



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION 2015

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

First Day, Third Special Session

Friday, May 22, 2015

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Third Special Session on Friday, 22nd of May 2015, at 1:52 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Speaker recognized the Clerk for the roll; the Clerk having completed the roll announced to the Speaker that 19 members were present; and one member is absent.

The Speaker announced that a quorum has been established; and Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao was excused.

During this time the Chair called for a recess.

1-The House recessed at 1:55 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:12 p.m.

The House reconvened at 2:12 p.m. and directed the House to Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During this time the Chair opened the floor to members of the public who wishes to make any comments on items on the day's agenda.

Public comments were presented by approximately 3 individuals, on H. B. No. 19-35 and H. J. R. No. 19-1.

There being no further comments being presented by the public the Chair moved to Item 3, Adoption of Journals and recognized the Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced that there are two journals for adoption:

Third Day, First Regular Session Journal - February 27, 2015

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader for the motion to adopt the Third Day, First Regular Session Journal - February 27, 2015; the Floor Leader moved for the adoption; several members seconded the motion; the Chair opened the floor for discussion; there being no discussions made on the floor the Third Day, First Regular Session Journal - February 27, 2015 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 18, 2015

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader for the motion to adopt the Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 18, 2015; the Floor Leader moved for the adoption; several members seconded the motion; the Chair opened the floor for discussion; there being no discussions made on the floor the Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 18, 2015 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

At this time the Chair recognized Floor Leader Camacho for the motion to suspend Rules to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items on the agenda.

Floor Leader Camacho moved to suspend Rule IX Section 4(d); the motion was seconded by several members; there being no discussions; the Chair recognized the Clerk for the roll as follows:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	absent (excused)
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

With the result carried by the majority, the agenda is amended. The Chair recognized the Representative Antonio P. Sablan for the first introduction.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Antonio P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 19-59: To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School to enter into a loan agreement for a sum not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 for the purposes of building additional classrooms, Early Head Start Centers, and to pave roads and parking lots at its facilities in Rota and Tinian; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Angel A. Demapan, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph T. Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Chair recognized Representative Ralph N. Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-60: To re-appropriate Four Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$450,000.00) from the Tobacco Control Fund, allotted under Public Law No. 13-38, to supplement drug enforcement efforts of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. RALPH N. YUMUL** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Furthermore, Representative Yumul stated for the record where statements was heard from agencies (the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs) that are tasked to fight the war on ice who are the front liners are in need of funds. This body has the power of the purse and would send a strong message to the Administration that this body's priority right now is basically the war on ice. In the past five months there were two people who were killed coldblooded and one whom is still missing that may be related to meth or ice. At the end of April, Public Law 13-38 which created the Tobacco Control Fund, has over \$900,000 in the account; Mr. Speaker we must show and lead and commit ourselves to both agencies on the war on ice. Mr. Speaker, let this be your legacy and lead us in expediting this bill, H. B. No. 19-60 and give both DPS and Customs the resources that they disparately need now. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. And without having to respond to that because we are under the Introduction of Bills and it is not a place to go back and forth; let me just state that H. B. No. 19-60 will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means; and I think all of us will be expecting that the Committee on Ways and Means act expeditiously on the bill and hopefully as all of you are aware we are in the midst of the budget season right now and a lot of things are going on with regards to the war on ice. What the Chair would like to see is that there will also be continued appropriation; the bill is a one-time appropriation which is good and which will help and jumpstart the resources needed to combat this and I also ask that we also try to infuse on an annual basis to continue the fight on ice. So with that Chairman of Ways and Means, please take note. And we now move on. I believe we have communication from Representative Attao authorizing Representative Villagomez to introduce on behalf of himself. I now recognize Representative Villagomez

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez officially introduced H. B. No. 19-61 on behalf of Representative Attao authorize by written notice:

H. B. NO. 19-61: To establish the Related Service Providers Scholarship; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO**, of Saipan,

Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Education.

The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-62: To amend Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code regarding motor vehicle licensure and rental. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-63: To require that all persons convicted of burglary, robbery, or theft register with the Department of Public Safety and that the community be notified concerning the location of registered offenders when necessary to ensure public safety. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Chair recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-64: To amend the laws regarding the crime of burglary and receiving stolen property; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-65: To prohibit the sale of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) to any person who is under the age of 18 (minors); and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representative Vinson F. Sablan) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Furthermore Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero stated for record, that after participating in the Non-communicable disease and oral cancer forum felt terrible and something needed to be done in the deterrence of oral cancer.

The Chair recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-66: To amend 9 CMC §5602 to include crosswalks, designated school bus stops, school drop zones, and pick up zones to protect our children and pedestrians from speeding vehicles; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. VINSON F. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Ralph N. Yumul) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Furthermore Representative Vinson F. Sablan stated for record, that there are an increase of vehicles in the CNMI; the bill is to assure that the school zone speed limits apply during certain times (school times) for the safety of the children.

The Chair recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-67: To amend 1 CMC §8536(b) and 1 CMC §8537(b) to authorize public officials to appear as an advocate for constituents before a Commonwealth government entity; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following:

H. B. NO. 19-68: To amend the Youth Affairs Act of 2001 as codified as 1 CMC §20105 and 20108 through 20112; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

There being no further House Bills for introductions Chair moved down to House Local Bills; and recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita.

House Local Bills:

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following:

H. L. B. NO. 19-22: To appropriate \$44,000.00 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. GLENN L. MARATITA** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following:

H. L. B. NO. 19-23: To re-name Gapet Lane, Dancing Place and Manha Lane to “Tan Marikitan Pan Lane”, Joeten-Daidai Place” and “Nan Iching Lane” respectively to pay

tribute to their contributions to the CNMI. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, George N. Camacho, Antonio P. Sablan, and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 22, 2015.

The Chair recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Local Bills:

[ADDED 5/22/15] H. L. B. NO. 19-24: To re-appropriate \$300,000.00 from the Tinian Local Law 18-9; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

[ADDED 5/22/15] H. L. B. NO. 19-25: To amend Sections 2 and 3 of Tinian Local Law 19-1; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

There being no further local bills for introduction; Chair moved down to House Legislative Initiatives; and recognized Representative George N. Camacho.

House Legislative Initiatives:

Representative George N. Camacho officially introduced the following:

H. L. I. NO. 19-1: To amend Article XII, Section 4 of the Northern Marianas Islands Constitution; and for other purposes. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015; was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

There being no further initiatives for introduction; Chair moved proceeded to Item 5, Introduction of Resolutions and the Chair recognized Representative George N. Camacho.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative George N. Camacho officially introduced the following:

H. RES. NO. 19-19: To amend the Official Rules of Procedure of the House of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

The Chair placed H. Res. No. 19-19 on Calendar.

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following:

H. RES. NO. 19-20: To respectfully request an extension of 180 days from the Department of the Navy for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to comprehensively review and prepare a cohesive response to the contents of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 22, 2015.

The Chair placed H. Res. No. 19-20 on Calendar.

There being no further introductions; Chair moved down to House Joint Resolutions; and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

House Joint Resolutions:

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following:

H. J. R. NO. 19-5: To respectfully request that the Covenant Section 902 process be utilized by the President of the United States of America and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as the sole forum of discussion, consultation and negotiation to address the United States' desire to acquire any interest in real property not already given under the Covenant. Introduced by **Prefiled** by: **REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself* on May 22, 2015; and calendared.

The Chair placed H. J. R. No. 19-20 on Calendar.

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

There being no further introductions; Chair moved proceeded to Item 6, Messages from the Governor; and recognized the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 19-21: (4/24/15) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Heather Barcinas, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$54,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-22: (4/29/15) Informing the House that he signed into law Tinian Local Bill No. 19-1, (re: Amending T.L.O. No. 18-3.). Became **Tinian Local Ordinance 19-1**. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-23: (4/29/15) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 19-7, D2, (Appropriating \$23,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2, as amended for the repair and maintenance of the Children's Park in Kagman II.). Became **Saipan Local Law 19-1**. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-24: (4/29/15) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 19-8, D1, (Appropriating \$50,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2, as amended for various projects.). Became **Saipan Local Law 19-2**. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-25: (4/29/15) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 19-2, D2, (To appropriate the additional collections under Saipan Local Law 11-2, as amended for activities within the Third Senatorial District.). Became **Saipan Local Law 19-3**. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-26: (4/29/15) Informing the House that he signed into law S. L. B. No. 19-3, D1, (To amend Saipan Local Law 18-5; and for other purposes.). Became **Saipan Local Law 19-4**. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-27: (5/13/15) Certifying and granting approval for Dr. Lainie Zarones, Wildlife Biologist at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to receive an annual salary of \$54,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 19-28: (5/16/15) **Executive Order 2015-06** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

[ADDED 5/22/15]GOV. COMM. 19-29: (5/14/15 received 5/19/15) **Executive Order 2015-05** – Declaration of a State of Emergency: re: Anticipated impact and potential damage as a result of Typhoon Dolphin.

[ADDED 5/22/15]GOV. COMM. 19-30: (5/19/15) **Executive Order 2015-07** – Declaration of Major Disaster and Significant Emergency on the island of Rota as a result of Typhoon Dolphin.

