



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2015

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

9th Day, Second Regular Session

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Ninth Day, Second Regular Session on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 10:26 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and nineteen members were present; Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero was absent.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. A quorum is duly established. For the record Representative Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero is hereby excused. At this time, we move on to item II in our Order of Business, Public Comments. At this point, if anybody wishes to offer any public comments please step up to the podium to your left at the front. We ask that you state your name for the record and we also ask that you confine your comments to items appearing on today's Order of Business. We also ask that you observe a five-minute time allowance for each member. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, President of the Commonwealth Coalition
Mr. Herman Guerrero, Chairman of the Board of Education
Ms. Rosemond Santos
Mr. Reyes
Ms. Liana Hofschneider

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before we move to the next item of our Order of Business – Chairman Sablan to recognize is it a privilege or point of order?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Privilege Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: State your privilege.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I know that we are at Public Comments and although I think later on in our session a motion to amend our agenda to include other communications not listed or included in this morning's Order of Business. I know that in front of the members I believe we have Senate Communication 19-105 in regards to Senate Bill 19-55 regarding the Public School System, I know that the Chairman is here, I do not know whether we would make a motion to go back Public Comments to allow them to – I know we will not take action on this I just thought I raise the issue at this point. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. I have already spoken to the House Clerk and the Floor Leader and just before we get – as a matter of fact before we go into item IV Introduction of Bills I was going to ask the Floor Leader to amend the agenda to include those correspondence from the Senate. So at this time since there are no journals for adoption under item III. We move on to item IV and as I stated before the Chair recognizes the first mover, I would like to ask the Floor Leader to offer a motion to amend the agenda. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to offer a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d), this is to allow the House to amend the agenda by adding items onto our agenda which includes the Senate Communications and other items. Mr. Speaker, so move and I call for a roll call on that.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions.

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be pre-filed with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed in sufficient time to appear on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 72-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with for Special Emergency Sessions and Sessions called by the Governor in accordance with Rule III.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. Motion has been offered to suspend the rules to allow for this body to amend the agenda it has been seconded. Any discussion on the motion? Are we ready for the vote?

Several members voiced "ready".

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

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

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>absent</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
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

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 15 members voted “yes” and 4 members voted “no.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With 15 members voting “yes,” the motion offered by the Floor Leader hereby passes the House. Under item IV, recognize Representative Attao for the first introduction.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced that there are no journals for adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Formally introducing House Bill 19-108, “To establish the Northern Islands Agriculture and Marine Revolving Fund; and for other purposes.” Introduced by myself and several others and open for other members to include their name. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-108

To establish the Northern Islands Agriculture and Marine Revolving Fund; and for other purposes.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Anthony T. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Edmund S. Villagomez)
(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Attao. House Bill 19-108 will be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. Now recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning members and to the public. Officially introducing House Bill 19-109, “To implement a penalty provision for repeat offenders; and for other purposes.” I welcome any other member to cosponsor this bill. Thank you.

H. B. NO. 19-109

To implement a penalty provision for repeat offenders; and for other purposes.

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

(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. House Bill 19-109 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Are there any other House Bills for introduction? Local Bills? Initiatives? Seeing that there is none, let us move to item VI, since there are no resolutions for introduction. Under item VI, Messages from the Governor. Recognize our House Clerk.

House Local Bills: None

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions: None

House Joint Resolutions: None

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 19-76: (11/1/15 received 11/3/15) **Executive Order 2015-18** – Renewal of Declaration of Major Disaster and Significant Emergency in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

GOV. COMM. 19-77: (11/3/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-101, HD1, entitled, (Appropriating \$970k from the Cancer Fund Special Account: To support the programs of the CHCC; Medical Referral Services; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-16**

GOV. COMM. 19-78: (11/6/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-29, HD1, entitled, (To improve the statutory language on Taxicab Regulation Act; and increase penalties for the operation of illegal taxis.). Became **Public Law 19-17**

GOV. COMM. 19-79: (11/6/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. 19-40, HD2, entitled, (To amend 9 CMC Section 8210 (a) (1) and (2) entitled, “Penalties for Violations of 9 CMC §§8203 and 8204” and amend Section 2107 Registration: Expiration and Renewal; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-18**

GOV. COMM. 19-80: (11/6/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-33, D1, entitled, (To appropriate \$41,200.00 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.). Became **Rota Local Law 19-5**

GOV. COMM. 19-81: (11/6/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-36, D1, entitled, (To appropriate the Bond Interest Income Earned collected for the First Senatorial District in the amount of \$28,000.00.). Became **Rota Local Law 19-6**

GOV. COMM. 19-82: (11/6/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-32, D2, entitled, (To appropriate \$58,400.00 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.). Became **Tinian Local Law 19-6**

GOV. COMM. 19-83: (11/6/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-38, D2, entitled, (To amend Section 1(a) of Tinian Local Law 19-4; and for other purposes.). Became **Tinian Local Law 19-7**

GOV. COMM. 19-84: (11/9/15) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. 19-15, D1, entitled, (To appropriate \$22,000 from the funds collected under the Tourism Enhancement and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013 pursuant to 4 CMC §1151(d); and for other purposes.). Became **Tinian Local Law 19-8**

GOV. COMM. 19-85: (11/9/15) From SAPLR informing the Legislature that H. B. 19-83, HD2, (To vest the Department of Finance specifically the Division of Customs with all the fines collected at the ports of entry of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.) became **Public Law 19-19** on November 7, 2015 without the Governor’s signature. [For info]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. At this time, are there any comments on any items under Messages from the Governor. Without objection then let us move on to item VII, Senate Communications. I turn it over to our Floor Leader for motion to accept.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go ahead and make a motion to accept Senate Communication 19-91 to 19-105 this is inclusive to the new items added to our agenda. Mr. Speaker, I would like to go ahead and make a motion to accept all Senate Communications so that they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 19-91: (11/3/15) Returning H. B. 19-95, HD1, HS1, (To clarify the powers of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and to make needed changes to the Commonwealth Code given the unique regulatory oversight of the Casino Industry in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.), which was passed by the Senate with amendments on November 3, 2015 in the form of **H. B. 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1**. [*For action on Senate amendments*]

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

SEN. COMM. 19-92: (11/3/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-60, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC §3551(b) to change the expenditure authority of the solid waste subaccounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts to the mayor of each respective municipality; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 29, 2015. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

SEN. COMM. 19-93: (11/3/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-61, entitled, “To amend 3 CMC §2824, 4 CMC §7103, 4 CMC §7301(d), 4 CMC §7105, 4 CMC §7112(b) and 4 CMC §7615(j) to assess the total costs of healthcare in the CNMI by establishing a claims and clinical data warehouse at CHCC and to improve accountability for how health insurance premiums are spent by requiring health insurance insurers and health care providers to submit reports on the Medical Loss Ratio and claims and clinical data to the insurance commissioner; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 29, 2015. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare)

SEN. COMM. 19-94: (11/3/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-63, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §1403 by adding a new subsection (d), to exempt the fuel tax for fishing; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 29, 2015. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)

