



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2016

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Emergency Session, Third Regular Session

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

The House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Emergency Session, Third Regular Session on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 10:10 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan, 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 and excused.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: With 19 members present we do have a quorum to establish a session. Before we move on let me just – we agreed yesterday the need and justifications for today’s special session is to address the 25% pension payment of all CNMI retirees and I just thought I mention that again. Now recognize the Floor Leader for the motion.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, Mr. Speaker and members pursuant to the OGA and the official rules of the House of Representative, I move that the House agrees that an emergency exists and the reason for finding that emergency is for the pressing and urgent need to address the 25% pension payment for all CNMI retirees. Mr. Speaker, I move for a roll call.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor. Any discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to declare emergency session:

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
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker 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 voted “yes” and 1 member is absent.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Again because it is an emergency session as we all know it requires a two-thirds vote so we do have the number to proceed on with this session. We now go ahead and move down to item II, Public Comments. Is there anyone in the gallery who wishes to comment on any on the items on today’s agenda you may do so the podium is right up front. Appears to be none so we move down to item IV, recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification regarding the absent member. Is the member excused or unexcused.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We do have a written notice from Representative Lee Pan Guerrero. Just for the record he is excused on today’s session. So we go ahead and move down to item IV, which is the Introduction of Bills. I now recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Antonio P. Sablan officially introduced House Bill 19-136.

H. B. NO. 19-136

To amend Public Law No. 19-08 to specifically authorize the Governor to reprogram Executive Branch appropriations to pay for the 25% pension payments.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, and John Paul P. Sablan)

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Before we move on let me go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader for the placement of House Bill 19-136 on the Bill Calendar.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: So move Mr. Speaker for the placement of House Bill 19-136 on our calendar today for action. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The motion was seconded. Discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to place House Bill 19-136 on the Bill Calendar for action was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan recognized Representative Antonio P. Sablan for the next introduction.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan officially introduce House Bill 19-137.

H. B. NO. 19-137

To amend 4 CMC §1803, Distribution of revenues Marianas Visitor Authority and the Retirement Fund and to repeal 1 CMC §8365, Tax Revenue; and to make the Act apply retroactively.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, John Paul P. Sablan, and Francis S. Taimanao)

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Again, I would like to recognize the Floor Leader for the placement.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to offer a motion for the placement of House Bill 19-137 on our Bill Calendar for action. So move Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion on the floor. House Bill 19-137 was placed on the Bill Calendar by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Floor Leader.

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

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 19-79.

S. C. R. NO. 19-79: Reporting on H. B. No. 19-52, entitled: “A Bill for an Act To amend 4 CMC §2308 to amend and add subsections (f) and (g) to include NMC and NMTI as recipients of the funds generated from the Gross Revenue Tax; and for other purposes.”

Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 19-52, HD1.

(Moved to Bill Calendar)

The motion was seconded with no discussion. Standing Committee Report 19-79 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Standing Committee Report 19-79 is on today’s Bill Calendar. It appears that on item XIII, XIV, XV are none so we will go ahead and move down to item XVI, which is the Bill Calendar. I now recognize the Floor Leader for any motion.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will go ahead and yield to the Chairman.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection I would like to request for recess. If there is no objection.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recess.

The House recessed at 10:24 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:44 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back from our recess. Before we go into recess we were on item XVI, the Bill Calendar and before I recognize the Floor Leader to make any motion for the

passage on any bill I would like to first recognize the Floor Leader for a motion for the suspension of rules.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a motion that we suspend pertinent rules relative to the requirement for committee reports so that we may act on the three bills that do not have a committee report. So move Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The motion was seconded, discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend pertinent rules was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I recognize the Floor Leader for the passage on any of the bills on the Bill Calendar.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion for the passage of House Bill 19-136 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. NO. 19-136

To amend Public Law No. 19-08 to specifically authorize the Governor to reprogram Executive Branch appropriations to pay for the 25% pension payments.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, and John Paul P. Sablan*)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. The motion was seconded, discussion on the motion. Recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. The proposed legislation again recall to yesterday’s meeting with the Governor. One of the items of disagreement between the Administration and the trustee ad litem is in regards to the Governor’s reprogramming authority and the question that the 25% pension payments do not fall under public purpose. It is upon the recommendation of the Administration pursuant to their appearance before the federal court that the proposed legislation is necessary to help address the issue in regards to the Governor’s reprogramming authority. Again, this Legislature authorize the Governor 100% reprogramming authority pursuant to Public Law 19-08 the budget act and we hope and the administration hopes that with the passage of this legislation that this particular item with regards to the disagreement between the settlement fund and the Administration can be resolved. Again, the purpose of today’s session is to take into consideration the time sensitivity of acting on the legislation before this body this morning. We all are aware that the Administration is appearing before the Federal Court on Friday and I ask for the members

support. Again, we sincerely hope that with the passage of this bill and eventual signing into law that it would help remove this one particular obstacle in our retirees getting their 25% and I plead and I ask for the members support. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Ready? Recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify my concern with the 100% reprogramming authority which is to pay the pension for retirees. My concern is from a letter dated from the settlement fund, January 29, the government was required to pay \$10.5 Million and today they are short. So with this approval on this bill, my concern is if what other agencies will be affected knowing the fact that you can re-appropriate funds from any agencies to address we already know that the letter from Joyce Tang came in and said they are short nine-point-something million and that is as of January 29. We do not know if government has made payments, but does that mean the Governor can actually re-appropriate funds from any of the – for example Medical Referral and other agency or under his authority so that makes very cautious about that because it actually jeopardizes the budget act when you have a authority to appropriate funds and it goes directly – I believe it is a monthly payment it is very – I just stressed out that it can be very cautious because of the fiscal impact that may happen with the remaining of the fiscal year. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Yumul. Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Just to get clarification about the reference letter from the settlement fund. Was that the letter that was in the House Communication yesterday from settlement fund saying that the –

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: No it was handed over to my office.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So it is not a part of House Communication.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: I am not sure.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Can I request a short recess so other members can have a copy of this communication, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:50 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to our session. Before we were on recess, we were discussing on House Bill 19-136. I now recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I assumed this was all the – the letter that was passed out, I assumed that every member had one. And with that I will submit that if that can be taken as a formal House Communication. I am not sure with the rules, but if not I can actually just withdraw what I just mentioned because not every member is privy to it. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. I recognize the Vice Speaker now.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised my hand just to get a clarification with what Representative Yumul was referencing and now that we have it if he is withdrawing his statements or concerns then I yield.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Any other member want to discuss on House Bill 19-136? Appears to be none. I now recognize the Clerk for the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-136 on First and Final Reading 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
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker 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	no

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 18 members voted “yes” and 1 member voted “no.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 18 “yes” and 1 “no,” House Bill 19-136 hereby passes the House.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I now recognize the Floor Leader for the next motion.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion for the passage of House Bill 19-137 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. NO. 19-137

To amend 4 CMC §1803, Distribution of revenues Marianas Visitor Authority and the Retirement Fund and to repeal 1 CMC §8365, Tax Revenue; and to make the Act apply retroactively.

REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, John Paul P. Sablan, and Francis S. Taimanao)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor. The motion was seconded, discussion on the motion. Recognize Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. This is to offer a floor amendment to House Bill 19-137.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan offered the following floor amendment:

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. B. NO. 19-137

H. B. No. 19-137 is amended as follows:

- I. Page 2, lines 8 to 11, following the words “Retirement Fund” is amended to read:

~~“The taxes allotted and paid to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund may be used to fund the operations and obligations of the Fund, including the 25% pension payments to retirees.”~~

Notwithstanding 1 CMC §7401, the Secretary of Finance may expend tax revenues allotted and paid to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund without appropriation to fund the operation and obligations of the fund, including the 25% pension payments to retirees.

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

Date: February 17, 2016 Offered by: /s/ Rep. Antonio P. Sablan

Reviewed by: /s/ House Legal Counsel John F. Cool

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The floor amendment was seconded. I believe everyone has a copy on the proposed floor amendment. Discussion on the amendment? Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like more information on this floor amendment. Mr. Chairman if you could please explain the portions especially the part that states without appropriation. Thank you.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: On the amendment offered? If we read the original version of House Bill 19-137 from lines 8 to 11, basically the following language stated “The taxes allotted and paid to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund may be used to fund the operations and obligations of the Fund, including the 25% pension payments to retirees.” The amendment offered is to provide a specific language that under “1 CMC §7401, the Secretary” is the responsibility – the Secretary – if you note that a prior language it says “taxes that may be expended” we do not want to fall back on the issue whether this is going to be subject to the Secretary’s expenditure going to be subject to reprogramming so that the amendment offered is to bring clarity and remove any ambiguity and make it clear that the Secretary may expend pursuant to 1 CMC 7401 the tax revenues allotted and paid to the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund without appropriation to fund the operations and obligations the fund including 25% pension payments to retirees. As we all know one of the issues facing the Administration and the Settlement Fund the trustee ad litem in particular is the interpretation and clarity of the intent of Saipan Local Laws. Thank you. I hope that provides clarification.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: It does thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add that for further clarification. I believe this language came from the Attorney General’s office to clarify the authority the Secretary of Finance to do this. So this is the language they are more comfortable with than the current version. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice. Now recognize Representative Yumul.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a question on the title and make it apply retroactively. Does this mean that funds were expended since I believe it says since September or October was funds used and now it’s being repaid back? I am not sure if that is what it intends to do.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Yumul. Recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you. In response, again we have heard from the presentation that the Administration and the Department of Finance – the Secretary of Finance herself has state and like I said information with the members that the fund has been receiving and been remitting and disbursing the funds made available to the settlement fund since October 2014 and it is a surprise that now over a year and a half later we find ourselves questioning the source of those funds made available and again, I want to continue to emphasize this it is troubling to find out that this is not the first time that revenues such as the one that were returned to the Administration or to Finance have been made available. Again, this language is to ensure and accommodate or incorporate those funds already used as intended by this House Bill, which is basically to clarify that the taxes allotted to the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund are at the

disposal of the expenditure authority of the Secretary of Finance. I think the issue here is that incurrent statute, the language of 25% is absent and I think that could be expected because the pension – the settlement agreement and the 25% payment are new issues, but the amendment and this legislation in particular the intent is to provide clarity that would be presented to the court on Friday hoping that this legislation gets through the House and the Senate and eventually signed into law by the Governor. Again, what we are seeing here is an issue of interpretation. No one has come out and said the actions of the Secretary in the past is illegal. No one – the Attorney General that represents the legal interest of this government has not come out and said the Secretary in remitting the taxes allotted to the Northern Islands Retirement Fund that he have been making available to the settlement agreement is illegal. In the interest of the retirees and the removal of these certainty and stress on themselves in regards to the 25% issue. We have to understand the 25% restoration is an obligation taken upon that is central government. Outside of the settlement fund, we just hope that the members provide their support behind this. We still need to see what comes out of the Friday court hearing, but we have to take whatever necessary step we can and to the items before us this morning House Bill 19-136 and 19-137 are steps in an attempt to help resolve this misunderstanding between the government and the trustee ad litem. Again, I ask the members for their support. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Now Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Chairman of Ways and Means that Ms. Tang had accepted the payment prior to this issuance of the check that was refurbished back to the Department of Finance. Now this actually opens more of a door of actions in regards to what actually belongs to the settlement fund or what actually belongs to the Retirement Fund. These earmarks happened back in the 8th Legislature, 9th and 10th I believe, but right now the settlement fund is trying to take the money that are the court fees and fines. So with this legislation that all those earmarks that happened back in the 8th and 10th Legislature are monies directed to the Retirement Fund therefore, the funds that should are being collected in the courts should be going to the Retirement Fund. Right? I mean they are not accepting the money that has been earmark over the years directly for the pensioners that were through the different legislations in the 8th, 9th and 10th legislature, but yet the funds that were directed under I believe it is the 10th or 12th Legislature under the fines and fees they want that money. So the question is where does it end for them and where does it begin. What earmarks can they take up front and what earmarks can they take up front and what earmarks remain with the Retirement Fund, which is the Secretary of Finance today. Look at Representative Angel Demapan has a bill that is appropriating those money that are collected through the fines up in the court. As soon as that legislation was recognized all of a sudden it is a settlement fund money. So here we are amending this section to reflect that we can use that money to pay the settlement fund, but yet it is in its original court order when the settlement fund happened that was already going to them in the first place, but they are admitting that it is not going to them. Yet the actual court fines and fees they want to take that money. I guess for us to maybe sit down and understand where the settlement fund lies in regards to what monies they collect and what they do not collect. Our good Senator Arnold Palacios requested this information to the Secretary of Finance yesterday during our meeting and it was not clear whether the money belongs to the settlement fund or the Retirement Fund because if it belongs to the settlement fund then yes we are appropriating or giving money that belong to them in the first place but in this case they are almost saying that the