There being no f discussions the Chair proceeded to Item 7 Senate Communications and recognized Floor Leader Camacho.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Camacho move to accept all Senate Communications to become the property of the House. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussions; there being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote.

SEN. COMM. 19-26: (5/5/15) Returning H. J. R. 19-2 (To support the position of the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos and the Commonwealth Ports Authority that Tinian should be the sole location of the proposed construction and implementation of military exercises to expand the divert capabilities of the United States Air Force.), which was adopted by the Senate, *without amendments*, on May 1, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-27: (5/5/15) Returning H. J. R. 19-3 (Requesting that the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos oppose any and all proposed military use of Pagan and oppose any increase military activities in the Northern Islands.), which was adopted by the Senate, *without amendments*, on May 1, 2015. [*For info*]

The Chair referred the following Senate Communication 19-28 to respective committee as follows:

SEN. COMM. 19-28: (5/4/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 19-23, SS1, entitled, “To amend 6 CMC §3171 to define and prohibit electronic cigarettes where smoking is prohibited and to regulate electronic cigarettes by including it in the Tobacco Control and to prohibit minors who are under the age of 18 from using it; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 1, 2015. [*For action*] *Referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare on May 22, 2015.*

SEN. COMM. 19-29: (5/8/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-10, entitled, “To adopt certain amendments to the Interim Rules, and incorporate the amendments as part of the Official Rules of the Senate for the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.” which was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-30: (5/8/15) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. No. 19-8, SD1, HD1 (To amend 1 CMC § 1104(a), to set the time for the Organizational Sessions; and for other purposes.) on May 8, 2015. [*For info*]

The Chair referred the following Senate Communication 19-31 to respective committee as follows:

SEN. COMM. 19-31: (5/11/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. No. 19-36, SS1, entitled, “To encourage investment and tourism on Tinian and Rota by extending eligibility for qualifying certificates under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 to casinos on those islands; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 8, 2015. [*For action*] *Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on May 22, 2015.*

The Chair placed S. J. R. No 19-2 (Senate Communication 19-32) on the Resolution Calendar for House Action:

SEN. COMM. 19-32: (5/11/15) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. No. 19-2, entitled, “To support the request made by the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, for an extension of the comment period from sixty (60) days to 180 (days) for the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental

Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement,” which was adopted by the Senate on May 8, 2015. [*For action*] *Placed on Calendar.*

SEN. COMM. 19-33: (5/11/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-9, entitled, “To convey sincere condolences and sympathy of the Senate, Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, to the bereaved family of the late Paul San Nicolas Aguon on the occasion of his untimely passing and paying tribute to his services to the people of the Commonwealth, most especially the people of Rota,” which was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2015. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 19-34: (5/11/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 19-3, entitled, “To honor and pay tribute to the humble Late Honorable Eusebio Atalig Hocog for his countless contributions to the community and public service to the people of the CNMI,” which was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2015. [*For info*]

There were no discussions under Senate Communications; the Chair proceeded to Item 8, House Communications and recognized Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Communications from the House:

HSE. COMM. 19-24: (5/12/15) From Representative Vinson F. Sablan informing the Speaker of his absence for Thursday, May 14, 2015, due to important matters that needs to be attended to. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-25: (5/12/15) From Representative Vinson F. Sablan informing the Speaker that he officially authorizes Representative Attao to introduce his legislations on his behalf. [*For info*]

[ADDED 5/22/15]HSE. COMM. 19-26: (5/19/15) From Representative Attao, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters on Friday, May 22, 2015 and request to be excused from any meeting or session during his absence. [*For info*]

[ADDED 5/22/15]HSE. COMM. 19-27: (5/19/15) From Representative Attao, informing the Speaker that he officially authorizes Representative Villagomez to introduce his legislation on his behalf. [*For info*]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Clerk announced the following Communications from the Judicial Branch:

JUD. BR. COMM. 19-3: From Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro providing a copy of the Proposed Amendments to the Rules Governing Traffic Procedure 3(a) for the Legislature’s consideration. [Submitted 5/8/15; Deadline 7/7/15] – *Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on May 22, 2015.*

The Chair referred JUD. BR. COMM. 19-3 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: As most of you are aware the Legislature can do nothing if there is no intention to reject and the proposed amendments to the rules would be approved I guess, if we do not act by July 7, 2015. So if any member has any issues or concerns that they would like to raised it would be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

There were further discussions; the Chair proceeded to Item 12, Report and recognized the Floor Leader.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-2: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-8, entitled: “An act to prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-8, HD1., the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-2: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-8, entitled: “An Act to prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-8, HD1.*

There being no discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-2: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-8, entitled: “An act to prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-8, HD1, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-3: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-9, entitled: “To update the open container laws of the Commonwealth.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-9 in its current form, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-3: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-9, entitled: “To update the open container laws of the Commonwealth.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-9 in its current form.*

There being no discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-3: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-9, entitled: “To update the open container laws of the Commonwealth.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-9 in its current form, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-4: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-13, entitled: “To amend 2 CMC section 5631 to authorize 1.5 inch net mesh to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during their seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District.” Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-13, HD1, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-4: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-13, entitled: “To amend 2 CMC section 5631 to authorize 1.5 inch net mesh to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during their seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-13, HD1.*

There being no discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-4: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-13, entitled: “To amend 2 CMC section 5631 to authorize 1.5 inch net mesh to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during their seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District.” Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-13, HD1, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-5: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, entitled: “To prohibit telecommunication companies from imposing an expiration date or forfeiture of unused cellular prepaid credits and MIFI credits earlier than 90 days; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, HD1, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Tebuteb.

S. C. R. NO. 19-5: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, entitled: “To prohibit telecommunication companies from imposing an expiration date or forfeiture of unused cellular prepaid credits and MIFI credits earlier than 90 days; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, HD1.*

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I do support the intent of the measure. Did your committee consider the Department of Commerce’s comments dated February 11, 2015 with respect to requesting the Committee to further consider and research the impact of the FCC’s regulations that may be a part of this bill? Can any member of the committee summarize that?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Taimanao.

Representative Francis S. Taimanao: With respect to colleague Tebuteb’s question about FCC, no, the committee did not seek any guidance with respect to FCC. The recommendations as stated in the committee report is based on the actual credits versus the amount that you spend to acquire those credits. We have reviewed the statement from the Department of Commerce as well from those of the other entities.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Would you like to continue, Representative Tebuteb?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Basically a straight forward and that was responded I am just alluding to the committee’s report and with respect to the Department of Commerce’s concerns raised. That is about it. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: For a response in addition to the Chairman, recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you. On the concerns raised by Representative Tebuteb, this is an item that does not have a best born on date – it does not expire. Other state actually does not have expiration dates on a prepaid card. When you pay a \$10.00 card you are expecting that \$10.00 clean money and why should we seek Commerce’s recommendation to seek FCC regulation because this is relatively just two telecommunication company here that are selling this which are IT&E and Docomo – it is a monopoly thing actually to me. As I recommended to the committee members my concern actually is if I was utilizing a prepaid phone and I feel like I would not exhaust the minutes why am I going to be penalized for not using the minutes. So do these cards have a born on date because it is not a food item – it does not expire to me; and that is why we the committee approved the committee report for the House to approve. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognized, Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Along that line, I think in discussion in regards to the said bill, the committee took into consideration all the testimonies received but in particular if the members will refer to the comments that was submitted on February 14, by the General Manager of IT&E on the third paragraph; again this is how much of an impact will this have on the operations of a service provider and generally if you look at the comments which states in part: “Further, it appears that the overwhelming vast majority of customers use their load prior to expiration.” It goes on to say that the intent of the legislation will create technical issue for IT&E and that all phone numbers whether it be prepaid or postpaid are recycled after 120 days of inactivity - if the vast majority of the accounts are used up any way the prepaid accounts. I think the principal behind the intent is basically to stop taking away what the customers have paid for and I think the committee went on the principal. I do not know the ability to recycle a number is such a great deal if according to the statement provided by IT&E a vast majority of prepaid accounts are used up any way. I hope that answers the concerns with regards to the question that was previously posted. Thank you.

There being no further discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-5: Reporting on S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, entitled: “To prohibit telecommunication companies from imposing an expiration date or forfeiture of unused cellular prepaid credits and MIFI credits earlier than 90 days; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, HD1, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-6: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-51, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 8143(c) and add sections (g) and (h) to extend the grace period of Twenty-One (21) to Thirty (30) days and to remove the Disconnection Notice–Electric Fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15) to prevent any unnecessary financial stress to the struggling residents; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-51 in its current form, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-6: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-51, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 8143(c) and add sections (g) and (h) to extend the grace period of Twenty-One (21) to Thirty (30) days and to remove the Disconnection Notice–Electric Fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15) to prevent any unnecessary financial stress to the struggling residents; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-51 in its current form.*

There being no discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-6: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-51, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 8143(c) and add sections (g) and (h) to extend the grace period of Twenty-One (21) to Thirty (30) days and to remove the Disconnection Notice–Electric Fee of Fifteen dollars (\$15) to prevent any unnecessary financial stress to the struggling residents; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-51 in its current form, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-7: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-19, entitled: “To amend Section 4 of Public Law 11-87 in order to allow the local bidder preference provisions can take effect.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-19 in its current form, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-7: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-19, entitled: “To amend Section 4 of Public Law 11-87 in order to allow the local bidder preference provisions can take effect.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-19 in its current form.*

There being no discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-7: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-19, entitled: “To amend Section 4 of Public Law 11-87 in order to allow the local bidder preference provisions can take effect.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 19-19 in its current form, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-8: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-47, entitled: “To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 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, and the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and prosecute violations of this Act; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-47, HD1, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion; and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

S. C. R. NO. 19-8: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-47, entitled: “To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 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, and the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and prosecute violations of this Act; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-47, HD1.*

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you. Just noting a late discovery on paragraph 2, of page 3, of the committee report. There is a technical error on the reference of the bill as a Senate Bill; to correct to read House Bill.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: That correction can be fixed through a technical amendment if there are no objections from the members.