SEN. COMM. 19-95: (11/5/15) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 19-64, entitled, “To amend establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate on November 3, 2015. [*For action*]

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

SEN. COMM. 19-96: (11/3/15) Transmitting for House action S. L. I. No. 19-1, entitled, “To allow government retirees to be reemployed without losing their retirement benefits for an unrestricted period of time, provided that qualified local non-retiree applicants be given first priority on any vacancies by amending Article III, Section 20(b) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.,” which was passed by the Senate on October 29, 2015. [*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)

SEN. COMM. 19-97: (11/5/15) Returning H. B. NO. 19-87, HD1, entitled, “To amend Title 4 CMC § 5526 to add a new Section 8 Special Casino Liquor License, and to amend, repeal and re-enact certain sections of Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.,” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on November 3, 2015, in the form of **H. B. NO. 19-87, HD1, SD1**, to read: “*To amend Title 4 CMC §5526 to add a new Section 8 Special Casino Liquor License and Special Electronic Gaming Liquor License, and to amend, repeal and re-enact*

certain sections of Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.” [For action on Senate amendments]

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

SEN. COMM. 19-98: (11/3/15) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 19-48, HD1 (To amend 4 CMC §§2201(c) and 2205(a) to authorize CPA to grant a master concession agreement for each point of entry at Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, respectively; and for other purposes.) on October 29, 2015. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 19-99: (11/3/15) Returning H. B. 19-41, HD1, entitled, “To require all vehicles belonging to tour companies to be registered with the Department of Commerce and be issued a permit number for each vehicle; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on October 29, 2015. [For info-Will go to Governor]

SEN. COMM. 19-100: (11/5/15) Returning H. B. 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.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on November 3, 2015. [For info-Will go to Governor]

SEN. COMM. 19-101: (11/9/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 19-20, entitled, “To acknowledge and commend Ronnie Calvo for his exemplary achievement in earning the Teacher of the Year Award and to express a heartfelt gratitude for his commitment and dedication to giving students with disabilities the best possible educational experience.”, which was adopted by the Senate on October 29, 2015. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 19-102: (11/6/15) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 19-4, entitled, “To convey the sincere condolences and sympathy of the Senate to the bereaved family of the Late Melchor Joseph Mendiola on the occasion of his untimely passing and to pay tribute for his services to the people of the Commonwealth.”, which was adopted by the Senate on October 29, 2015. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 19-103: (11/13/15) Informing the House that the Senate accept the House amendments to Senate Bill No. 19-36, SS1, HD1, 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 without amendments on November 13, 2015 [For info]

SEN. COMM. 19-104: (11/13/15) Returning House Bill No. 19-59, HD1, entitled, “ 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.”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on November 13, 2015 in the form of H. B. 19-59, HD1, SD1, entitled, “To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School to enter into a loan agreement for a sum up to \$5,000,000.00 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.” [For action]

SEN. COMM. 19-105: (11/16/15) Transmitting for House action Senate Bill No. 19-55, SD1 entitled, “To repeal and reenact 3 CMC §4972 (b)(1) and (b)(3), to allow the Public School System to hire non-special education and related services, and also to allow the Northern Marianas College to hire nonresident instructors; and for other purposes.”, which was passed on November 13, 2015.[*For action*]

(Referred to the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded for the acceptance of all Senate Communications. Any discussion at this time? Recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, I do not have any objection on the motion offered by the Floor Leader to accept Senate Communication 19-91 and all the way to Senate Communication 19-95 just so that we are in order. Under the suspension motion offered by the Floor Leader, I was not quite clear whether Senate Communication are included in the suspension of motion as such that the suspended section only provides for bills and resolution.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just so that I understand the suspension motion that you are referring to goes back to before we were on the introduction of bills to amend the agenda. Is that what you were referring to? Let us take a short recess. Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:56 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. We are now back in session. We are still on item VII, Senate Communications. The Floor leader offered a motion for the acceptance of all Senate Communications. I believe we are still under discussion. Any further discussion on the motion offered by the Floor Leader? Madame Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to accept Senate Communications so they may become property of the House with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro	yes

Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
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	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	no
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members voted “yes” and 2 members voted “no.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With 17 voting “yes” motion as offered by the Floor Leader to accept all Senate Communications hereby passes the House. Under Senate Communications, Senate Communication 19-91, returning House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, “To clarify the powers of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and to make needed changes to the Commonwealth Code given the unique regulatory oversight of the Casino Industry in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on November 3, 2015 in the form of House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 this requires action on the Senate amendment will be placed on the Bill Calendar for action. Senate Communication 19-92 transmitting for House action Senate Bill 19-60, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC §3551(b) to change the expenditure authority of the solid waste subaccounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts to the mayor of each respective municipality; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on for action. This communication specifically Senate Bill 19-60 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Senate Communication 19-93 transmitting for House action Senate Bill 19-61, entitled, “To amend 3 CMC §2824, 4 CMC §7103, 4 CMC §7301(d), 4 CMC §7105, 4 CMC §7112(b) and 4 CMC §7615(j) to assess the total costs of healthcare in the CNMI by establishing a claims and clinical data warehouse at CHCC and to improve accountability for how health insurance premiums are spent by requiring health insurance insurers and health care providers to submit reports on the Medical Loss Ratio and claims and clinical data to the insurance commissioner; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate and requires action. Senate Bill 19-61 will be referred to the Committee on Health Education and Welfare. Senate Communication 19-94 transmitting for House action Senate Bill 19-63, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §1403 by adding a new subsection (d), to exempt the fuel tax for fishing; and for other purposes.”, also passed by the Senate requiring House action and will be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Senate Communication 19-95 transmitting for House action Senate Bill 19-64, entitled, “To amend establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes.”, this was passed by the Senate. Senate Bill 19-64 will be placed on today’s Bill Calendar. This was the same bill that was vetoed by the Governor for typographic issue. So it will be placed on today’s calendar. Senate Communication 19-96 transmitting for House action Senate Legislative Initiative 19-1, entitled, “To allow government retirees to be reemployed without losing their retirement benefits for an unrestricted period of time, provided that qualified local non-retiree applicants be given first priority on any vacancies by amending Article III, Section 20(b) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.” Senate Legislative Initiative 19-1 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Senate Communication 19-97 returning House Bill 19-87, HD1, entitled, “To amend Title 4 CMC § 5526 to add a new Section 8 Special Casino Liquor License, and to amend, repeal and re-enact certain sections of Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.”, this will be placed on the Bill Calendar. Senate Communications 19-98 to 19-103 are