money belongs to the Retirement Fund which is the central government. So I do not know if this legislation goes through and they admit that the money belongs to the Retirement Fund so then the fines and fees that are going to the courts should belong to the Retirement Fund which is the central government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not to rebut Representative Attao's comments, but maybe to clarify the concerns that he raised and he raises very good points. I am not clear about the statement about the settlement funds want to take the fines and fees from the fees which go towards the payment to the judicial building right? And my understanding of that issue is that that is a loan and those fees are collected and repaid to the settlement fund to repay that loan which is due to the fund that is one issue. I think the loan should continue as payments and I think the judicial branch now has a plan, I guess to have another loan to repay in full what is owed to the settlement fund this is one issue. The other issue that you raised which is a good point is those prior earmarks all those prior earmarks of which part of this bill address. I believe the Secretary of Finance made a statement yesterday during our meeting with the Governor that it was agreed during the settlement litigation I guess during the negotiation that those funds go towards to the Retirement Fund. The idea is it would be the Retirement Fund under the Secretary of Finance could go towards the payment, I think of the 75% but the government is under obligation to pay what the monthly payments are the annual payments. If it uses it towards that it can, my own belief is that we can use it toward the 75% as well as other general fund resources. As long as we meet our obligations to pay that I think that is the most important part that needs to be understood is that our obligation is to pay for the 75% and it can be used towards that. Under this bill, I just wanted to clarify that the Secretary of Finance has used it to pay for the 25% and has been doing so and has not been receiving a complaint from the trustee ad litem until recently. And her concern is that it may not be legal and it needs to be legitimize and I think that is what House Bill 19-137 proposes to do and also legitimizes the prior use of that fund to pay the 25% that is what this – part of this legislation does is legalizes or legitimizes the prior remittance to the settlement fund of these two funding sources namely the hotel occupancy tax and the container beverage tax. I agree with the Secretary of Finance that it can be used to subsidize or I mean as a part of the payment towards the 75%, but I think I agree with this policy that it can also be used towards the payment of the 25% either way it goes to the settlement fund. I thank Representative Attao for raising that point which should be maybe looked into and clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Representative Attao? I now recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding from presentation communication with the Secretary of Finance that throughout the negotiation with the settlement agreement, the settlement fund is outside of the settlement agreement that is clear that what is turned over to the settlement agreement is what is included in that agreement and the settlement fund remains a separate entity from the settlement agreement and the funds earmark the settlement fund remains the privy of Finance under current arrangement. This legislation is just to provide the language and include the provision the specific provision that the expenditure of those taxes allotted to the Northern Marianas Fund can be used to include the 25% pension repayment to the retirees that is the overall intent of this legislation and again from the

presentation of our meeting yesterday that is one of the item the Administration hopes to resolve through the passage of this legislation. Again, I ask for the members support thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. Go ahead I now recognize Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not to question the legislation. I was not questioning the legislation. I was just trying to bring up the issue about what certain funds are being able to be used in the settlement funds case. I do not question we are paying them because she never complained about it until January. So that is not the question. The question is how far does that arm reach? It was never brought up in regards to the fines and fees until Representative Demapan’s legislation was exposed. Then all of a sudden the settlement funds was like “we own that money.” That is just the limit. Where does the limit end with the settlement fund and in regards to the Retirement Fund because at the end of the day the CNMI government in its entirety is still responsible to making sure that the retirees gets their full pension as for our constitution. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. Any other discussion? Recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see this legislation 137 as a complimentary legislation. It kind of compliments 136 that we just passed. I believe it is what we needed so that we can assure that the retirees get their pension on a timely manner, but I do have – I needed two clarification before the question of the floor amendment. One is which provision 7401 are we not withstanding with and allowing the Secretary of Finance to expand tax collected and the second clarification I ask and maybe from the author is he used the word “may expend” and I wonder if he is willing to leave that word because that word could be challenged. I do not know if you want to use “shall expend”? So I just want clarification before the question. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Let me go ahead and allow the author first to respond and then Vice. Go ahead Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I think my colleague ask of the Chair for clarification. One under section 7401 I believe and the Legal Counsel can clarify this I think 1CMC 7401 is in regards to the authority of the Secretary of Finance, but we can be more specific and the Legal Counsel can do that after I answer the second part on “may expend.” I think “may expend” provides flexibility for Secretary of Finance to tap this source of revenues allotted to Retirement Fund for the other authorize expenditures under the statute. It could be for the operation it could be for the 25% and maybe that is why I asked that we – I hope that word “may be” is sufficient enough for the intent of this legislation. Mr. Speaker, if I may refer to the Legal Counsel for the specific citation of 1 CMC 7401?

Legal Counsel John Cool: 7401 is the statute that lays out the expenditure authority of various government officials and respective departments, but the beginning paragraph starts out “No expenditure of the Commonwealth shall be made unless the funds are appropriated and currently effective of annual appropriation acts or pursuant to 1 CMC 7204 (d)” and the next sentence to the one that actually applies to what we are dealing with here today it says, “No Commonwealth

official may make an obligation or contract for the expenditure of un-appropriated Commonwealth funds unless provided by law or approved in advance by joint resolution of the legislature.” So actually the authority given, the Secretary of Finance under the existing law we have an earmark of these particular tax revenues which removes them from the general fund so they are now un-appropriated Commonwealth funds, they are not covered by an appropriation and they can be expended in this case by the Secretary of Finance without an appropriation because it is being done pursuant to law. The current law provides for it the amendment just makes it crystal clear that those funds can may be expended by the Secretary of Finance and that is totally consistent actually consistent with 7401. The remainder of 7401 just says “the following public officials may expend and obligate or otherwise commit to public funds” and then it lists who the expenditure authorities are for the various branches, departments and agencies of government. So this Act is actually consistent with 7401.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Counsel. Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just to make an attempt to address the second part of his question why use the word “may” as oppose to “shall.” I think the “may” should be used over “shall.” When we say “shall” she will have to use those funds. Again, by using the word “may” if there is a need for her to use these funds for their payment of 25% then she will, if there is no need then she does not have to. By using the word “shall” we are compelling her, I mean we are requiring her to use these funds, but I do not think that is the intent of the bill. If the need arises then she has this option and I hope that answers the reasons why “may” is used as oppose to “shall.” Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I now recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make a possible suggestion for the future. I think it is in our best interest as a legislature to talk with the trustee ad litem Ms. Joyce Tang. I think she has received, not necessarily from us, but some bad press from retirees and others, but we also have to understand her point of view in all of this as well. She is trying to ensure that the settlement fund is last and she has an obligation to the retirees so I do not think there most certainly is there is no bad person in any of this and I am not saying that we are saying that, but for information for clarification and in our best interest as a legislative body. Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues I ask that in the future we have as one body a press conference with her and discuss with her, her concerns and hear it from her. I think that would be most beneficial to us and it would also help us in the future as we have to make possible emergency decisions and have emergency sessions in the future. So that is just a suggestion from me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Propst. So noted. Because the House Bill 19-136 has been mentioned earlier as complimentary to 137, unlike 136 where it gave the Governor reprogramming executive branch and 137 they intended to cure the ambiguities that there may be in regards to the Secretary of Finance authority to apply tax to the funds to the 25% pension so I just thought I would mention that. Recognize Representative Ogunoro.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to cause further delay in our deliberation today, but I just wanted to point out two things. One, we need to find