There were no objections raised.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Is that all, Representative Angel A. Demapan?

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Recognize Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: With all respect, Mr. Speaker, that was the same question. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Okay, so noted then. Are there any further discussions?

There being no further discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-8: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-47, entitled: “To amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 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, and the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and prosecute violations of this Act; and for other purposes.” Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-47, HD1, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-9: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-14, entitled: “To increase motorcycle operator’s safety by requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets to operators, providing operator instruction courses, and issuing motorcycle driver’s license endorsements.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-14, HD1, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

S. C. R. NO. 19-9: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-14, entitled: “To increase motorcycle operator’s safety by requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets to operators, providing operator instruction courses, and issuing motorcycle driver’s license endorsements.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 19-14, HD1.***

There being no discussion on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-9: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-14, entitled: “To increase motorcycle operator’s safety by requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets to operators, providing operator instruction courses, and issuing motorcycle driver’s license endorsements.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-14, HD1, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader; Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 19-10: Reporting on H. J. R. NO. 19-1, entitled: “To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House adopt the resolution in the form of H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD1, the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor for discussion; and recognized Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb.

S. C. R. NO. 19-10: Reporting on H. J. R. NO. 19-1, entitled: “To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House adopt the resolution in the form of **H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD1.***

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do support the intent of the resolution and on discussion on the committee report and that it also consider on page 2 line 11 to add one agency and then subsequently on page 4, so that it is consistent with the consideration on the “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVE” clause to submit to the Special Assistant to CNMI Homeland Security. My thought is the intent well recognized and if we could look at the committee findings on page 3 of 5 which states in part: “Your Committee is heedful of the destructive force of Crystal Methamphetamine and believes in the collaboration...” what I am trying to get to is that if these are all the elements of the driving force behind the war on ice and what the committee finds is that these are the agency which are numerated to Homeland Security, DPS, and so forth. My point is if we are looking at the collaborative enforcement part of the mission that we want to accomplish and it is really up to the members and perhaps the author to consider if it is appropriate to also include the Public School System being the educational institution, not necessarily the war on ice but as the overall intent of trying to eradicate this evil. The reason why I ask is because the title as indicated to create a CNMI Inter-agency financial crime and drug enforcement task force. So what I am alluding to is that perhaps inclusive in that not only necessarily enforcement but perhaps even other areas that we may not be privy of. I am pointing directly to those in the committee report and I would hope that when we go to the calendar we can consider that. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: To respond, I recognize the mover.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: In response to my good colleague, I tend to agree with the recommendation of possibly including the Public School System as part of the education part of this war on ice. Just a heads up when we get to the calendar; I will propose a floor amendment to address some changes. I do agree with his statements and I guess we can incorporate that when we get to the calendar. Thank you.

There being no discussions on the floor; S. C. R. NO. 19-10: Reporting on H. J. R. NO. 19-1, entitled: “To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.” Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House adopt the resolution in the form of H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD1, was carried by voice vote. There was no “Nay” vote.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The various committee ports will be placed on today’s bill calendar and resolution calendar. Let us now move on to Item 15, Resolution Calendar. The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader for the motion.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of H. RES. NO. 19-20; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

H. RES. NO.19-10: A House Resolution To respectfully request an extension of 180 days from the Department of the Navy for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

Islands to comprehensively review and prepare a cohesive response to the contents of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.

There being no discussions the motion was carried by voice vote, there was no “nay” vote. The Chair recognized Floor Leader Camacho for the next item. Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of H. J. R. NO. 19-5; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion the Chair recognized Representative Tebuteb.

H. J. R. NO. 19-1: A House Joint Resolution To respectfully request that the Covenant Section 902 process be utilized by the President of the United States of America and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as the sole forum of discussion, consultation and negotiation to address the United States’ desire to acquire any interest in real property not already given under the Covenant.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Perhaps for my own understanding of the intent and as we all know the gist of resolutions are the “now therefore be it resolved” I do support the intent of the resolution and we just passed H. Res. 19-20 to respectfully request the Department of Navy; on H. J. R. 19-5, is so that we initiate as put forth in the “Be It Resolved” clause that we respectfully request that the 902 process be utilized by the President of the United States on the process. Perhaps and with all due respect to the author to may be for at least myself and some of the general public whom may have had some degree of wishing to understand the process as understood by maybe some of us if not all of us.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I recognize any member, I believe the mover would like to respond, I recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank you Representative Tebuteb. In response to Representative Tebuteb’s concerns I want to point out that House Resolution 19-20 is specific to the draft EIS/OEIS that is out for comment right now. It is specific it is requesting 180 days beyond the original 45 day period and to allow the Commonwealth to provide the comments. House Joint Resolution 19-5, is not specific to the CJMT Draft EIS – House Joint Resolution 19-5 is for a later stage beyond the record of decision; beyond the final EIS when there is a need to finally discuss land acquisition. And House Joint Resolution 19-5 is also being introduced in response to the newly adopted Defense authorization bill in the United States Congress that inserted a new provision that would grant the Secretary of Defense the authority to negotiate with the Governor of the Commonwealth on matters relating to militarization and land acquisition, of which gave rise to House Joint Resolution 19-5 because in my view it is my position that the Defense authorization amendment basically degrades the sanctity of the Covenant and basically degrades the process of now subjecting the Governor of a Territory or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to negotiate at a lower level down at the Department Head in this, the Department of Defense. I believe that because public lands is a major resource for the people of the Commonwealth that any discussion of this nature should be done at the highest level possible and the 902 process gives us the opportunity to directly negotiate with the White House or President’s representative. So that is the difference between the two resolutions. I hope I addressed your concerns there Representative Tebuteb. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, would you like to continue?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I do concur with that. I was just using the previous resolution of the differences between a federal agency and what we are trying to do on our end in trying to address these contentious issues. And like you have mentioned and on page 4 of House Joint Resolution 19-5 is that later on in the future and if there is a desire for the United States who acquire any interest on real

property I do understand the differences and from my understanding and from what I am reading is that we want to bring it up to the higher level in terms of negotiation later on in the future on property that may be the case. I am sure that we are all aware that it is now the Department of Interior and not the Department of Defense are authorized now by the President to negotiate or to initiate 902 process – and I am trying to see and I use that as an example so that we are fairly consistent with what we said and what we mean – and that is what I am trying to get at so that we are in aligned and I do completely agree with the intent of the resolution. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time the Chair will recognize Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you. I looked at both resolution and it does shows that each resolution has its own powers and duties with regards to what it is meant to do. And I would like to down on to a wider spectrum of understanding. I know that in the past the 902 has been introduced on the floor and there were attempts by other previous legislatures to try to negotiate with the US Government but unfortunately it never materialize or we never got to the step on that effect. But it does not mean despite of all the negative issues that we are encountering with the US Government or the State Department in just rampantly telling us to do this and do that and just try to muscle themselves to get what they want. I think the author of the House Joint Resolution 19-5 is very noble because I think it is worth to continue trying. I know we have had tried in the past and we were never successful but I think we do not stop here – there are still issues facing us and I think we should all go hand in hand and support the resolution so we can move ahead and hopefully there is a daylight at the end of the tunnel to gives us that light so the US seat down with us and negotiate. Thank you.