informational. Senate Communication 19-104 returning House Bill 19-59, HD1, entitled, “ 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.”, this communication first of all we cannot act on it. This was part of the communication that we amended the agenda for so it will stay on the Senate Communication under item VII for now and give the members a chance to review the Senate amendments. Senate Communication 19-105 transmitting for House action Senate Bill No. 19-55, SD1 entitled, “To repeal and reenact 3 CMC §4972 (b)(1) and (b)(3), to allow the Public School System to hire non-resident workers as classroom teachers for Science Technology, Engineering and Math, Special Education and related services, and also to allow the Northern Marianas College to hire nonresident instructors; and for other purposes.” This communication and specifically Senate Bill 19-55, SD1 will be referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. At this time, are there any further comments on any items appearing under Senate Communications? Are we ready? Without objection then moving on to item VIII, House Communications and I turn it over to our House Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 19-52: (10/13/15) From the Speaker and Senate President informing all House and Senate Members and LB staff that Mr. Patrick Seman shall serve as Acting Legislative Bureau Director effective October 13, 2015. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-53: (10/14/15) From Representative Taimanao informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on personal leave from October 15, 2015 to October 19, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-54: (11/5/15) From Representative Propst officially informing that he is not able to attend the House Session on November 6, 2015 due to non-availability of flights. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-55: (11/5/15) From Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially informing that he is not able to attend the House Session on November 6, 2015 due to nonavailability of flights. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-56: From Representative Roman C. Benavente officially informing that he is not able to attend the House Session on November 6, 2015 due to non-availability of flights. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-57: (11/5/15) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan, informing the Speaker that he will be off-island on official business beginning November 8, 2015 to November 13, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-58: (11/9/15) From Representative Angel A. Demapan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning Monday, November 9, 2015

until Friday, November 13, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 19-59: (11/10/15) From Representative Guerrero, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning Thursday, November 12, 2015 to Saturday, November 21, 2015 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. Are there any comments under item VIII. Since there are no communications for the Judicial Branch, Department and Agencies, and Miscellaneous let us go to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees. Before the Chair turns it to our Floor Leader, we recall that the one Standing Committee Report under item XII was left on the agenda by request from the author so that CDA can provide some comments. Shall I recognize the mover to give us an update?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of request from CDA, I did contact them yesterday and reminded them of House Bill 19-43 unfortunately they could not be here they are currently as we speak on a conference call with one manager with regards to the pension obligation bond and that was a scheduled conference call meeting today so they could not make it. So if there is no objection from the members, I would respectfully ask that we still leave the Standing Committee Report 19-53 until the next House session. Hopefully, we have some comments from CDA or Ms. Carleen Sablan, I believe she was asked to be here but like I said earlier she is on a conference call with the board today. So with that if there is no objection I ask the body to leave Standing Committee Report 19-53 in its place. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Yumul. Any objections to the request?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There are no objections. So we will leave Standing Committee Report 19-53 on item XII until the next session. Hopefully we can get something

from them by then. Any further discussions under reports of standing committees? Let us move then to item XVI, Bill Calendar and the Chair will turn it over to our Floor Leader.

The following Standing Committee Report remained on item XII.

S. C. R. NO. 19-53: Reporting on H. B. NO. 19-43, entitled: “To suspend the Investment Incentive Act, Qualifying Certificate Program for a period of five (5) years for new applicants; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 19-43, HD1.*

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On our Bill Calendar you will see House Bill 19-5, HD2, SD1 this is “A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1402(c) (7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes, amend 3 CMC §1506 and to provide a global amendment in Title 3, Chapter 5; and for other purposes.” Mr. Speaker this bill is returning from the Senate with Senate amendments. The House has passed it unanimously, unfortunately the Senate amendments that was attached to it conflicts with constitutional provisions regarding two subjects. There is no way we can accept this bill the only move we can make is to reject the bill returning from the Senate and call for a conference committee. Mr. Speaker on that note, I would like to make a motion that we reject House Bill 19-5, HD2, SD1 and call for a conference committee. So move.

H. B. NO. 19-5, HD2, SD1

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1402(c) (7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes, amend 3 CMC §1506 and to provide a global amendment in Title 3, Chapter 5; and for other purposes. *See [SEN. COMM. 19-88]*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to reject the Senate amendments contained in House Bill 19-5, HD2, SD1. Any discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to reject House Bill 19-5, HD2, SD1 with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. 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

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madame Clerk. The motion to reject Senate amendments contained in House Bill 19-5, HD2, SD1 hereby passes. At this point, the Chair will appoint the Floor Leader, the Chairman of Ways and Means and the Vice Speaker as the conferees for the conference committee. I turn it back to our Floor Leader for the next motion.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On our Bill Calendar coming from Senate Communication 19-91 is House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1, “To clarify the powers of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and to make needed changes to the Commonwealth Code given the unique regulatory oversight of the Casino Industry in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.” Mr. Speaker, I move for its passage.

H. B. 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1

To clarify the powers of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and to make needed changes to the Commonwealth Code given the unique regulatory oversight of the Casino Industry in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. *See [Sen. Comm. No. 19-91]*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion is to adopt House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 this is the gaming commission bill it has been seconded. At this time, the

Chair will entertain discussions on the motion. Any discussions? Are we ready for the vote? The motion is basically to adopt the Senate amendments. Recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a comment. I know this is a heavily bill the Commission is here. Just to comment that I ask the members to basically reject House Bill 19-95, HS1 and send it down to conference committee so that we can hear more comments for the AG. I understand not all comments or recommendation that was given by the AG to the Senate was taken into consideration. Pretty much I am asking everybody that we reject House Bill 19-95 and send it down to the conference committee and get more comments from all agencies out there including comments. We can go as far as public comments, but at least at the minimal AG's recommendations and at least address that. I understand that it is a heavy regulated industry, but let us do it right let us get as much and be more educated about 19-95 and all these amendments. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Yumul. Recognize Representative Benavente.