out and get a very clear understanding on how the money especially for the 25% pension payment portion has been used. For that matter we should see how the money for the entire 100% pension payment is handled from the time that they started. Secondly, my understanding is that there is nothing in the books and there is nothing in the settlement agreement that gives the trustee the authority to administer or to control the 25% pension payment portion and that every effort should be made to make sure that she is out of the picture when it comes to the 25% pension payment. The way that we are made to understand on how this problem on the 25% pension payment disbursement was handled is unacceptable. For her to just make a unilateral decision and cause an overnight decision not take an overnight, I mean an action that – I mean without notifying the Secretary of Finance nor the Governor of what was coming down is unacceptable and that must not be tolerated. So Mr. Speaker, I just thought that I would mention this at this point. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Madame Chair. So noted and we will communicate with the Secretary of Finance to your first concern. Recognize Representative Roman Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of what Representative Ogumoro has mentioned and I have no objection to the intent of the bill and the amendment that is forthcoming in front of us. I would just like to say this and say it in a very clear fashion. There is an issue prior to all these circumstances that we are in. There were previous communications from the trustee ad litem through the Secretary of Finance, there was no response. There was no response of communications between them literally for almost a year. Now with regards to why would do they get, why are they given the authority for the disbursement or the 25% that was the agreement made between the trustee ad litem and the former late Governor Eloy Inos and that is how it arrive to that effect. If we are following the track closely we would know it. I mention that yesterday during the meeting and I told Larissa, I asked her “have you been getting correspondence with regards to the communication between the trustee ad litem and the Department of Finance?” she did not answer it. There are series and attempts of communications between this that is why we arrive to these type of circumstances and we are trying to right the wrong, but if things were taken on hand from the beginning initially and address the issue we would not be having this problem. Mr. Speaker, just to enlighten the members there were previous communications and really a lot of the shortfall the inability of the government to come up –

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Privilege. I ask that our colleague provide proof of prior communications. I know we have privilege on this floor, but if we are stating issues like that then I ask that we would be provided proof of those communications. Thank you.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Mr. Chairman, can I mention this. Personally, I have asked this because there were some documents that were highlighted yesterday and even Senator Palacios has that. I pass out all my copies to all the members that have gotten from the trustee ad litem. There were some attempts to try to resolve this issue in the past, but unfortunately there was no point of contact and with that that is why we arrive to this affect and for you Mr. Chairman I know why you are mentioning this but I am in support of the bill to right the wrong and I am in support of the intent of this bill to once and for all put this to rest so that we can clear matters out, but let us say that this is just a comment in the future if we come about on this kind of circumstances, I think the legislature Mr. Speaker you as a Speaker should have an open

communication with the trustee ad litem at the same time because we are the appropriating agency so I would just like to make that clear so we can all share and come about with whatever information that is needed up front so we will not get this kind of situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Benavente. Let me assure the members that we will definitely call in the Secretary of Finance, I think it is only fair that we call her in so she can enlighten also us the members so that we will also know the other side of the story. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to point order that we are still actually under the subsidiary motion under the floor amendment and to keep that discussion relative to the floor amendment if there are any more discussion. However, I am ready for the vote on the floor amendment.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Are we ready on the floor amendment?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Representative Villagomez.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and member. Just for clarification, will this language suffice – have any of the members have met with Joyce Tang or communicated with the Retirement Fund or the representatives regarding this settlement that the language in these bills and the amendments that have been introduced will suffice. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: I believe there was a discussion last week between Joyce Tang and the Administration to this effect to the concerns on the 25% pension and I guess as a result of that communication, the Administration came up with these two proposed measures before us and I am sure that if we do accept this – approve this I think those concerns that was raised last week I think those will be taken care of. Any other concerns or discussion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Now we go to the main motion. Recognize the Floor.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to restate the motion, the motion is for the passage on First and Final Reading of House Bill 19-137 now in the form of HD1. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The motion was seconded. Discussion on the motion as amended. Appears to be none, Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-137, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading 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
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker 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 Rafael S. Demapan: With a vote of 19 “yes,” House Bill 19-137, HD1 passes the House. Again, I now recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion for the passage of House Bill 19-52, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading.

H. B. No. 19-52, HD1

A Bill for an Act To amend 4 CMC §2308 to amend and add subsections (f) and (g) to include NMC and NMTI as recipients of the funds generated from the Gross Revenue Tax; and for other purposes. [See S. C. R. NO. 19-79]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The motion by the Floor Leader was seconded. Discussion on the motion? There appears to be discussion. Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-52, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading 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
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes

Speaker 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 Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. All 19 voted “yes,” House Bill 19-52, HD1 hereby passes the House. For the last bill on our Bill Calendar now recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho made a motion for the passage of House Bill 19-21 First and Final Reading.

H. B. NO. 19-21

A Bill for an Act to amend §§ 2306 and 2307 of Public Law No. 18-56 (To authorize, establish and regulate an exclusive gaming license within the Commonwealth); and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor. The motion was seconded. Discussion on the motion? I now recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the floor amendment I will offer has been distributed to all the members and if I may Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Please proceed.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb offered the following floor amendment:

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H. B. NO. 19-21

H. B. No. 19-21 is amended as follows:

- I. Page 5, line 3: after the words “allocated to” strike the word “restore” and replace with the words “appropriate funds for”

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

DATE: February 17, 2016 **OFFERED BY:** /s/ Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb

Reviewed by: /s/ House Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: The floor amendment that was offered by the Minority Leader was seconded. Discussion on the floor amendment? Recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just to ask for colleague Tebuteb on the intent of the amendment by inserting the word “appropriate funds for” on page 5 after “allocated to.” I am trying to make a clarification which shall be “allocated to appropriate fund for”? I am trying to make sense of the amendment as offered. “Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the moneys collected for licensing fees pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the Commonwealth Treasury in a separate account which shall be allocated to appropriate funds for restore the 25%...” are we referring to the original bill?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you Chair for the response. Do you want to respond Minority Leader?