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

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I think that – that mechanism is in our Covenant to enable the United States and the CNMI Government to come together to place on the table those issues that we are not seeing eye to eye on. And there are issues that have been very contentious and that need to be addressed. And the resolution is in the right direction and is pointing to the right direction of bringing the parties together. We do not have to wait and see until we turn around and we have nothing else for ourselves. So this is the time now, let us activate it, the sooner the better. There is no reason why we cannot come together and speak about issues that concern the two parties and try to come to an understanding on how to resolve those issues – not just to come and talk and not take any action, but to come together and address those issues and come to a resolution that is beneficial to both sides. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further discussions? The Chair recognizes the mover.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: I just want to make a final comment in hopes of garnering the support of all the members to adopt the joint resolution. Number one, the timeliness, the urgency that we need this to go through the Senate process for adoption and to get this out to majority of the recipients who are in Washington D.C., but I also want to point out that a big part of the resolution is a citation on facts listed in Article 8, Section 802 and 806. As a friendly reminder to our American family in the United States that there are things that they agreed with to the Commonwealth on as in terms of what kind of property and the size that they would get when we agreed to execute that Covenant. And also a friendly reminder that they did say that they did not see any further need for real property in the

Commonwealth and so that was one of the things why these sections are in there to remind them that these were prior agreements when we decided to become a political family. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The Chair recognizes Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I do support House Joint Resolution 19-5, I just want to either make a suggestion to the author and because we are respectfully requesting – if we are requesting and not to specify as to when – it may appear that it can be done a year from now or two years from now. I am just suggesting that if we respectfully and immediately urge that the Covenant process be immediately utilized – I am merely suggesting that we tweak a little bit of the terms of words. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: In response, the Chair recognizes Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank you Representative Deleon Guerrero. I considered similar language there but there are certain aspects of the Covenant 902 process that triggered the reason why we went with this language is because number one, the 902 process is requested by either the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth or the President of the United States and not by the Legislature. And so by going with this language we are basically saying that if and when a request for a 902 process is initiated and if and when there is a negotiation or any effort to initiate discussion on land acquisition that the 902 process be utilized. This joint resolution is not in effect requesting a 902 consultation process this is just in – in of itself. Thank you.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: I thank you for that.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: It is important that we move this joint resolution forward and the Chairman is right it is time sensitive – I was also looking at the list of the prospective recipients such as the President to the Speaker and so forth and it is very critical and he is right although the Covenant was in relation or whatever the Covenant agreement but one fact it is that the United States law enacted by the Congress – so this is the right forum to address this. That is why I was comparing it to the previous resolution that we are asking an extension although it is intended for the EIS extension, from the Navy I would have thought that perhaps even that should be also be addressed through this, but be it as it may, this is the right forum and I completely with it. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further, for the last time, the Chair recognizes Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: For the last time and it is good that Representative Tebuteb keeps bringing up the EIS issue that we have with the military in terms of the use of our lands. I think that could very well be an issue that should be placed on the table when they come together when that 902 Talks finally happens. So yes, I agree with you I think that could also be a subject that should be placed on the table because let us say that the military extends it and comes back and our people continue to not be in support of the use of further lands to be used for the live fire training, what happens?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further? Ready.

There being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the motion to adopt H. J. R. NO. 19-5 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	absent (excused)
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a vote of 19 yes, H. J. R. NO. 19-5 is hereby adopted by the House. The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

*Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of **H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD1**; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion the Chair recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.*

H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD1: A House Joint Resolution to respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I now ask for the indulgence and patience of the members while we address the floor amendment that I would like to offer at this time. I would like to ask John to have the elmo up so that everyone can track where we are with regards to the amendments as I offer them.

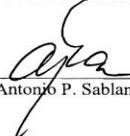
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I believe everyone has a copy of the written amendments.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes, but Mr. Speaker, there will be other amendments to be offered other than what is included in the prepared floor amendments. So with that, I would like to offer a set of floor amendments to House Joint Resolution 19-1, HD1, to read as follows:

Floor Amendment**To:** House Joint Resolution No. 19-01, HD1**Offered By:** Representative Antonio P. Sablan**AMENDMENT:**

1. Page 1, Title: After the word "Interagency" delete "Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement".
2. Page 1, Line 11: After the word "Interagency" delete "Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement".
3. Page 2, Line 13: After the word "Judiciary;" insert the following: "the CNMI Legislature; Office of".
4. Page 2, Line 13: After the word "General", delete the word "Office".
5. Page 2, Line 15: After the words "between the", insert the following: "Office of the".
6. Page 3, Line 15: After the word "Interagency", delete "Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement".

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

Date: 5.22.15


Rep. Antonio P. Sablan

The motion was seconded. The Chair continued to recognize Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: The set of amendments is basically to remove and make sure that the existing Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force is distinct from the intent resolution. And the other is that we are in agreement that this should be a Commonwealth-wide effort coordination on the War on Ice we decided to incorporate the CNMI Legislature for funding sources which is obvious, and the other "General" and "Office" is the proper name of the "Office of the Attorney General". That is it for this set of amendments; and Mr. Speaker at this time I am not sure if you wanted to call for the vote on amendments or should I continue with the others.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this time you may continue what you were doing earlier; we can bring up the resolution on elmo and we can make the necessary amendments from there.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan further offered as part of the Floor amendment to include the following text:

(7) Title to read:

To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to ~~create expand~~ a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency ~~Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement~~ Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.

(8) Page 2, line 3:

WHEREAS, the forces' ~~3 creation expansion~~, with its interagency partnerships and its focus on coordinated, multi-jurisdictional investigations against drug networks, will be the driving force behind the supply reduction approach; and

(9) Page 2, line 14:

WHEREAS, it is our firm belief that the collaboration's strength will be its ability to draw upon the combined skills, expertise, and techniques of each participating agency, namely the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management; the Department of Public Safety; the Department of Finance, Division of Customs; the Judiciary; the Attorney General ~~Office~~; and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Community ~~and~~ Guidance Center ~~14 and the CNMI Public School System~~; and

(10) Page 3, line 14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, that the House hereby respectfully urges the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to ~~14 create a expand the~~ Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency ~~Financial Crime and Drug Enforcement~~ Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families and most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth; and

(11) Page, Line 14:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Senate President, 19th CNMI Legislature; Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress, 114th United States Congress; Honorable Alexandro C. Castro, Chief Justice, Commonwealth Supreme Court; Honorable Roberto C. Naraja, Presiding Judge, Commonwealth Superior Court; Honorable Edward Manibusan, Attorney General, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Mr. Marvin Seman, Special Assistant, CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management; Mr. James C. Deleon Guerrero, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; Ms. Larissa Larson, Secretary, Department of Finance; and Ms. Esther Muna, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; ~~14 and to Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D., Commissioner, CNMI Public School System.~~

The motion was seconded, the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: I would like to ask the author, we are including the Public School System, and I am wondering and suggesting to include Private Schools as well. I think this is a very noble organization. So if we are to advocate education in the public school system we might as well advocate the same thing in the private school system. I am just merely suggesting, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Maybe I can try to address this. This task force is a comprehensive effort from all three branches of government – the Judicial, Legislative, and the Executive Branch to look at everything to try to curb or stop the ice importation. I think it is a stretch to include PSS but since it may help in terms on the public education aspect that PSS be included. But I think if PSS is to be involved because of that to spread this message and educate our kids I think when they do that it would cross not just public schools but it would be to educate all students and I think they would also be

able to reach out to students in the private schools – I think it would suffice. Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, do you want to continue.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for your answer Mr. Speaker. And I sincerely hope that they do. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And if I may just to add on to explain the reasons why the Legislature is to also be included here is that the Chairman had mentioned that our role the branch that can appropriate funding to support this efforts. It also goes just beyond that – as I said this would be a comprehensive effort not just for the enforcement to stop it at the borders to go after the users here; the judicial branch now offering to do the drug court would try to address the issue of the addicts and try to get them into programs to get them off of it; but the courts had already said that we also need to revisit the laws and there may need to be some adjustment to the laws and that is also our role; the reason that the legislature would be in this task force. This Inter agency Task force is really full out war on ice. And Chairman I was going to suggest now that you took out “financial crime and drug enforcement” which will now read “Inter Agency Task Force” to address the proliferation of crystal meth – I was going to ask you what you think about giving this task force a name – you made it clear that you want it to distinguish this from the inter agency financial crime and drug enforcement task force, I was wondering if it would be appropriate to give it a name. Something short and something clear – the War on Ice Task Force because that is what this really is – it is a combined and comprehensive movement or action on behalf of all the branches of government to tackle this epidemic. That was something I wanted to throw out as a recommendation. The Chair recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: When we get to the main motion for the passage I would like to thank everybody who had signed on to the resolution, but I believe a couple of the members have not had the opportunity to sign off on it – if there is no objections I would like to offer this joint resolution as committee of the whole.

There was no objections raised on the floor House Joint Resolution 19-1, HD1 is sponsored by the Committee of the Whole House.

There being no further discussion on the motion offered by Representative Antonio P. Sablan was carried by voice vote there was no “nay” vote. Before entertaining the main motion the Speaker recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you. At this time I would like to offer the last amendment to read on the title as follows:

To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Interagency *War on Ice* Task Force to address the proliferation of Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) in the Commonwealth and its negative imprint on the lives of many families, most especially the impact on the lives of our young people in the Commonwealth.

The motion was seconded, the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you. To the author, it is a very strong move and now we move to try to rename it to the War on Ice – and yes we are really suffering on the War on Ice – but only yesterday I discussed with Kevin Villagomez he mentioned that there are other types of narcotics that is not necessarily ice but is very addictive and very powerful and it is hard to kick off from it. So I would like to share the thoughts that maybe put down on the title “War on Ice and

heavy narcotics. I do not want to confine this on only one function because we are looking at ice only and then there is going to be – but again we will let the enforcement agency determine that. I recall my recommendation.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I recognize Representative Anthony T. Benavente.

Representative Anthony T. Benavente: Thank you. I just want to make sure that you are well recognized also for coming up with that “war on ice” title. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I think we are all in this war together. I know that everybody has been doing their own initiatives to try to address this issue and it is affecting all of us in many ways our families. Thank you.

There being no further discussion on the motion offered by Representative Antonio P. Sablan was carried by voice vote there was no “nay” vote.