Representative Anthony T. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in regards to also what is commented by Representative Yumul in what was discussed through the public comment that Ms. Rosemond indicated those she stated was unconstitutional. Now another one that I know that the Attorney General is in concern is the hiring of the counsel. I remember that on our amendment we included with the approval of the Attorney General. Again, I guess the Senate struck out that wording and I prefer that that would be included again on this bill to ensure that the Attorney General is the approval for the counsel of the commission. So with that I would like to have this into a conference so that this can be worked out to ensure that we abide with what the AG is also in concern with. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Any further discussion by the members? Recognize Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, I adhere to the comment of Ms. Santos. She put out a grave concern in regards to the law that requires 21 years of age to be allowed to drink and consume alcohol and by compromising and amending the law to try to go lower would not only enhance more issues within our community and she was right with regards to the maturity level of 18 years old consuming alcohol. We all grew up and we all experienced it and now we are sitting back and trying to compromise what was drawn as a standard, as a requirement, as a law for everyone to follow and we are amending this law just to accommodate dismantling the law to accommodate the casino bill to move forward. Maybe it is irrelevant for me to mention this Mr. Speaker, but there are a lot of issues surrounding the existence at the present training site casino and by amending this and allowing everything it will create some kind of repo-caution within the community. I just want to register that concern Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Any further discussion? Recognize Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to echo public comments made by Madame Rosemond Santos in particular page 19, line 9 and she spoke stating that if we are to vote in this substitute it would be against the law because it allows an underage employee to sale alcohol. So in essence we need to fix this first before – I alone would rather have this fixed before we vote on it and also it was mentioned about page 13, line 9 in regards to the authority of the casino commission that they are not allow to authorize or issue license that is something we all need to look into and do more studies. So basically, I am in support of referring it back to conference committee. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Any further discussions? The motion is to adopt not to reject right now. I know there are discussions and recommendations for the rejection, but the motion is for adoption. Any discussions? If there is no, can the Chair kind of weigh in on the – well if there is an objection the Chair will step down.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just to clarify some of the issues that were raised by the Attorney General’s Office and as you well know subsequent to the comments submitted by the AG to the Senate – the Senate recalled or the bill back to the Senate and attempted to address the concerns raised by the AG. During our Leadership meeting yesterday we went over the AG’s comments and went over the bill to see if in fact the concerns by the AG were addressed. The recommendations by the AG, first one was that the Legislature should determine whether the casino licensee should be able to operate casino gaming on any of its properties or only on certain types of properties. The Senate amended House Bill 19-95 to include language so that it clarifies that it is only on the casino premise. So that recommendation was addressed through an amendment by the Senate. The second one was that the Legislature should determine whether the concerns of the revolving fund should be available for appropriation or whether they should be reserved exclusively for the casino commission. The House in the version that we adopted or passed decided that it should reserved exclusively for the casino commission by earmarking the \$3 Million Dollars to the Gaming Commission and allowing them to use that for its operational expenses for five-years after which the Legislature could appropriate. The Senate felt differently and I guess in response to the AG’s concern they made a policy change and required that the Gaming Commission submit an annual budget to the Legislature for appropriation that was another significant amendment by the Senate. So their position is different from the House and I guess this is in response to the AG’s concerns. A third recommendation by the AG was that the Legislature should determine whether the proposed salary increase for the Commissioners is appropriate. In this case, the Senate did not change the House version and basically concurred with the position of the House. So in a sense they did determine the proposed salary and they were consistent with the House. The fourth recommendation was that the Legislature should develop a narrow or exception to public records laws for the commission based upon the New Jersey model and should not allow the commission to hold secret meetings under any circumstances. The Senate made amendments to the House version and basically adopted the New Jersey model under the Open Government Act, I believe and Counsel you can correct me if I am wrong or the public records law so that only internal controls, revenues were kept confidential everything else should be made public. And I would like to maybe have the Legal Counsel clarify this amendment by the Senate. The fifth recommendation by the AG was that the Legislature should restrict the commissions ability to charge fees for public records request. The

Senate allowed the commission to charge fees for public records just like any agency in our government is allowed to charge fees for public records request including the AG. Because that recommendation is – there is no difference between the gaming commission and any agency to be able to charge fees for public records was left alone. The sixth recommendation is that the Legislature should ensure that the commission personnel do not gamble unless it is absolutely necessary for enforcement purposes. The Senate did amend the bill and clarified that they can conduct or play. It is in the bill I am not sure which page but basically it is something to that effect that they can play if it is for investigative purposes so they clarified the bill. Again so to address the concerns of the AG. The last recommendation by the AG was that the Legislature should clarify whether the licensee should be allowed to apply for its regulatory fees as a credit to its taxes. The Senate basically concurred with the House version that allows the licensee to get the credit and basically concurred with the House. I know that is a very general clarification of what the Senate did but this is just to provide an overview of the difference between the House version and the Senate amendments. I would like to defer to the Legal Counsel to clarify if I missed something. I know I did not address the issue of the hiring of the Legal Counsel, which the member who responded is correct. The House version did include language that requires the approval of the attorney general and the Senate struck that out. However in our discussion with the Legal Counsel even absent language requiring the AG's approval – the Constitution requires the AG to represent all executive branch, departments, agencies, instrumentalities and so forth and so that if the gaming commission felt the need to hire an independent Legal Counsel that contract would still have to be reviewed and approved by the AG and so the AG's review would be reviewed anyway. So it will no circumvent even absent that language and Legal Counsel you can correct me if I am wrong. Now the last issue or one of the issues that I recall raised by former Representative Rosemond Santos was the issue about the waiter serving 18 years to be able to serve alcohol that could be an issue. I do recall there are pending legislation right now that is asking to have restaurants to be able to have 18 year olds serve alcoholic beverages simply because there are a lot of NMC students that are trying to get part time jobs, but businesses cannot hire them. So it is an issue that is currently discussed in both Houses so it is a policy call on our part. And if there are any other discussions let us put it out on the table. Legal Counsel.

Legal Counsel John Cool: Well one of the major changes in the Senate version is the way the Open Government Act was addressed, the Senate version just simply says that all meetings of the commission will be subject to the Open Government Act and that means that the only exceptions that are available are the ones that are in the act that would apply to executive sessions an emergency meetings. In request to the – or concerning to the availability of documents the Senate took a different approach. The House version listed types of documents and it would restrict the availability or the disclosure of those documents where safety concerns were involved and where privacy rights were involved. The Senate changed that and came up with broader classifications of documents and then classified them as confidential. What this does under the Open Government and Records Act, when you go the definition of public record, public record excludes records which invade the right of privacy of an individual or business entity. So the Senate by creating a right of confidentiality in certain categories are records whether or not they relate to safety creates a right of privacy, which would exclude those records from the definition of public records and disclosure. So they have just taken a different approach. The approach that they followed is the one that was taken by the regulators in New Jersey either approach is appropriate so that whether one is better or preferable over the other it is just a matter of choice. The Senate version will protect documents that are listed in the act from disclosure and it does it

to the definitions used in the Open Government Act. The Attorney General made some comments about charging for the records. There is a separate provision in Open Government Act that talks about the same subject that requires the charges to be reasonable that goes without saying that the casino commission if they are going to charge for inspection of documents in copying that the charges would have to be reasonable. The attorney's concern addressed specifically by the Open Government Act which is made to apply to the casino commission.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are you done Counsel? Continue on with our discussions. Any further discussions by the member? Recognize the Minority Leader. Do you wish to yield to BJ? Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a point of information. We are speaking on the legislation itself, but you keep repeating to accept the Senate's version, I think we accepted the Senate's version already because it is on the Bill Calendar. So we are talking on the bill itself already, so we have already accepted. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, my bad. Basically this is to adopt the bill in its current form, but the motion we just did this earlier where a bill on the Bill Calendar had amendments that we decided to reject so the motion was to reject it. In this case the motion is to pass it in its current form. Continue.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies, I meant to bring that up back in House Bill 19-5 just because we accepted the communication from the Senate. In order usually the process is we accept or reject the communication that allows it to go to conference committee or get into the Bill Calendar. I think in 19-5 we kind of passed that portion. So with 19-95 we accepted it therefore, the version that the Senate is providing the House is the version that we should be acting on right now not adopting this is now for action.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: You are correct.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: I apologize to the Floor Leader with the 19-5, I meant to bring that issue up that we accepted it therefore it is on the Bill Calendar now it either we kill it in the Bill Calendar. We are not accepting or rejecting the version of the Senate we already accepted the version of the Senate as per our action in the last session by accepting the senate communication. By accepting Senate Communication 19-91, we are essentially acting already on House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 not on the acceptance of the Senate version. I believe we have accepted by placing it on the calendar. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I think we have disposed of that motion on 19-5 and the motion was to reject it but we are under discussion on 19-95 now. I know you are trying to make a point, but the motion for 19-5 has been offered and voted on. We rejected it.