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Chairman who had read line 3, “restore” will be stricken out and “allocated to appropriate funds for the 25%...” so forth.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. Chairman Sablan do you wish to further clarify?

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Yes. Mr. Speaker, again I am – what I have in front of me reads “which shall be allocated to restore the 25% reduction of the retirees and the beneficiaries’ pensions of the CNMI.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Can we have a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:46 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to our session. Prior to our recess, we were discussing the floor amendment on House Bill 19-21. I believe Chairman Sablan has the floor at the time when we were about to have a recess. You may proceed Chairman.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: I already raised my concern Mr. Speaker. Again, I was just trying to put together the way the line was going to read out with the amendment.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Any other discussion on the floor amendment? Appears to be none.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Now going to the main motion. Let me go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader again for the main.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion now is for the passage of House Bill 19-21 in the form of House Draft 1. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again, the motion was seconded. Discussion on the main motion? No discussion? Recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 19-21 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means as early as March 13, 2015, the Chair send out a request for comments to the respective Mayor's of the First, Second and Third Senatorial Districts on comments in regards to House Bill 19-21. The Office of the Mayor on April 22, 2015 responded with the following and let me just read the caption to part of the comments by the Mayor of Saipan. "Almost six and half months after House Bill 18-195, House Draft 1 became Public Law 18-56, which was enacted into law on July 11, 2014. We have before us to consider a draft legislation containing proposed amendments to the law. The proposed amendments will transform the law from its current form as a source of funds for more than one purpose into a single purpose and eliminate others that we know heavily rely on the funds to be able to deliver and perform various services to the public. If the source of funds were the machine giving life support to other purposes then the draft legislation is unplugging the machine. By using this rhetorical analogy, we only wish it remains an unflinching course in upon us that we perform our duty to try and find a balance between resources or when resources become very scarce. We believe the draft legislation is a way of saying who to plot. Although, we believe the intent of the bill..." and this is just to summarize the comments, "we also believe the timing of amending Public Law 18-56 to take away funds that clearly will improve and protect the life of the people in the Third Senatorial District is not now. We hope the Legislature give the law more time to be tested, to be proven, to be measured and studied. We hope the Legislature remains sensitive to the fact that many more people depend on what we do and can do to improve their livelihood health safety, moral and welfare. We need the funds that Public Law 18-56 allocates to the Third Senatorial District to perform and accomplish our duties and responsibilities to the public." The Chair also send out a request and again the Chair is not sitting on this bill. The Chair did take the initiative to send out a request on March 13, 2015 addressed to Mayor Atalig of Rota and the response came back on March 25 and I read, "Dear Mr. Chairman, the enactment of Public Law 18-56 represents the support of the First and Second Senatorial District Delegation in the passage of that public law, but the inclusion of section 2307 (a) and (b), which allocates \$20 Million each to Rota and Tinian for the restoration of the 25% retirement pension reduction. To enact House Bill 19-21 resonates on that agreement amount three legislative delegations. Without the inclusion of the above mentioned sections, the First and Second Senatorial Delegations would not have come on board in the eventual passage of Public Law 18-56 as the latter delegations want to build up their own casinos. I hope that the understanding amounts the delegations would not be endangered by the passage of this bill. After all, House Bill 19-21 had the same intention

as Public Law 18-56 section 2306 and 2307 which is to restore the 25% reduction of the retirees pension.” Also on March 13, 2015 the Chair took the liberty to request comment to Mayor San Nicolas of Tinian. The Mayor has yet to respond and again the important thing for the members to understand in this is that we have the past few legislatures a spirit of cooperation within the First, Second and Third Senatorial District and in particular between the Senate and this House, those of us who think back a few years back that is not the case. This House Bill 19-21 attempts to impact the so-called agreement, the spirit of cooperation within the three senatorial districts. There are other remedies to try to address – trying to address the 25% we have yet to tap the casino business gross. This one bill I think would go a long ways in trying to dissolve the so-called standing cooperation between the three legislative districts. Again, I voted for 18-56 fully understanding that without the support of the first and second senatorial district there would be no Public Law 18-56. There would be no casino, there would be no revenue, there would be no 25% funding, there would be no \$15 Million and again for that I cannot find myself to support House Bill 19-21. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. If I may, can you also provide the Sergeant-at-Arms a copy of those letters so that we can pass some to the members.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Again, Mr. Speaker House Bill 19-21 was pulled out of committee. I think members of the committee has been provided copies of the response from the Mayors, but I will make a copy to the Chair. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Any other member wishes to comment? Recognize Representative Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to bring up a few points and first and foremost we passed a bill yesterday that was critical and it appropriated \$1.8 Million Dollars to the Retirement Fund and that was what was requested. The question is where did that money come from? Somebody correct me if I am wrong, but I know that went to our SNILD, but that money originated from the Casino Gaming fees right? So we basically gave back. The problem with Retirement is not just a Saipan problem it is a Commonwealth problem. We have retirees from all three islands and one of the greatest selling points of passing the casino and the push for it was to ensure that we restore the 25% so that retirees were getting 100%. We have all heard their stories, we remember when they marched up here and they demanded its passage. Yesterday we had auntie Chalang that came up and said “don’t *fa’ga’ga* us” you know “don’t fool us.” So let us be honest, we are being told now that the math is wrong and unfortunately we really need \$12.8 Million Dollars a year, but we are only going to get \$10 Million that leaves us with a \$2.8 Million Dollar shortage annually. We just passed two bills even though I had reservations on it I decided to vote “yes” on it because we are trying to ensure that the retirees get their 100% benefits. We have all gotten the calls, we have all heard the stories and we know that they are suffering that was why we had emergency sessions called. And now we have a good opportunity to right the wrong. I am strongly supportive of this bill because it is a good bill and it rights the wrongs. The \$15 Million should be appropriated for the right reasons and that is to help our retirees. I am sorry this is my opinion, I accept and understand our disagreements, but in my conscience and everything that I have looked this over it is a good bill and I have gotten phone calls from our retirees who are asking for the passage of this. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Propst. If I may, you mentioned something about where that money came from and you mentioned casino fees. If I may, maybe perhaps I also stand corrected that is the application fee and not the casino fee. Any other member who wishes to comment? Recognize Representative Benavente.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am looking at it to appoint in a more wider spectrum. I feel that whatever money comes into the coffer and it does not matter how we spend it or how we earn it. It really matters that we do not compromise our supposedly tax money because we continue to compromise this – at the end of the day we are scrounging around trying to make ends meet, trying to figure out how we can take money from Tom and give it to Harry or how we can take it from Harry and give it to Tom. This is the kind of situation we are in right now. So for the record I would just like to say this Mr. Chairman that we should all work together to try to come up in a concerted record that we look at you bills, consolidate together and this bill that we have in front there is always even in your home front. The more resources you have the better you can work with and breathe better. So I feel that the government could be breathing better if we do not continue to compromise the taxes and whatever tax that needs to be imposed in companies and activities and whatnot. I just wanted to share this and go on record asking all the members to please support this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Benavente. I now recognize Representative Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker I just wanted to add on to what our Chairman from Ways and Means has stated. The Second Senatorial District heavily relies on the leftover for whatever our share to pay the pensioners. We pay our pensioners. First Senatorial pays their pensioners the 25%. Our situation is the Third Senatorial. We have used these funds for scholarships, Medical Referral and employment. We do not use these for other things, but try to understand that we had our casino it was open and now it is not open. We do not generate revenue from our casino. At the time when they negotiated 18-56 a lot of people criticized our elected officials because of their action not considering that we have a casino on Tinian, but lo and behold now we are lucky we have 18-56 to supplement the pensioners and also to take some of the responsibilities that we are used to funding the empower local casino. So Mr. Speaker and members, I am just going to be honest and say that I am not in support of this legislation. Maybe with our actions this morning these three previous bills that we have just passed it should suffice what the retirement is asking, the settlement for now, but we still need to look at other bigger news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Any other member wishes to comment? Recognize Representative Maratita.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would just like to emphasize that when they created this Public Law 18-56, the original intent was to provide funding to the First, Second and Third Senatorial District now. We are faced with a situation here in the Third Senatorial District and the whole idea behind the 19-21 is to of course bring back that \$15 Million and as I read it correctly so we can avoid situations like what we are looking at today. However, if I was to take the position of voting to support this bill it would definitely have a significant impact to the First Senatorial District. I do believe that most of you if not all