There being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the main motion to adopt H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD3 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	absent (excused)
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a vote of 19 yes, H. J. R. NO. 19-1, HD3, is hereby adopted by the House. The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of S. J. R. NO. 19-2; the motion was then seconded by several members; the Chair opened the floor under discussion.

S. J. R. NO. 19-2: A Senate Joint Resolution to support the request made by the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, for an extension of the comment period from sixty (60) days to 180 (days) for the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. [Sen. Comm. 19-32]

There being no further discussions the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the Calling of the Roll on the main motion to adopt S. J. R. NO. 19-2 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	absent (excused)
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a vote of 19 yes, S. J. R. NO. 19-2, is hereby adopted by the House. The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: The last resolution is **H. R. NO. 19-19**, A House Resolution to amend the Official Rules of Procedure of the House of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Mr. Speaker in accordance this resolution needs to appear one day on our calendar, however, we can suspend that rule so that we can take action. I believe we have all read the rules it has been sitting here I do not want to say timely but we do need a more permanent rules than the one that we are operating under. I do have a substitute to offer also, but on that note, Mr. Speaker so that we may take action and we may start working under a more permanent rules, I would like to offer a rule suspension to suspend Rule 16, Section 1, so move.

The motion was seconded the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Could we have the reason for the suspension of that – what is 16 – one day appearance.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Counsel?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: The entire section 1 of Rules 16, would be suspended. That includes both the requirement that it sit on the calendar for one day and that it be adopted by three-fourths of the membership.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Short recess?

The Chair called for a recess.

2-The House recessed at 4:15 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

The House reconvened at 4:35 p.m.; the Chair open the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was reading Rule 16, Section 1, and it looks like that this is the rule that pretty much controls everything in basically our bylaws of the House. And to suspend this rule to me really it is very dangerous – it means to say that we can always break our own rules and that is my concern. If we are going to do this let us do this right – if the three-fourths supports the amendments made by our Floor Leader then it should move, but to keep amending this part of the rule is very dangerous. It just does not hold any merit to any of our rules from this date forward. So I caution everybody to really read this rule very carefully because this is what holds the House Rules together. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker I was asking the Floor Leader the reason for the suspension and it seems like when we head to the House Resolution 19-19 the house resolution is to amend the official Rules of Procedure of the House and very specifically on Rule 8 on Standing Committees. And so the intent of suspending that specific rule does not jive with the recommendation on House Resolution 19-19. So it seems that it is tempting on that suspension motion on that specific house rules is that it is attempting to go outside the recommended items in House Resolution 19-19. It is clear that the Floor Leader had also indicated that he will submit additional amendment to House Resolution 19-19 and at the onset when we had our previous session I was under the impression that you would be creating a committee of sort to address this in lieu of what transpired in the first House Resolution to adopt the House Rules. We have an existing House Rules but the attempt to suspend that specific section is really trying to insert what it is that the majority may have had in mind – I am going to be specific in that. I have no objections to what is in House Resolution 19-19, but just the mere fact the Floor Leader suggesting otherwise that he may produce an amendment further would indicate that it is perhaps more than this one which probably will include some of the concerns. And one of the concerns is that because of your arrangement on your speakership issue – that is my main objection on this suspension motion. And if that is the case then perhaps the Floor Leader needs to be more specific so that we address that speakership issue because as it is the existing rule whether we have this in place the majority or the leadership still has the majority number so even absent that it does not make a difference. So objection on that.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. To entertain that question about you know the additional amendment is kind of at this point is out of order since the discussions right now is on the motion to suspend Rule 16. And I know that there is a relevancy there but once this is disposed of and that floor amendment is offered then we can touch on that.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you Mr. Speaker. But just to further clarify that statement because in his approach to make that motion he indicated that he will be submitting an amendment to this without again not being in order – so my assumption that base on that statement is because it is more than this and I am very specific and that it is basically all about your speakership

issue. I am just asking that do not get us into that business – you still have the number go with that – do not get me involved in that.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, so noted. Are there any further discussion? Representative Tebuteb for the second time.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I did said that I do object to that suspension. So move.

The Chair called for a recess.

3-The House recessed at 4:41 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:43 p.m.

The House reconvened at 4:43 p.m.; there being no further discussions on the floor the Speaker called for the vote by voice on the motion to suspend Rule 16, Section 1, there being a division on the floor; the Speaker recognized the Clerk for the calling of the roll.

The Clerk called the Roll on the motion to suspend Rule 16, Section 1 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	absent (excused)
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	no
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	no
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	no
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	no
Representative Francis S. Taimanao	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	no
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	no
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And this suspension motion requires simple majority, John?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Yes, that is correct.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a vote of 12 yes, and 7 no, the motion to suspend Rule 16, Section 1, is hereby adopted. The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho moved for the adoption of H. R. No. 19-19, the motion was seconded by Representative Antonio P. Sablan; the Speaker open the floor for discussion and Floor Leader Camacho was recognized.

H. R. NO. 19-19: A House Resolution to amend the Official Rules of Procedure of the House of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker I do have a substitute to offer and I would like to offer it now. A floor amendment to House Resolution 19-19 is an amendment to provide substitute to House Resolution 19-19 in the form of House Resolution 19-19, HS1. I have it right here we can make copies of everything but in essence this is basically the originally from Special Committee Report 19-5, so if you have any questions please refer to that, unless you want to kill more trees then we will make copies of the exact same thing. So offered, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And for those who have their laptops in front of them it should be available electronically, Clerk? On the proposed amendment the Chair recognizes the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: It would be completely different whatever the committee report we have had so perhaps I ask that you make copies so that we have time to review it.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: This is one of those times when it really helps to have a laptop in front of you – we do not have to kill more trees. We are looking at what 30 to 40 pages times 20? The time would be to make copies – I think it may almost be faster to just go and get your laptops and pull it out from the network – one, it would be faster than copying I do not know how many hundreds of pages and two, and it is the same thing there is no changes to it. It is basically the same thing that was provided to every member and every member had an opportunity to review it for at least a month. So it is basically the same thing. Rather than making copies I respectfully ask each member if they can refer to Special Committee Report 19-1. You know what I am going to ask the indulgence of the members and because we are close to five o'clock – I am going to ask the Floor Leader if we can withdraw the motion to pass leave it on the calendar go to the bill calendar and pass at least two bills and everybody would have the chance to review the whole thing by the next session - if that is middle ground.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, the same thing will happen in the next session – members are going to ask again for copies of the same thing once I offer the floor amendment.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I wanted to say that what you offered will stand but we will not act on it. But there is no way of doing that and then moving to the bill calendar is there? By the next session everybody should have copies if the motion is still in effect.

Floor Leader Camacho: So in essence you do want to make more than twenty copies which includes the Clerk and the Counsels of that – that they already have in the original committee report – if that is where you are going for then...

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I am just saying that if we are going to go that route to make copies today, we are going to exceed five o'clock and we would not be able to act on anything else. So I am proposing a compromise but I do not think I would be in order if I offer that compromise which is to leave it on calendar – maybe withdraw the motion but have the members pull out those copies for the next session or have the copies ready for the next session. Everybody has access to that it is in the network. The Chair recognizes Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I think it is important before we move from this item of the agenda that we do recognize an amendment in the form of a substitute has been offered and received – with that done the members would have the opportunity to go over that in time for the next session. We just want to make sure that – that is clear that we have a pending amendment that has been offered in the form of a

substitute, and I think it has been seconded and we are under discussion I do not know we can get clarification from the counsel but I think at this point that is where we are at.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The Chair recognizes Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you. I want to ask the Legal Counsel if we are going to move forward to the Bill calendar does the suspension of rules still stand by the next session or do we still need to make a suspension of the rule?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: That motion has been passed already but we can have John further clarify it. Okay I think the course of action we are going to be taking is that we are not even going to go to the bill calendar it is almost five o'clock and stop where we are and the recommendation by Representative Antonio Sablan is that we – can we table this John – we have House Resolution 19-19 still on calendar we have to dispose of the motion that has been seconded already today – but John the question is when we come back the next time do we still have to go again and offer the motion to suspend Rule 16?

Legal Counsel John F. Cool: Yes. We will be starting all over. At this point we do have a motion that has been seconded and the normal procedure is to dispose of that motion before we proceed further – either by withdrawing the motion or voting on it.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The Chair recognizes the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, can I just ask a curious question? How of the members would like a copy of the floor amendment as offered as opposed to referring to their own original committee report? If it is just one or two I guess we can wait for that and then move on.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Can I see a raise of hands? There is probably one raised. Are there anybody else? Let us take a short recess I am going to direct the Sgt. at Arms to make copies.

The Chair called for a recess.

4-The House recessed at 5:00 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 5:17 p.m.

The House reconvened at 5:17 p.m.; the Chair recognized the Minority Leader Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Maybe the mover can explain the differences in House Resolution 19-19 and the substitute.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader, did you understand the request by the Minority Leader to explain the difference between House Resolution 19-19 and the substitute?