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: A point of clarification Mr. Speaker. By Senate Communications that brought up by the upper House when we accepted to place it on calendar or send it to committee and in this case it is reject or accept – rejecting it would send it to conference committee, accepting it would be placing it on the calendar. Therefore, by accepting it

and placing it on the calendar we are working on the Senate version. Now we are acting to vote on the bill not accepting the Senate amendments to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for the clarification. So the motion is to pass House Bill 19-95 so we are clear. Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:49 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. We now return back on our session after a short recess to clarify some issues with our rules. We are still under item XVI under the Bill Calendar and the motion was to pass House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 in its current form. We are under discussion and we can continue further discussions. Minority Leader recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this is now the substitute my impression is that all these underline are what we are basically discussing. I do have certain questions, but I am not quite sure that it should be directed to the main author or any of the members who wishes to chime in. When this bill first came into the floor was in a different form. There is no doubt that the Casino Commission need our help, there is no doubt that we need to make sure that we assist the gaming commission thus the investors as well. So when we first looked at the original bill given all the documents presented in front of us, although not necessarily official it changed from one form to the other and now we have the Senate version in front of us for consideration. In its original form, I was under the impression that that is what we are looking at, my understanding is that it has also some recommendation from the gaming commission itself, I am talking about the original bill. And then subsequently other than the unofficial documents presented in front of the members it was ironed out that this is now the original form. I meant the original form that was sent to the Senate after the passage from the House. The minority block had also requested some time so that we fix what we feel is not really quite clear yet. One of the items that the minority block had recommended that perhaps we need to first entertain the area of the employees of the commission that was not necessarily the case at the end of the voting. So we ask that we have more time, again that was not the case. So the House passed an original version and then during that process when it was at the House there was some sense of reaction from the gaming commission on the bill that was subsequently passed to the Senate. Meaning first it was provisions were provided from the gaming commission and subsequently time went by and then Best Sunshine came into the picture and when it went to the Senate now we have in between that now we the Attorney General who hinted some degree of close to corruption on provisions provided on that bill that was passed by this body that was sent to the Senate. Because the Attorney General's public comment on that the reaction from the gaming commission and I believe that all the members also have that paper position from the gaming commission that there was some again degree of shortsightedness of the Attorney General relative to Public Law 18-56. Now that the Senate had incorporated most of the Attorney General's recommendation and thank you Mr. Speaker for explaining part of those recommendations from the Attorney General. It is important to make sure that conflicting and or complimenting policies are understood by all of us and especially for our commission and all our

members or the staffs of the commission so that – again, the law is the law and we need to help the commission to make sure that everything is in place. I do have some questions on page 17 and 18, but I am not sure who can respond to that. Let me just go to page 16 for now Mr. Speaker so that I cut short my comments allow others to speak. Page 16, line 18 (k) says, “the Commission shall regulate one life training facility of nonpermanent duration and all permanent facilities as are consistent with the casino license agreement granted to the exclusive licensee and together shall be operated by exclusive casino licensee.” My question is that maybe even to the mover or any of the member for that matter, what is the percentage of this training facility? What is the percentage of our local workforce that has been trained thus far? What is the number of total employees who have been in this training facilities and are we meeting the local requirement by law? My other question Mr. Speaker is on page 17, line 15 where it says, “the Executive Director may hire and terminate such staff” and the Senate include “including a legal counsel and other professionals.” I am not sure how we define other professionals. At this point Mr. Speaker, whoever wants to chime in on those particular concerns I have, I do have others I will yield for now.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The Minority Leader was asking for a response so I will recognize anyone wishing to respond to the questions. Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you colleague. To your first question on page 16 you make reference on the number of US citizens being employed, I do not have the exact numbers, but I was made to be informed that it is around close to five-hundred and most of those employees are US citizens that I can say. I just need to verify that whether that is accurate but that is the information that I got. Now to your other question, I think the counsel has briefly said that earlier so I will refer that to the Legal Counsel just for him to reiterate it.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The second question was the issue of hiring a Legal Counsel and I think I also made an attempt to clarify that but maybe as the Vice Speaker said to allow the Legal Counsel to chime in. Mr. Cool, I guess the question is because the Senate removed the provision that was included in the House version basically requiring of the approval of the Attorney General’s Office is no longer there under this version. What happens now with regards to the AG’s approval or the constitutional issue that the AG represents all executive branch, agencies and departments. Legal Counsel.

Legal Counsel John Cool: The first thing is that you do have to start with the Constitution. We cannot amend the Constitutional statute and we cannot make exceptions to the Constitutional statute. Basically, the Constitution provides that the Attorney General shall be the chief legal officer of the Commonwealth government and shall be responsible for providing legal advice to the Governor, executive, departments including public corporations and autonomous agencies representing the Commonwealth in all legal matters and prosecuting violations of Commonwealth law. So primarily we are looking at the responsibility for providing legal advice to the autonomous agency and in this case the casino commission. The casino commission even absent the provision that the Senate includes in there could hire legal counsel and other professionals. The only thing is those Legal Counsels that are hired cannot be responsible for providing legal advice to the casino commission. They can act as a hearing officer, they can act as anything else. We have agencies here that have hired attorneys and they do not use them for the purposes of legal advice. They have used them as hearing officers, they have used them for