understand what is the situation at the First Senatorial District. We are at a very disadvantage position as far as economic, as far as employment opportunity and everything, commodities continue to rise, we are at a very disadvantage and it would definitely have an adverse effect as far as the operations of the Municipal government. We have tons of obligations, pending financial obligations, medical referral issues, municipal employment operations etcetera, but to put things into perspective we do open our hands and we do support Second and Third Senatorial District whatsoever. At one point, the SNILD provided funding for the First Senatorial District I have been hammered by some of the members as far as the pending obligations that was set forth and I do understand that do not get me wrong but we also extend that hand. As you can see from the letter that was provided by our good Representative Yumul for our information, Rota and Tinian provided \$100,000.00, Rota and Tinian provided certain amount by six digits on a certain pay period to cover the Third Senatorial District, we do not have a problem with that because the main thing here is for us to work together, help each other and try to solve whatever issues before us. So I do respect Representative Attao for introducing the bill I guess it is just the timing at the moment. What I am trying to say is at least let us come together and find ways. Let us exhaust all efforts before we even come close to amending the 18-56 such as what is before us today. So again with all due respect to the members and especially to the author I oppose to this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Maratita. Any other member who has not spoke? Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Chairman of Ways and Means for reading the letters that came from the Mayors of the three senatorial districts. I was just wondering did you request comments from the members of the retirement, the Retirees Association. The individuals that are greatly affected by this – by the inaction of the payment of the 25% last week. This is question is posed to the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: You want to provide clarification on the question?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: We have retirees association of the Commonwealth and if I am not mistaken they are members of the three-thousand plus individuals that are retired from the CNMI government. Were they even provided the opportunity to comment on this legislation? Because obviously the three senatorial districts are against the legislation, but I wonder if the three-thousand retirees are against the legislation.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: You know sometimes you send out the request and I am sure that the retirees and I am not sure what the association would respond, but what I remembered during the 18th Legislature upon the deliberation of Public Law 18-56 was that the retirees association was in support of the legislation to provide for the casino industry. In that legislation it included these provisions and I for one *giya nai fina Chamorro i kontrata* understanding.

Munga na annai man maigo' hit ya man mata hit nai i kontrata-ta ni i bisinu-ta ha diroga esta i kontrata. Enao ha hu sasangan guini. Guaha otro manera ni siña ta aligao i solution para este i 25% without going back on our word on este ni pa pasa i 18-56. I otro este na legislation i House Bill 19-21 includes provision that might impact on contractual obligations between PSI and the government. And again, on that grounds we have to be mindful of that fact that constitutionally we are prohibited from passing laws that affect on contractual obligations and I am referencing I believe under section 2306 the proposed amendments on line 3 and I think under subsection 2 in regards to the years of payments and all that and we might refer that to Legal Counsel whether that is an issue, but I believe this provisions include existing agreements that were executed pursuant to this. Upon the application for the exclusive gaming license the applicant proceeded with that application pursuant to the provisions included in this statute, I mean this public law. And as a result of that it was a clear understanding of the conditions of applying being issued and operating under that exclusive license including how and when the payments are to be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. Representative Attao do you wish to comment?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: So the simple answer is no, bottom line is no request for comments to the retirees association was given.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: No.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Alright. I was around here at the legislature during the 18th Legislature and the arguments is right it has always been about the retirees and that is how the retirees came out and rallied for this specific legislation 18-56 and the argument then was why are we pushing it as a Commonwealth legislation when the people of Saipan had actually voted it down multiple times in different elections. The legislation rolled on the understanding that the retirees will be taken care of they were already cut at their 25% and they knew that. Every single person in the Commonwealth knew that. A lot of our people were very reliant to their elders retirement pension. And yes, the First and Second Senatorial District did put their share in paying for the Third Senatorial District, you are absolutely right, but without that action none of the retirees were going to get paid. We acted on House Local Bill 19-3 in the delegation level to appropriate at one point \$1.8 Million Dollars just to open the doors to so that the First and Second Senatorial District retirees can get paid that is a band aid solution. We acted on 19-136 today and it is only going to give for the rest of this physical year is that going to be a language that is going to be carried on from here on out on a budgeting act? That is temporary. We acted on 19-137 in regards to the collections of the hotel occupancy and the alcohol tax that is temporary. We only have the numbers that we can live with today. If these tax collections drop then what do we do? We go back to having to worry about how to pay our retirees. We fought, now is the drive let us push for the casino because it is going to pay the retirees it is going to close down the stuff. Here is an opportunity in 19-21 to do exactly what the push for 18-56, which I believe started off as 18-37, 18-43 and then eventually came under 18-56 with a retroactive section on it to commemorate everything that happened when the first casino law was signed into law and to commemorate the actions that Gaming Commission had already made. So members I think that we are on a crossroads here to be rid of this issue of the retirement 25% with this specific legislation and our good Chairman of Ways and Means is the author of Public