Floor Leader Camacho: The main difference is House Resolution 19-19 was an attempt to piece meal each amendment that we are proposing to the Interim Rules – now permanent Rules actually. And the

difference in the substitute is that it encompasses all the amendment that had been proposed that are all in Special Committee Report 19-1.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you Floor Leader. Minority Leader you still hold the floor.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I have the four pages of House Resolution 19-19 basically making amendments to the existing rules – Rule 8 of the Standing Committees – what I was asking is that with this changes not taking into account committee reports because that is irrelevant – what are the differences? Perhaps so that you point out other than what is contained in House Resolution 19-19.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader I recalled that you had a bullet of all the various points, maybe you can highlight which ones and use that and which ones are on House Resolution 19-19 and which ones are on the substitute.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The bullets would be on the Special Committee Report but I would have to pull that out if you want me to go item by item.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I guess because the question was to distinguish between what is in House Resolution 19-19 and what is now in the substitute.

Floor Leader Camacho: The contents in House Resolution 19-19 without pulling out Special Committee Report is that the contents in House Resolution 19-19 solely deals with the changes to be made with the Committees – incorporating Commerce and Tourism; Health, Education, and Welfare; and increasing the number of membership in certain Committees. The substitute includes all of those plus the original and many different other amendments have been proposed before. So to answer the question of the differences is House Resolution 19-19 solely deals with Standing Committees.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I know that there are underlined items in here (substitute) and that is the reason why I am asking. I understand the contents of House Resolution 19-19 and I support that. What I am trying to get at are the other underlined – if you could provide us justification by way maybe we can go page by page other than what is in House Resolution 19-19.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I believe Representative Tebuteb has a copy in front of him and we waited for that copy to be made – if we need an additional ten minutes to read the substitute, I can wait another ten minutes.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I will be specific so that we follow the explanation of the mover, if I may? We can look at line by line, we can go backwards or forward either way except what is contained in House Resolution 19-19. On page 3, the underlined, what is the reason for us to delete that?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If we can carry this discussion as a continuation of the last discussion we had on the House Rules, I think the sentiments I got from some of the members who had concerns where that most of the amendments to the rules were not a problem. So for the most part in the substitute maybe we can eliminate discussions on those that are not a problem and confine our discussions to those that may be a problem and hopefully we can resolve that and then rather than just to kind of cover everything in the substitute all of us know what is in there. I have heard that most members do not have a problem with a majority of what is in there and so why allow to extend our time

here to discuss things we do not have a problem with and maybe let us get to the meat of it and discuss where we do have problems so that we can iron it out and hopefully come to a conclusion here. That is I guess what I wanted to ask is any concerns that you may have now on the contentious issues on the parts that you do not agree with maybe now is the time to discuss it. I wanted to ask the members if we can do that rather than just to broadly and generally go over the whole thing we are going to drag this on. So I throw it back to you Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: On page 14 then Rule 11 and Rule 8 Standing Committees – I do not have any problem with that and that is contained in House Resolution 19-19. So if we go backwards on the same page what is underlined on page 14 and basically these are committee reports and other documents. Rule 7 Section 9 and the underlined on (e) on page 14 “Such documents, testimonies and or other evidence may be attached to committee reports as supporting documents” – for me I do not have any problems with that – what I am asking the mover is what is the justification for submitting this to be a part of this Rule now?

Rule 7, Section 9 (e):

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

The Chair recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: As part of the Ad Hoc Committee that worked on this and let me just add that we did have a representative from the Minority when we did this. The rationale behind this is at times we do receive legislation from the Senate and at times the question is raised on the floor in regards to whether that particular legislation came with any committee report from the Senate or testimonies and others and basically we witnessed earlier during our deliberation on the Senate Bill we did see attachments that came from a Senate Committee that acted on that. Let me bring the attention to the language. It sort of encourages the committees when putting together a committee report for action on the floor that where the committee then submits necessary testimonies or other documents that would help during the deliberation on the bills that are attached to the bills; and that is all. It is it is not mandating it – it is to encourage the committee chairs and members to provide attachments where it will make it helpful for the deliberation. I hope that answers the questions.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Tebuteb, you still hold the floor.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: You know Mr. Speaker, I did mention that I do not have any problem with that all I was asking the mover is that all these other changes other than what is contained in House Resolution 19-19 on Rule 7 Standing Committees – I have no problem with that. I do not have a problem on the explanation by the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. All that I am asking and because the significant changes now other than what is contained on House Resolution 19-19, I am just asking so that we would put things into perspective and on record – that is all that I am asking. So now I am going one by one and so that at least we are clear and on record. Because the next one is on Rule 4, Attendance and Quorum and those are underlined, on page 6. I am simply asking what is the justification for us to adopt this from the mover?

Rule 4. Attend And Quorum.

Every member shall be present in the House chamber during its sessions unless he/she has given prior written or verbal notice to the Speaker and has the approval of the Speaker to be absent, subject to appeal to the House if the Speaker declines to grant such approval. Written notices shall contain the following information:

- (a) Duration of the leave of absence
- (b) Purpose of leave
- (c) Objective of leave

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader Camacho?

Floor Leader Camacho: When I offered the substitute I went ahead and instructed the Legislative Assistant to include strikethroughs and underlines so that these changes from the interim rules are visible for the members to notice – to make it clearer and make it more available for them to see what are the changes rather than offering a substitute without showing the strikethroughs and underlines. So all the changes are indicated by the strikethroughs and underline so they are all in there, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Ralph N. Yumul under privilege.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Mr. Speaker it is my understanding that from the previous session, I believe we all agreed that we are going to go by the rules one by one. So House Resolution 19-19 which pretty much amends each committee is one item. So for us to entertain this and now we are going to do a switch it defeats the purpose and I believe we all agreed and maybe the Clerk can look it up in the journal that we all agreed that we are going to go by the rules one by one and whichever we agree on we get to move on – that way we do not drag everything like this. So I have no issues with House Resolution 19-19 as written, let us go ahead and approve this and then go to the next issue and I believe a lot of the concerns are the succession of how everything is going to be entertained. I do not believe any other of our members here is objecting to House Resolution 19-19 and then we can go on. I am looking at the rules here, I have not gone through everything, there is about sixty-sum pages I am basically now I have to go back and keep doing this back and forth. So I want to make sure that I do not sign a payroll deduction on the rules here. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: That is correct what you said that it was agreed that it would be a piecemeal and House Resolution 19-19 is a piecemeal legislation. We had a leadership meeting and we agreed to put this thing to rest – to put the whole thing on the floor and let the votes lay where they may. This thing has dragged on too long. And it is maybe an attempt to put finality to it – I have never seen house rules being adopted mid-year on the first year. It is what it is, it is that. And so that is where we are at.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Yes, I agree with you Mr. Speaker. And like I said Rule 16, Section 1, holds our whole rules together and I hate to break it and be the one that always breaks the rules. And I think if we go ahead and approve or let it sit and do it piecemeal I mean everybody will be happy. I do not see there are major issues here, other than what is before us.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I do, I see something. If Rule 16 stays and we are going to do this piecemeal and so that every piecemeal amendment that comes forward we cannot even act on it because we have to wait until the next legislative day. And if we have five or six piece meal we could theoretically have this rule passed in a few months. And so that is my own beef with that rule.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: And I have no objections to your concerns, Mr. Speaker, and I guess that is the parliamentary rules that we have to follow our rules and if it calls for that there is nothing wrong. If it takes five months we are not breaking any rules here. Let us do it correctly that is my main concern only. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And I think we are debating and I do not want to debate because you raised a privilege and I am sorry. Be it as it may, I think anytime and this thing is no different from

previous legislative actions by the majority making amendments to the rule as needed in accordance with whatever the issue at the time may be – that has happened and I do not see this as any different from that. I just see that you know in the past I do not recall having a rule that has to stay for every amendment one legislative day and this one is now, to me, dragged the process so long – to me unnecessarily. And so every leadership has done this at one time or another where they have suspended rules whether it is to allow for uniform to be violated or suspension so that committee reports do not have to be reviewed, it has happened in every legislature and this one is no exception. And through this we have just suspended Rule 16 it also means that we can finish this once and for all – today. And I do not see anything wrong with that especially that it is almost June. I think it is time to put some finality to this. I recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think eternally speaking, my difficulty with this and this is nothing against anyone, is that we did have an agreement and we did discuss this, and I do understand everyone's concern that we want to get this done. But we are ready to move on House Resolution 19-19 and I think we had certain problem, the minority did, with regards to the Speakership – whether it is resignation or on how that was done but regardless, I just felt that everybody was in agreement, we are all in agreement with that, and now we are changing years here – so I understand the concerns, but I think that if we had stuck with what we planned on originally, then I do not see any problem with that. I am just a little bit disappointed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Propst. The Chair recognizes Representative Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minority Leader is on the right track in questioning the mover. We are doing this one at a time. So we are doing it right now. Minority Leader that was the intention, is to question what is in the amendment one at a time, right? So we move on from there Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: And I think the Floor Leader has already attempted to clarify what is in House Resolution 19-19 and what is additional to that contained in the substitute. And what is in the substitute is basically the rest of the proposed amendments the same that what was in the last time and you can check.

