janica Quitano Lizama as Valedictorian of the Senior Class of 2013 from Kagman High School. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013 and calendared.

H. RES. No. 18-27

To recognize and congratulate Tasha Deleon Guerrero Dela Cruz as Salutatorian of the Senior Class of 2013 from Kagman High School. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on June 21, 2013 and calendared.

H. RES. No. 18-28

To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to nominate a highly qualified and competent female as the next Associate Judge to the Commonwealth Superior Court. Introduced by REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*) on June 21, 2013 and calendared.

H. RES. No. 18-29

Respectfully requesting the Department of Navy and the Department of Interior to pay employer contributions to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund for services rendered by members of the fund during the Naval Administration and Trust Territory Government from September 1945 through the end of the administration of the Trust Territory Government. Introduced by REP. MARIANO TAITANO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives, Antonio R. Agulto, Trenton B. Conner, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ramon A. Tebuteb) on June 21, 2013, referred to the Special Committee on NMI Retirement Fund.

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 18-60: (7/8/13) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. No. 18-9 (Amending the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act (re: to include construction and repair of gov’t building and structures)) [*Deadline 9/6/13*]

GOV. COMM. 18-61: (7/8/13) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. No. 18-21, HD1 (Employment Tax Credit) [*Deadline 9/6/13*]

GOV. COMM. 18-63: (7/15/13) Informing the House that he disapproved H. L. B. NO. 18-11, (To establish a Tinian Medical Assistance Review Board.). [*Deadline 9/13/13*]