Law 18-30, which is the legalization of gaming in the Commonwealth and 60% of those funds are going to this 25%. The total number like our Vice Speaker said in yesterday's meeting it is jumping from left to right, from point seven to \$1.2 Million, \$2.8 Million Dollars. Right now it is almost steady at \$15.7 Million Dollars. This is \$15 Million Dollars right now with the e-gaming fees we are at \$1.1 Million Dollars that solves your retirement 25% issue. If we are going to continue going back to band aid solutions from here on out what are we going to tell our future leaders. Maybe look for another industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Attao. Any other member wishes to comment? None? I recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: In response and let me just make this specifically clear for those who have not read Public Law 18-56. I did not know that Public Law 18-56 is a bill to provide revenues specifically and only for the retirees. Let us not make that perfectly clear. There are other provisions in there that provides that revenue generated shall be provided for the college, medical referral and other functions. So let us not mislead the public that we passed 18-56 only for the retirement and that we dedicated everything and that we sacrifice everybody else. What I am saying is this there are other revenues that would be generated as a result of 18-56 that we have yet to tap and that includes that the BGT from the casino revenue and so again let us not try to mislead by saying that we pass – I voted for 18-56 and I know why I voted for it and it is not just for the retirement it is everything else it is the economy. And we did that by getting the support of the First and Second Senatorial District. That is all I am saying. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Before I recognize Representative Attao let me recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: For the first round. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too cannot support this bill with all due respect to my good friend BJ for a lot of reason, which has been already explained by Representative Tony Sablan. A lot of sacrifices happened during the deliberation for the bill that allowed exclusive license gaming to occur on this island. This House was divided, really divided, the leadership was divided. I, myself who have not supported casino over the many years I have served here for at least ten years along with some of my other colleagues decided to support it and that was a big sacrifice on my part, but never mind me. The biggest sacrifice I saw during this was the island of Tinian and Rota. Senator Frank Borja, the Senate President now came out and not only publicly supported this industry, which he knew and his people knows would basically kill their industry on Tinian. Despite that he came out and spoke during those meetings that the retirees called to ask questions to understand why and what he came out and so did the current Lieutenant Governor now the Acting Governor came out to explain why and I came out from Saipan and the late Governor Inos also to explain to our people why this industry. Let us make no mistake about it. Representative Sablan is correct there would be no Public Law 18-56 without their support. There would not be. This is basically reneging on what was consummated and for that reason alone, I cannot go back and change the terms of what was agreed to. Yesterday, I said what is the solution? What is the permanent solution, band aid solution, whatever kind of solution? What is it? Is this it? Or will it take a number of piece meal legislations bandages that can address the issue of our 25%. We have passed several bills today giving the Secretary of Finance and the Governor the authority to use funds to pay for the 25% if it is not enough. We passed the bill a few minutes ago to allow for the use of the BGRT from the

casino, which at this point averages somewhere from what two to three million a month? Something like that. A month that can be appropriated to cover any shortfall. We have Public Law 18-30 the e-gaming, which right now has I believe somewhere around \$800,000, all these bandages are going to support the 25%. So it may be bandages whatever we want to call it. Let us look at House Bill 19-21, the permanent solution as it was referred to in the paper. If we put things into perspective, 18-56 allocates roughly – well, out of the \$15 Million, what is not allocated towards the retirees is what Saipan is getting \$1 Million, I believe Tinian about \$800,000 is not going to the retirees meaning what \$1.2 Million is and Rota about \$400,000 roughly \$400,000 or \$500,000 meaning about \$1.6 Million is going towards the retirees. So if you add that all up we have out of the \$15 Million we have about \$2.2 Million is not going to the retirees. So 19-21 by passing this permanent solution into law would basically be a net gain of \$2.2 Million. We are going to put \$2.2 Million into the retirees 25%. I think everything we have done to date, all these bandages put together would more than meet the \$2.2 Million shortfall. Here is the reality, even if this bill does pass the House, the reality check here and sometimes we all need reality checks, the sacrifices that Tinian and Rota did would not be forgotten in the Senate. And whether we approve this bill here it stands very little chance of passing the Senate. Let the process take its course and fall where it falls and if it passes then let the Senate do what they need to. I am just saying that there is a lot of history behind here that should not just be tossed aside and for those reasons regrettably, I mean to my good friend, I cannot support this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. I now recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Vice Speaker. Thank you for sharing the numbers and regards to that the First Senatorial District, Second Senatorial District had appropriated during their delegation \$1.4 Million Dollars and the Third Senatorial District just acted on \$1.8 Million Dollars yesterday, which would have been solvent to taking care of the retirees for the next couple months maybe. Maybe the question is was with all of those actions that took place was this emergency session needed to act on these other two legislations if had taken care of those specific appropriations already through the delegation process.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Go ahead Vice.

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Yet the action yesterday by the delegation helps with this fiscal year it would be exhausted, like you said several pay periods. Something like – Tang said what \$1.2 Million a month so it is like \$600,000 a pay period. So we are looking at what three pay periods for the \$1.8 Million, roughly, but regardless that may help with this here. The other legislation that we did today is needed to supplement if the \$1.8 is not enough for this fiscal year. More importantly for the next fiscal years that the Secretary of Finance can use the taxes and revenues towards the 25% that the Governor may reprogram towards the 25% and that this body can appropriate funding from the BGRT to meet the shortfall. What needs to happen is the Secretary of Finance – the figures need to be reconciled. We need to know before next fiscal year what the projected figure would be and this body would need to appropriate from the BGRT to meet that projected shortfall and we can do this in advance every year for the next fiscal year so that there will be no shortfall. Again, the insurance is there, the Governor can reprogram and Secretary of Finance can continue to use the container, you know the taxes. So yes this

emergency meeting which made this three pieces of legislation possible is to address that emergency.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice. Any further clarification Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: I yield for other members first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other member who wishes to comment? Appears to be none. Ready? For the main motion I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just clarification. With all this that we are doing, we have had two emergency sessions, yesterday we passed the appropriations bill with a lot of ease, I believe it was unanimous. Today we passed three legislation almost all unanimous. All these trying to address the 25% and my question is to the Legal Counsel. It was only this 19-21 that we encounter some opposition and conflict and the goal of the two sessions was to address the 25%. John, my question is all our actions yesterday and up to now has that addressed the issue of having these retirees being paid?