The Chair recognized Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: If I may, I think what we are trying to do right now is to allow the majority to do its work, to lead. So let us go ahead, unless there are very major things that you want to talk about, let us bring it up and we move on, because we need to have a set of rules that govern our actions and guide the leadership in guiding the work of the House of Representatives. Thank you and if there is no objection, I would like to move that we end debate.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Actually we are already violating our rules allowing one member to speak more than twice. But let us continue the discussion.

The Chair recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: The substitute that is offered is nothing new. It is the same package pursuant to the committee report that came out of the Ad Hoc committee. I think the members were provided that at the time that it was first entertained. I know that members were given the opportunity to raise issues in regards to the substitute that was offered. I think on occasion we have diverted from the

discussion of the amendments to other matters. And I ask that if there is nothing further in specific discussions and that everybody has been afforded the opportunity to have their say, then we call for the main motion. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think many members had the opportunity to state their concerns. I will allow one more round of any concerns to be raised and then put it to vote. At this time the Chair will recognize Representative Roman C. Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you. We are operating under Interim Rules. We have on the floor the motion to be voted on. And I am reading House Resolution 19-19 and it seems like all it does it just expands the number of committee members. What we read is what we understand. If we do not read it we would not understand. So if in the event there is with regard to the Floor Leader's amendment, there is a problem, we are going to come up again with a resolution and amend that provision in there to try to be inclusive in the rules. And I think that is how I feel working together trying to figure out something on how we can make best work. I do not agree to a lot of stuff, but I am also willing to compromise. We have twenty heads up here, and each of us have divisions on what we think, so we have to come to a mutual ground one way or another for the sake and interest of our people we represent. And if we see that it is not right that we should follow such rules, we should amend it. With that thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Minority Leader?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remembered I had the floor when Representative Yumul raised a privilege. So I am going to go back again to perhaps on page 13, so that I have clear understanding of what is underlined to the mover, so that we are on record – then I will go to the other items that is not related to House Resolution 19-19.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Can you please read it?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: This is on Rule 7, Section 8, (b) and the underlined:

(b) The Chairperson of each committee shall call meetings, preside at committee meetings, prepare and post the agenda, invite witnesses to appear before the committee, and prepare committee reports subject to the requirements of the Rules. The Chairperson of each committee shall have the authority to create a subcommittee for any purpose that the Chairperson deems appropriate and may delegate to such subcommittees such power and authority as the Chairperson deems appropriate; provided however, that: (1) no subcommittee shall be comprised of non-committee members or fewer than two members of the Committee; (2) the authority conferred upon the subcommittee cannot exceed the overall authority of the Committee itself; and (3) the Chairperson may dissolve a subcommittee it determines to be no longer necessary. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his absence.

So all I am asking and so that we are on record are justification for all of this amendment outside House Resolution 19-19.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The purpose of this amendment, if that is the question on what the purpose is for this amendment. And the purpose for that is to allow committees to be able to establish subcommittees and it just sets forth the parameters under which those subcommittees can operate. And there may be a need, to do that in specific cases. So it allows for that. Our committees here in the House and at the Senate are not all encompassing and sometimes there may be a time to form a subcommittee that can report back to the full committee maybe to do further research. And so I think, that is the intent of that amendment. I answered that for him and Floor Leader if you would like to add on to that. Are there anything further?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I am going to over the whole amendment that I see. And perhaps for the mover...

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, and if Mr. Tebuteb is going to go over each item he can only hold the floor for five minutes and he has actually gone beyond the original five minutes. We need to move on to other members.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Yes, and I was kind of hoping that we would again, confine it to problematic parts of the rule.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and that is why earlier I had requested that the least the mover can do is give us that explanation so that we are on record anything outside House Resolution 19-19, and my not having satisfaction on the responses that is why I am going item by item.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Can I request then that you kind of prioritize the problematic areas? This does not seem to be a contentious issue.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I do not know if it is problematic to some of the members, but I really do not have a problem on House Resolution 19-19, so I am just looking at the underlined changes and perhaps I will now go to page 3 on the underlined, Rule 2, Section 2, line (p).

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Let me read it:

(p) To have the sole authority to assign or remove a chairperson of a standing committee. This authority shall not be subject to appeal to the House. ~~When the Speaker is absent or incapacitated pursuant to Rules II, Section 3, the Vice Speaker is prohibited from assigning or removing any chairperson of a standing committee or use of the leadership funds or account without the prior written approval of two third of the Members of the House Leadership.~~

Let me ask do you find that problematic?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Yes. And the reason is stated in the first line of Section 3, Vice Speaker. So you erase this but keep that?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Sorry can you restate that please?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: My apologies Mr. Speaker. On page 3 of what you just read, what is crossed-out is, that when the Speaker is absent and all those, so we delete that but we kept Section 3, so for me I am okay either it is there or it is not. So I do not know the justification of crossing it out when it does exist in Section 3, under Vice Speaker. Because in Section 3, the Vice Speaker shall – and it says “shall exercise all duties and powers of the Speaker in the absence of...” Which Mr. Speaker, leads me to now for the justification for the underlined in Section 3, under the Vice Speaker, shall become Speaker upon resignation – are you intending to resign because in Rule 2, Section 1, terms of office that is very clear. It is already there, I do not really understand why we need to submit this.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I am a little bit confused are you on (p) or Section 3.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I am on (p) and on the deleted item “When the Speaker is absent or incapacitated pursuant to Rule 2, Section 3...” And that Rule Section 3, is fairly just underneath, under Vice Speaker, but basically what we deleted is what seems to be the concern, is that the Vice Speaker is

prohibited from assigning or removing Chairperson of a Standing Committee or use the Leadership funds or account without prior written approval of two-thirds of the members of the House – at the same time on Section 3, the Vice Speaker shall exercise all duties and power of the Speaker in the absence of the Speaker. So it contained all this and then you look on page 2, Rule 2, Terms and Duties of Officers, Section 1 on Rule 2, states terms of office the Speaker, Vice Speaker, and the Floor Leader shall hold office until the expiration of the Legislature to which they were elected to such office or until such tenure be terminated at an earlier date of death, resignation, or removal by the majority members of the House. So what is the justification is my question to the mover.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Camacho: The difference between the word “terminated”...

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Maybe let me try first to answer this. Under (p) because the provision that was struck out was removed – I do not read that as meaning that – that is now the case – it is now absent. The only thing relevant under (p) is that the Speaker shall have sole authority to assign or remove a Chairperson of a Standing Committee and that it is not subject to appeal to the House. That is the only relevant provision there and what was struck out if approved no longer exist. It does not give the Vice Speaker that authority because we crossed this out. That authority does not exist. Now under Section 3 as far as the Vice Speaker, I think that is important to have there, that whenever the Speaker cannot perform his duties or is outside the Commonwealth, you need to have continuity you need to be able to have somebody perform the duties of the Speaker. And it follows that it would be the Vice Speaker. So that is how I understand the two provisions you referred to. Floor Leader if you can continue?

Floor Leader Camacho: You hit the nail right on the head, Mr. Speaker on that – that is exactly it. I can just go ahead and repeat what exactly you said but that is correct.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor. And that explains those two provisions.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: And that is what I am trying to get at. You have that explanation and at the same time you have the Rule 2, Section 1, that is already there except that by a majority of the members of the House in this instance on Section 3, under the Vice Speaker the addition. It contradicts what you just explained.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I do not see it that way. Rule 2, Section 1, and let me read it out:

Rule 2, Section 1. Terms of Office. The Speaker, Vice Speaker, and the Floor Leader shall hold office until the expiration of the Legislature to which they were elected to such office, or until such tenure be terminated at an earlier date by death, resignation or removal by the majority of the members of the House.