investigators, but when you get to providing the legal advice to the agency that is the responsibility of the Attorney General, he can delegate that to the agency. There are agencies that have their own Legal Counsel with the approval of the Attorney General when there is no enabling legislation at all it says that they can hire a Legal Counsel. This section by saying hire Legal Counsel the presumption is that you are hiring Legal Counsel and he is going to be the sole provider of the legal advice of the agency, well that is not true. You can hire the Legal Counsel and other professionals whatever they are, but even professionals if it is a professional that is required to be licensed by another agency they are going to have to be licensed. If you are going to hire somebody and you want to have somebody that is a CPA they are going to have to have a CPA license. So just the fact that you are authorized to hire them does not mean that they are going to be the provider of the legal services, which is the constitutional responsibility of the Attorney General.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Further response Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe not a response to the Counsel, but just to further clarify my comment earlier and I used the word “being informed” meaning the information came from the gaming commission. As we all know any employees to be employed at the facility all employees should get an application and perhaps submit to the gaming commission and be allowed to issue a license from the commission and because of that this is where I got the information is from the gaming commission. I just thought I would clarify that Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. We have the gaming commissioners here and they should be able to answer how many US employees are employed by Best Sunshine and if the members want to ask them you know the route Committee as a Whole ask questions. I am going to return it back to our Minority Leader. I do not know if your question was addressed by the Vice Speaker, you also said you had other questions as well.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: But I also want to give the other members the opportunity Mr. Speaker. My basic concern and I do not think it is really fair for the Vice Speaker to respond to the Senate amendments that is why I am asking that anybody who wants to chime in I guess it is alright. My concern is that are we meeting their threshold of the requirement under the local labor workforce if I am going to ask only for the training facility because if I ask the construction phase then that would be another agenda, but at this point are we meeting the local threshold requirement by law.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I think that can only be answered by the gaming commission. None of us, regulators says Representative Santos said so we can pose the question if you want to have that answered. I do not know if they have the answer with them on hand. Maybe nodding for yes or no, are they meeting the statutory requirement for hiring local US citizens? We have to dissolve into the Committee as a Whole to get that response and his question was very specific to the live gaming facility not construction. Maybe if there is – can you submit to the body the official number of employees hired for the live training facility so that we have an official response that can corroborate the nod. Minority Leader, *maolek ha enao*? Thank you. We move on now Minority Leader do you yield?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I yield, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Sablan you are recognized.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Speaker. This is a question and like the Minority Leader, I am not sure who can answer the question it is just a thought I have been pondering about. In addition to all the concerns in the amendments mine was just on page 18 subsection 23 gambling by commission and license is prohibited and it was a realistic thought and I had a visual and where on line 13 where it says, “unless such playing of games or making of bets or wagers is absolutely necessary for investigative compliance or enforcement purposes.” So this is in regards to allowing the employees or the officers of the commission to make wagers. So the question I pose is who provides the wager money to go and investigate? Who identifies the investigation is every single time say maybe if you want to play a hundred times is all hundred times investigated? If commission provides the money for that and all hundred times the wager plays is lost how does that affect the finances of the commission? Another thought is what if the investigative party wins the jackpot? Is he to accept the money or where does it go? Is this something that is placed into policy of the commission when or if this measure goes through? Or is this something that should be placed on the policy of this body in the legislative branch? So these are the questions and things in the bill that are unclear and it is a clear indication that there needs to be more clarity. I am not opposed to having the commission – have what they need to enforce, but we need to kind of approach this in a way where we have all these questions answered and all of our thoughts are satisfied. So this is one concern or question that I have that indicates that there is a lot of stuff that we need to include in the policy and in the legislation and not wait until we pass a measure that is very unclear and creates problems in the future. That is all I have Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. I do not think any member here can answer that only the gaming commission but would you like to take a short recess? Short recess.

The House recessed at 12:26 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:36 p.m.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, members. We return back to our session. After recess Representative Sablan still has the floor.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Speaker. During recess there was some statements to my question which answered them in a general base but not in a specific base. I do understand the need for investigation and stuff like that and what I was leaning is a more clear portion or clear language in the law that states the investigation down. In recess we heard that the amendments the Director stated that the amendments in front of us is not what they wanted but it is in front of us now. Again, clear indication that there still needs to be some work on the bill so that is all I have Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to chime in a little bit about what our good colleague here Vinny is saying. With our operation like this with this kind of magnitude, I am certain that the division of enforcement with the casino should develop or should have in place already a standard operating procedure just like what the casino executive was mentioning, but then going as far as the details again really is – there are policies that need to be followed but what is important is that we have the provision on the bill. With these kinds of questions colleague we can actually get a hold with the head of the enforcement division with the casino and perhaps give us more detail but I am certain again that there should be a standard operating procedure that governs this kind of magnitude. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Aldan yields, Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is just a comment and I would like to reiterate what colleague Vinny said. It is a standard operating procedure for the enforcement to do and of course investigation should not take place if there is no probable cause, but with that I would like to just say this as a comment. I see the differences and all the issues that we are facing in this bill and I also understand the establishment of the casino commission. I supported them from the beginning, I voted for them. I even supported the first bill that was introduced by the House, but despite of that support and everything, I know the casino commission will formulate policy and procedures because that is how they are. I know they will articulate what are the issues that needs to be articulated or needs to be tackled, but looking at the law that we have in hand – personally the way I look at it now and it is convoluting everything I would like to see that this law will go to the conference committee and call the Attorney General to come in and put his two-cents together once and for all put his two-cents together so that we get more clarity and more cleanliness with regards to the provisions that are stipulated in here. He is the only Attorney General right now as John has mentioned that is involved so he should be brought in for us to give us rightful approach into how we make this once and for all more clear so the public would get a fair share with regards to that. And the casino commission would also formulate a policy that is consistent within the law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, one of my concerns was addressed earlier during our recess so I yield for now. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. At this time, are there any other comments from the members? Recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: I just want to echo Representative Benavente, I mean this bill has so many issues. And then even on recess we have the commission, the agency that is going to be responsible with carrying out these duties, these investigations saying this is not what they want. That is it Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Villagomez. Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just briefly in reference to the concern raised by Representative Benavente, we all know that the Attorney General issue and opinion on the proposed measure, the Senate actions address perhaps maybe 80 close to 90 percent. The other concerns that were not addressed and were just left aside is just more of a policy in nature. So I just thought I make that thing clear as indicated on the Senate amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Since you spoke already, respond Representative Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: The reason I mentioned that Vice Speaker is that when we have the conference committee from the Senate and from the House we can articulate the differences and the different strategies and the different issues that we have within the law. With the presence of the Attorney General to clarify and assist to activate these law to its full force and effect will be a win-win situation for even the casino commission and everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Recognize the Floor Leader first and then Representative Yumul.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know when this bill first was introduced in the House it was introduced first because of a need and then we have the House Substitute and we have the Senate Substitute and this bill has been gutted, twisted inside out, but throughout the whole thing the only that remained constant is the need for this bill. The House issue has been heard, the Senate issue has been heard, the Attorney General's issues have been heard and we can go back and forth with this and I am almost certain that we cannot all be satisfied with what is going to be on the final version of this bill, but again the need for the commission to continue operation is still there from day one. The need for the licensee to have the commission be there so that they can continue their operation is there. We can try to recommend amendments and stuff and send this back and forth three times, four times and I do not think we can all be in agreement on what is going to be on the final version, but because of that need for the commission, because of that need for the licensee, I am ready Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe one of the movers can answer this. On page 7, subsection (c) the nonrefundable credit it says, "a licensee may apply all casino regulatory fees collected by the commission as a nonrefundable credit against the taxes imposed on 4 CMC 1301" and it goes on but on 4 CMC 1301 there is a section here and it is on (b) where it says, "a person during the year conducts two or more separate distinct businesses, sells more than one property is entitled to distributive sales from more than one partnership shall pay a yearly tax" so I understand the licensees purchasing land throughout the CNMI. So assuming they will not use the \$20 Million Dollar threshold under the gross revenue tax. If they come close to it and for example they purchase or sell, we are basically giving a tax break if they sell their properties if I am not mistaken and maybe John can clarify that on subsection (b) 1301.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Yumul. Counsel did you take note of the question?

Legal Counsel John Cool: This is actually a provision for a limited tax credit once their tax liability for any taxable year exceeds \$20 Million Dollars. That is close to a billion dollars of gross receipts.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: What is that amount?