What Section 3 does is expand that. Section 1 only talks about what would happen if death or resignation or removal – it does not touch on what happens if he is outside the Commonwealth; what happens if he is not dead but sick, and incapacitated. So Section 3 expands on Section 1.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I completely agree. Except that resignation or by death of the Speaker on Section 3 and at the same time the Terms on Section 1 resignation or removal by majority members of the House and it is no secret. If I may ask then, Section 3, are you thinking to resign?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I answer. Recognize Representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: You know Representative Tebuteb is raising items by items and all we need to do is note his – he can make the decision himself in regards to the proposed amendments as offered. We do not need to make the decision for him or any other member. I believe that the proposed amendments are as clear and explained clearly by the committee report. And the members need to make the decision themselves we do not need to try to explain and make the decision for themselves. I think this discussion has gone on too long and again I ask that we go on to the main motion.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I recognize Representative Propst and because Representative Tebuteb had the floor and did ask a question and the question was directed to me. The answer is yes. So now I recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to my colleagues we are not talking about a minor substitute to this bill we are talking about a major substitute. And we are basically throwing everything back in. And as I have mentioned earlier we previously had an agreement. And that is what really bothers me. It is politics as usual. And we sat here and we all agreed upon this and now it is like a bait and switch tactic. And it is disheartening to see that, to be a part of these wonderful colleagues to allow this to happen. It is bait and switch tactics and it is disappointing because we had this agreement we are ready to pass House Resolution 19-19 or vote on it and now we are going through this whole thing. I think the main focus from the minority, it is not so much of the changes with the numbers for each committees or anything like that. We had particular concerns about the way this would work if the Speaker should resign that many of us in the minority felt it should take the democratic process that it comes to a vote. And the thing is and I do not even know why this is even put in here because you guys have the majority. As I said before there is no majority or minority with me, but the fact is I am part of the minority because I was not included in the majority. But what I am saying, Mr. Speaker and colleagues is that if you chose to resign or whatever and we go and vote on it and the majority as is what is now, decides on their choice for Speaker, it will happen whether we approve of it or not. So I am just stating my concerns and again nothing personal ,but that is just how I feel and I want to share that with you. Please do not be mad. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Sablan for the last time.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: For the last time Mr. Speaker and members. You know colleague Propst is right at the end of the day this is going to be subject to the rules, and the rule of the majority and it is like any other parliamentary body. The thing here we have to remember is that we had given everybody as much as they need in regards to making comments with regards to the proposed legislation. But I think to expect the other members to explain in detail every single I think it is beyond the role of the other members in this chamber. The statement is that it is not the content of the substitute but rather the way it is being done. You know what, accept the fact that anywhere at the end of the day it is the number of votes that would make the difference. And we have to accept it and move on. I am sorry, I am kind of discourage of the agenda for today on the Bill Calendar, includes a lot of legislation from every member that has introduced legislations – so this is just not about the majority or the minority. The rules has been provided that the first set of rules came with a committee report that explained in detail where and why they are there and we have been here close to two hours talking about this thing, only to hear it is not the contents of the legislation, but the way it is being done. Whether the Speaker decides to resign or that, is his business. And when we get to the point this House will deal with it, like any other House in the past where a change of leadership has occurred – as recently as the Seventeenth, I believe a change of leadership occurred in the middle of the Seventeenth. We will deal with that but we sat down and included Representative Villagomez when the Ad Hoc Committee deliberated on the proposed amendments – and so we heard him out. And we thought we had a set of amendments that would become the permanent rules of this Nineteenth. I ask my colleagues to - you know if the content

of the amendment the substitute is not the problem, then with all due respect I ask for everyone's cooperation and let us move on and try to get things done. We could have acted on a lot of legislation on the bill calendar. So again with all due respect to my good colleague the Minority Leader I ask for everyone's cooperation and let us move on.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. And because it is passed six o'clock – I see two hands raised, members who have not spoken before, so the Vice Speaker and Representative Anthony Benavente will be the last speaker then we will move to vote.

Representative Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I am sitting here I am reminded to perhaps say a few words. I am sensing that the gist of this amendment to the proposed house substitute is on Section 3 on the underlined. And again it is no secret when we had the inaugural session earlier this year. And it went out publicly that there will be a shared leadership. Perhaps it is new to the Commonwealth but it is not new in a political especially in the United States where there are two or three states that has a similar set of rules. And again if I offend someone, the fact of the matter is that this is a number. If you feel that you are not satisfied or not happy with the proposal again it is you to make that decision. But let me just say this very briefly, if and when I become Speaker I will continue to work with all of us and move forward. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: For the last speaker, I recognize Representative Anthony Benavente.

Representative Anthony T. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know I have been hearing a lot of back and forth comments regarding to this proposed house rules. For a reason I will state my vote on yes for reason that if you cannot beat them join them. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: At this point the Chair has ruled that – that will be the last speaker. So colleagues taya para bai hu sanngan pago vote your hafa i sininten-mu - vote where you will and let the votes decide okay and I hope we can continue to you know respect each other and work together para mona. Members let us rap this up. Right now we are on the amendment the substitute as offered by the Floor Leader, at this time it will be a voice vote.

There being no further discussion on the motion offered by the Floor Leader was carried by voice vote. Three members voting "Nay".

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Okay I do not think that there is a division there the "Ayes". So on the substitute is hereby passed. Clerk House Resolution 19-19, HS1? And it is also a voice vote...

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Mr. Speaker, just so that it is actually just to be consistent maybe this might be a technical because I believe everything that is written with three-fourth or two-thirds should be stricken out and it should be a simple majority – that way it is consistent with the rule that we just did. So it is just to strikeout all the two-thirds and three-fourths because it is really pointless to have those numbers in placed and then it is going to be suspended. Just to be consistent and I think it would a cleaner bill. So move.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We have a standing motion which is the main motion right now and what you are offering is a subsidiary motion. Just a point of order so that we are in order and so subsidiary motion really, Counsel, is being offered to basically strikeout Rule 16, it is not to amend it – it is to remove it. My friend can we do this – first of all we need to do at least an elmo so we will know where it is being applied rather than this very general...

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: I understand Mr. Speaker, that is why I said it will be just a technical and just strikeout those factions.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I am sorry I beg to disagree. It cannot be a technical. We suspended it – suspending it one time is a different action from repealing it or amending it to remove it or delete it – that is a very specific amendment and if it is contained in different parts of the rule I think we need to look at it where it is at and where it is going to be removed or deleted. So if you wish to do that then please we do it the right way either a written or at least elmo. But I do not share your view that we need to remove it – if you are going to remove it you amend it so at least you clarify that it will be a simple majority rather than three-fourths.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: So can it be a repealed and reenactment of the rules and remove it?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: You are free to do whatever you want but right now we have a standing motion and right now I would like to get this over with and act on the main motion and you can offer a floor amendment at some point if you are ready, at least you can clarify which pages and which sections it will be in. I do not agree with the generally shotgun approach. I mean anybody can offer an amendment to anything, let us do it the way we do it. Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: I am not too sure if you recognized – did you recognize it as a subsidiary because it has been seconded should we ask our good colleague to withdraw it or did you recognize it as subsidiary?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Actually I did not even recognize him, but he talked, but I did not officially recognize him.

The Chair called for a recess.

5-The House recessed at 6:19 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

The House reconvened at 6:19 p.m.; and there being no further discussions on the main motion to adopt House Resolution 19-19, HSI it was carried by voice vote, with Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb voting “Nay”. The Chair proceeded to Miscellaneous Business and recognized Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb.

BILL CALENDAR

Bill/Initiative	Subject	Action
S. B. NO. 19-19	A Bill for an Act to name the island of Saipan as the official capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. <i>[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of April 9, 2015]</i> [See Sen. Comm. 19-19]	No Action taken on 5/22/15
H. B. NO. 19-8, HD1	A Bill for an act to prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol. [S. C. R. No. 19-2]	No Action taken on 5/22/15

Bill/Initiative	Subject	Action
H. B. NO. 19-9, HD1	A Bill for an Act to update the open container laws of the Commonwealth. [S. C. R. No. 19-3]	No Action taken on 5/22/15
H. B. NO. 19-13, HD1	A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC section 5631 to authorize 1.5 inch net mesh to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during their seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District. [S. C. R. No. 19-4]	No Action taken on 5/22/15
S. B. NO. 19-5, SS1, HD1	A Bill for an Act to prohibit telecommunication companies from imposing an expiration date or forfeiture of unused cellular prepaid credits and MIFI credits; and for other purposes. [S. C. R. No. 19-5]	No Action taken on 5/22/15
H. B. NO. 19-19	A Bill for an Act to amend Section 4 of Public Law 11-87 in order to allow the local bidder preference provisions can take effect. [S. C. R. No. 19-7]	No Action taken on 5/22/15
H. B. NO. 19-47, HD1	A Bill for an Act to amend Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5, by amending Section 5553 and 5602 to deter 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, to enforce this Act; and for other purposes. [S. C. R. No. 19-8]	No Action taken on 5/22/15
H. B. NO. 19-14, HD1	A Bill for an Act to increase motorcycle operator’s safety by requiring vendors to provide DOT certified helmets to operators, providing operator instruction courses, and issuing motorcycle driver’s license endorsements.” [S. C. R. No. 19-9]	No Action taken on 5/22/15

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I just want to wish everybody a safe Friday and a weekend.

There being no other members being recognized the Chair moved to Item 18, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: I would like to extend that and remind our good colleagues of the importance of Memorial Day and I hope to see you at all the different events. So I wish you all a safe and wonderful weekend. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Roman C. Benavente

Representative Roman C. Benavente: To all my colleagues I am happy with all of you guys today we got into a very lengthy discussion but it comes to a meeting point. One way or another we look at it as we are all working together. And thank you for all your support and I welcome all of you to ink on all my bills that I have. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Just a short announcement – reminder to all the members of the Committee on Education that we have our public hearing on House Bill 19-4, the NMTI bill at ten o'clock.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I have one but I would like to maybe turn it over to our colleague from Rota I believe there is a coin relief drive next Friday on the 29th.

The Chair recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: It is still tentative and I will get back to the members on that – and thank you Mr. Speaker and please members include your support on this and we look forward to working with you again. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is more like miscellaneous I know I sent out a memo to the Delegation with regards to making a donation from funding from our office to help defray and help the victims of our people on Rota. There were recommendations from some of the members that we should use the delegation funds that we recently appropriated to delegation I am okay with that if the members have no objections to use that funding. Thank you.

There being no further announcements the Chair wishes everyone a Happy Memorial Day then therefore recognized Floor Leader Camacho for adjournment subject to the Call of the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader George N. Camacho moved to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. No. 19-21: To appropriate up to \$125,000.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purpose. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero) on April 24, 2015.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. No. 19-18: To appropriate up to \$125,000.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purpose. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on April 9, 2015.