Legal Counsel John Cool: A billion.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: One Billion?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: So let us say – no my concern is the properties that are being sold so let us say they invest you know –

Legal Counsel John Cool: There is no BGRT realized by Best Sunshine to the extent that there would be any BGRT it would be if the properties are being sold by a business entity that business entity would be paying the tax not Best Sunshine. It is the seller of the profit making the profit.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: I understand, but if they are conducting as two separate entity businesses, which I believe they are currently doing where they are purchasing or under different aliases or companies would that be subject to tax break? I guess my question is are they subject to tax breaks?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Just to clarify, there is a real estate company that is looking to purchasing properties. Is that the one you are referring to? And the question is if they are purchasing properties or selling can that be used as a credit towards this section of the bill, John? And I understand it is only BGRT's and so I do not know how selling of properties could be used as a credit.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: I understand Speaker, but if I may on Section (b) it includes that and that is what I am concern about. Under 1301 there is a Section (a) and (b) so that is my concern either acting as other businesses, can they avail of the tax breaks?

Legal Counsel John Cool: The Section you are referring to is subsection (b) of 1301 and that relates to primarily in one or more partnership situations.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: John, the revenue would that be tied into the license because business can have separate licenses when the questions depend on – I mean the revenue will basically go back to the business activity generated per license right?

Legal Counsel John Cool: The actual implementation of this section would be pursuant to rules adopted by the Secretary of Finance, but the section that you are referring to in the bills talks about a person conducting two or more separate and distinct businesses sells more than one

property or is entitled to a distributed share from one or more partnerships should pay the yearly tax under this section on the combine total gross revenue of all businesses. So if you have a consolidated operation where you have subsidiaries, partnership interests, the tax should be paid on the business entities, entire gross revenues even if it is from two or more distinct lines of business. So the idea is to consolidate the income for the purposes of determining the rate of tax and not allowing the tax payer who has related businesses to tax each individual business separately so that they can move down to a lower percentage tax. You would have to combine all of the persons or entities lines of business that they control and all of that income would be used to determine the rate of tax. So the idea is to achieve the highest rate of tax possible for the tax payers transactions and not allow him to split his incomes. Like an individual tax payer can split their income between their husband and their wife and would get into a lower tax record. This provision prevents the business from doing that for the BGRT.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: So they will not be subject to a nonrefundable tax credit.

Legal Counsel John Cool: If one is granted they would be when the combine tax exceeds \$20 Million Dollars.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: When you said that the combine tax \$20 Million Dollars is that \$400 Million Dollars in gross sales with whatever business sales property – it should be \$400 Million not \$1 Billion right because it is five-percent. So if you take \$20 Million divide by five-percent that becomes \$400 Million and not \$1 Billion. Anyway my concern is I believe Best Sunshine or Imperial Pacific is owned by a small number of people it is not a large – my concern is if they were to build, purchase, or whatever – my concern is we are going to be allowing them to avail of our – we are basically giving them tax credit and that is just my concern. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Yumul. John anything further to add?

Legal Counsel John Cool: If they were to split the income actually it would prevent them from achieving the overall \$20 Million Dollar limit because you would be talking about each individual business. So if they are separate and distinct then you would not combine them so that you would not reach the total as quick.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Anybody else want to chime in? Recognize Representative Demapan?

Representative Angel A. Demapan: No I did not Mr. Speaker, but I will go ahead. I understand that there are a lot of concerns here. The bill before us is not even the bill anymore that we passed or was initially introduced by the author that has undergone major transformations both in the House and the Senate. Above all that it all leads to one goal and I think the goal was to pave the way for some kind of an established oversight and regulation of an industry that is new to the commonwealth and one that is very complex. We may agree or disagree about the how the industry got here, but that is beyond what we are at today. Today our duty is to make sure that the industry that is here is properly regulated that we give the agency the regulatory arm of the industry the proper tools that they need. The agency stood up here today and said that it is not everything that they wanted, but everything that they wanted was not everything that we wanted

that was the original version of the bill, which did not get the support of either side of the legislature I believe. That is the reason why we worked on that bill and refined it and we came up with House Substitute 1 because we felt that the bill needed some refinement to make sure that the agency was also in compliance with other commonwealth laws and statutes similar to all other regulation agencies that are in the Commonwealth. The bottom line here is we have a legislation here to basically enhance the function of a government instrumentality and that is where I have some concerns here is we are trying to enhance a government instrumentality for the benefit of the government, for the benefit of the people. It is being misconstrued as legislation to benefit the licensee or a particular business entity. What we have today is a licensee operating, we have a commission established without the proper regulatory tools that they need. In fact, we have a commission that is on the cusp of shutting down operations because we have not provided the funding that is included in this bill. The intent of approving the FTE's that they have requested to ensure that they continue their operations. There is recommendations to go to conference committee so that we can come up with the best product, the last I checked something that went to conference committee did not come out with the best product, in fact it came out with three line item vetoes. So I am not so sure that a conference committee will produce the best product. What I am sure is that there is 20 members in here that can make conscientious decisions on legislations. True that we may agree and disagree, but this is the practice of democracy. The majority decides either way and it is not a question of the majority or minority in that sense it is the question of the final numbers at the end of the day on how we decide to move forward with regulating this industry. I am very concern that we have an industry operating without proper regulation. That was the trigger that had me involve in this bill is because I wanted to make sure that if this industry is going to operate then it is going to operate by the rules of the land and that is our job to implement the rules of the land here. This legislation is one step. It is an infantile industry and we do not have all the answers today and we have to start somewhere and it will continue to be our duty to refine the industry to make sure that the agency is properly safeguarded throughout the operation of industry and even long after many of us are not here anymore. We will continue to do it, we do it will all other industries, we do it with all other legislations. It is practically impossible for us to produce the perfect bill today for an industry that is unprecedented in the Commonwealth or in Saipan at least and in an industry of this magnitude. For me we just got to start somewhere and the level of scrutiny that House Bill 19-95 has gone through, you know the official title almost cannot fit anymore in our bill calendar because it has undergone so much transformation means it has been scrutinize at length and when it got to the Senate the Attorney General raised some of his concerns not being all substantial illegal matters but the Senate heated majority of those concerns. There is still the question of the Legal Counsel provision in here and that is exactly a classic example of why we inserted that provision in HS1 is because we had an Assistant Attorney General assigned to provide guidance to the casino commission and along with that guidance was the creation of this bill, the drafting of the original bill involve not just the Legal Counsel, but members of the Attorney General's Office and we took that from that foundation is what we worked upon for House Substitute 1 and it is still the foundation of that draft worked from the AG's office and the casino commission is still the majority of what is left in this bill. The commission caught itself in a predicament in which the Attorney General's Office and maybe even its Legal Counsel sat back and did not defend what really transpired. Instead all the blame was shifted to the legislature, but this bill was crafted for so long between the commission and the Attorney General's Office and was provided to this legislature for consideration and then that consideration process was when we stepped in and made sure that we offered the amendments we felt was advisable and necessary. We did that

in the House and the Senate has done it and now we have this product before us. So we just need to make a decision today. Either we start today or we sit back and do nothing and watch an industry operate without regulation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Are there any further discussions on the motion as offered by the Floor Leader? Recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: I still disagree, I feel that more scrutiny still needs to be done on this bill and the Floor Leader brought up the need for the commission to move forward because of this and that and the cusp of the commission shutting down. We introduce the substitute to take care of that need and it still got shut down and I just want to put that there for the record that is the constant thing that we have been talking about. We have other issues that have been coming not only on the Senate and not only in the legislature on other agencies and I know Representative Demapan keeps saying we need to start somewhere and we started with 18-56 obviously 19-95 – thank you for that because that really fixes it up, but I still feel that if we can bring it I know there will never be anything as a perfect law but if we could bring it close to that then that is better than less than that. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Villagomez. Any further discussion? Recognized for the second time Representative Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to touch a little bit on the substitute version that was offered by Representative Attao. Yes, Representative Villagomez is right that it addressed the need to provide the funding and the FTE for the casino commission, but that is all it did. So if we went with the substitute version offered we would have our casino commission non payroll with the proper FTE's with no regulatory provisions to conduct or without the authorities that they need prescribed by law because we would have just given the money and the FTE's. So that is the reason why 19-95, HS1 was introduced to make sure that we do both that we do not just fund an office with nothing to do but we fund an office and give them the tools they need to regulate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. I hope we are not going to go back and forth, but anybody else who has not spoken. Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: I just want to comment that they are obviously good arguments on both sides, but this is a live training casino. We are acting like the sky is falling if we do not get this passed today. There are a lot of other concerns that we should be addressing. I am in agreement with some of my colleagues on this side that there are some things that we can look into and take a little more time. Every time we get rushed, we have to do this now, I think back to how we came into this predicament because we rush things and move things so swiftly and quickly without doing our due diligence. So I am still going to vote “no” on this that is in my heart. There are things that need to be addressed, things that we can discuss and I just feel that when we rush things especially something like this it becomes problematic. And then we go back to the drawing board each and every time let us make this change and that change. Yes, there is no such thing as a perfect bill, but we still have to look at the problems and some of the concerns. I think Rosemond Sword came up here and addressed her concerns and she brought up some very valid arguments. Are we going to dismiss them and ignore them and just proceed anyway? That

is not due diligence. I ask my colleagues that because that is why we are put into office and discuss these things and make the best rationale decisions with the arguments placed forward. I have listen to all sides and again you guys all have merit and I respect each and every one of you, but if my conscience is saying no and if there is problems with it then I cannot support something like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Propst. Any other who have not spoken yet before we move to the vote? Are we ready?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The motion just to clarify is for the passage of House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 which was amended by the Senate, the product that is in front of us. A “yes” vote would be to pass the bill to go the Governor. A “no” would be not to pass the bill and it would die basically. So ready?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-95, HD1, HS1, SS1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	no
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	no
Representative Roman C. Benavente	no
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	no
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad T. 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

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 10 members voted “yes” and 9 members voted “no.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of 10 “yes” and 9 “no,” House Bill 19-95 as amended hereby passes the House. I think we need to break for lunch. Do the members wish to continue after lunch? We do have some bills that PSS and Mr. Galvin Guerrero who represents the coalition. Mr. Guerrero your public comments asking that we defer

action on House Bill 19-10 has been noted. We are not going to take action on it today so if you are here for that rest assured we will not act on it. So do we want to come back? Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a note, I have previously scheduled a SNILD Ways and Means committee meeting for 1:30 this afternoon. On the agenda it includes the SHEFA funding.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Ogumoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Speaker, I understand we are going to have another session right before Thanksgiving so anything else that has not been acted upon, I would like to recommend that we hold them till then. Even the related services providers bill under my committee will be ready for the next session Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Primarily the scheduled Ways and Means committee meeting this afternoon, I am going to take that as a request to adjourn and as Representative Ogumoro said, yes next week maybe Tuesday or Wednesday we will have a session to take care of the rest of the bills. So with that any Miscellaneous under item XVII?

No action was taken for the following legislations:

H. B. NO. 19-61

A Bill for an Act to establish the Related Service Providers Scholarships; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-38]

H. B. NO. 19-76

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §1401 and 4 CMC §1402 (a) to separate cigars from being taxed as a tobacco and establish its own tax rate; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-43]

H. B. NO. 19-85, HD1

A Bill for an Act to amend Title 6, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Commonwealth Code to establish a regulation to prohibit smoking in vehicles when in the presence of minors; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-48]

H. B. NO. 19-93, HSI

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §8531 to include a definition for “Monetary Value” in order to give the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) a chance to improve their financial status; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-49]

S. B. NO. 19-30, SD1, HD1

A Bill for an Act to include in the duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation the expense, payment of all costs and fees pertaining or relating to the operations, maintenance, and lighting of street lights on public and residential access roads; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-51]

H. B. NO. 19-10, HD1

A Bill for an Act to repeal and re-enact Public Law No. 6-10 “The Education Act of 1988” as amended and as codified as 3 CMC § 1101 through § 1193; and for other purposes. *See* [S. C. R. NO. 19-56]

S. B. NO. 19-64

To amend establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes. *See* [Sen. Comm. No. 19-95]

H. B. NO. 19-87, HD1, SD1

To amend Title 4 CMC § 5526 to add a new Section 8 Special Casino Liquor License, and to amend, repeal and re-enact certain sections of Title 4, Division 5, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes. *See* [Sen. Comm. No. 19-97]

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The organization CARE has requested a liaison from the House and the Senate. Any volunteers to represent the House or should I just make an appointment? If there is no volunteers, the Chair will make an appointment. Under Announcements, recognize Representative Sablan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of time consideration of where we are right now just to inform the members that the committee that we will go ahead and push back our 1:30 pm to maybe 2:30 pm.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Members of Ways and Means take note. Anything further under announcements? Floor Leader for the motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a motion that we adjourn subject to your call.

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

The House adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 19-40: To appropriate \$22,000.00 from the funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 and to re-appropriate \$12,000.00 from Tinian Local Law No. 19-3 Section 2(d); and for other purposes.

Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015.

H. L. B. NO. 19-41: To re-appropriate lapse funds under Saipan Local Law No. 18-17; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015.

H. L. B. NO. 19-42: To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on October 27, 2015.

*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session
11/6/15:*

C. RES. NO. 19-18: To honor and commend the seven honorable nominees for the Outstanding Firefighter and their relentless efforts to contribute and ensure safety for the betterment of the CNMI. Introduced by REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, Francis S. Taimanao, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) – Calendared 11-6-15

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 19-56: (9/29/15 received 9/30/15) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. B. 19-86, HD6, SS1, CCS1 (FY 2016 Budget Act). Became **Public Law 19-8, item vetoed [Deadline 11/29/15]**

GOV. COMM. 19-60: (10/8/15 received 10/9/15) Informing the House that he disapproved S. B. No. 19-27 (To establish the crime of electronic impersonation; and for other purposes) [**Deadline 12/8/15**]