Legal Counsel John Cool: It addresses the issue, I do not know whether it provides 100% of the funding for the entire fiscal year, but with the anticipated funds from the e-gaming it should more than exceed the requirements for the 25%.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: So the appropriation yesterday and 136, 137, even 152, these retirees should be able to get paid pending approval by the trustee ad litem?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes, the funds would be available for either appropriation under the amendment that earmarks the BGRT and what we need is a detail accounting of the actual funds that are available and the trustee ad litem does not have that. Finance would have the available resources, but it looks like it is going to be more than covered, more than sufficient to cover the 25%.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, John. Mr. Speaker, I yield for now.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Recognize Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the record, we just passed out a document from the settlement fund. If you have not read the fourth paragraph, if the government does not pursue in meeting the payment obligations that is required under the settlement trust agreement it stated that the settlement may be forced to liquidate up to \$10 Million Dollars if nothing happens by March 31st. \$10 Million Dollars of the Retirement Fund corpus and it stated further and you can read it along in a different time it would definitely adversely impact the retirees and to the point the entire CNMI government. Thank you just so that I make it clear. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative so noted. For the last time, recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Just a clarification to the particular language. Again, if people were listening yesterday. The Secretary was clear and adamant that the 75% revenue or funding has been made available on a timely manner to the retirement fund, I mean to the settlement funds. That letter if you read it put together with the issue of the 25% remittance is self-explanatory. The Department of Finance remits every fifteen days. The remittance for the 75% is made on a quarterly basis. The trustee ad litem in that letter seems to imply that whenever a remittance for the 25% is made that an accompanying remittance for the 75% is made, but our laws provides that through an appropriation bill. Allotments are made on a quarterly basis and that issue on May forced all that is – the settlement fund has been paying out since 2014 and has yet to tap the corpus because the government has failed to meet on a timely basis. Those are some of the issues that we hope that the federal court will resolve. The government is only obligated on a quarterly basis to provide and they have been doing that. So personally I do not think that is an issue. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Appears to be none, Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 19-21, House Draft 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

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

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Madame Clerk. With the vote of 10 “no” and 9 “yes,” House Bill 19-21, HD1 did not pass the House. So that clears up the Bill Calendar. We will go ahead and move down to item XVII, appears to be none. Item XVIII, Announcement. We will go ahead and move to item XVII.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Roman C. Benavente: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. Speaker. Ya bai fino Chamorro ya ma hungok ni publiku manu siña. Lao guaha hinga-ku guini gi ta cho'cho'gue ya hafa ta cho'cho'gue pa'go, budget appropriation para ta espihayi salape. Ta na guaha yi pare hu ha i retirement i ekonomia todú i kinalemta guini parehu ha Tinian yan Luta. Guahu ha lokkue hu gef komprende Tinian yan Luta. Nai yo' dídide tiempo ya bai kuentos. Hu get komprende ha Tinian yan Luta ni lina'la niha na makkat gi papa lina'la sa guaguan i kosas makkat man halom i kosas. Parehu ha yan Tinian. Ma fa'fana dánkolo na minakkat gi duranten i kada dia gi lina'la niha. Lao yanggen ta sigi ha chumukat Marianas nai ya ti ta charge tax hafa para timoña. I ta cho'cho'gue pa'go na memento yan i man maila – hamyo guaha famagu'on miyu man hoben i man ma maila para i famagu'on ta siempre ma tara bira siha i famagu'on ya ilék niha hamyo hami mu sina'pet. Este i retiree ilosprohimos dispensa yo' sa si Chalang prima-hu ya matto i palao'an gi nigap ya ha sangan i piniti ña na basta siha ma fa'ga'ga. Ta chagi i 18-56 i casino bill I have nothing against that iyo-ña intension eyu na bill para ta na guaha i ekonomia giya Marianas ya gue na tiempo makkat yan also lokkue para ta ayuda i retiree sa mafakcha i retirement yan i ekonomia na nisisidat eyi gue na ya na guaha yi ni eyu. Lao mu annok na ti na nahong mo'na i kaha. Pues kada ni man introdusi bill guaha eyi ti ta charge tax guaha eyi dididi ta charge tax guaha eyi meggai na tax ta charge. Ya dispensa yo' sa staba yo' lokkue gi leadership gi 18th Legislature. Ya este gue happen este siha gi 18th Legislature.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Colleague Benavente if I may can you please wrap it up.

Representative Roman C. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Si Yu'us ma'ase lao ya hu na bai na tungo este na hafa ta mu'mumuyi na salape pa'go yan todú i bill na ma planta gi hulo i lamasa para i minaolek i retirement yan i minaolek taotao-ta yan i ekonomia mo'na. enao ha Mr. Speaker dánkolo na si Yu'us ma'ase.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Any other member before we move on to item XVIII, none? So item XVIII, announcement any announcement? Appears to be none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: On item XVIII, let me just – we were suppose to have a meeting this morning with the Senate reference to MILA and we have rescheduled to the 25th of this month so I just thought I would let you guys know. A letter will be forthcoming. Any other announcement? The session on Tinian is still ongoing and that will be for Friday. Go ahead Chairman Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Announcement also from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources and JGO will be conducting a public hearing on Thursday, February 18 at 5 p.m. at the Tinian Court, San Jose Village that is all Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize Madame Chair.

Representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Speaker, also the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare is conducting its public hearing on the education at 9:00 on an education bill at 9:00 Thursday morning. Also in the evening after all the other bill from the committees that were mentioned are completed.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Madame Chair. Just for the information, all of the meetings that will be conducted on Tinian are being given notice out to the public so I just thought I would mention that. Any other member who wishes to make an announcement? If none, Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognized.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Discussion under the adjournment. I know that we are under emergency meeting this morning and perhaps it would not hurt in anticipation of anything with respect to the bills that we just passed that perhaps I would suggest that we would recess instead of adjournment. If there is no changes within the bills that we just acted upon then no harm, but potentially there is I think we should be on recess so that we are prepared. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Minority Leader. We did discuss that prior to getting back to our session this morning and we have an agreement that the Senate will take care of the bill as is so I am anticipating that there would be no amendment. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you again. The motion is to adjourn subject to your call.

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

The House adjourned at 1:15 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. 19-47: To re-name the Beach Road Pathway, the “Governor Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway”; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, Antonio P. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Frances S. Taimanao) on January 26, 2016.

*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session
 2/2/16:*

H. B. NO. 19-129: To amend 1 CMC §7406(a) (4) to allow for parole officers to utilize their government vehicles to carry out their duties and responsibilities more effectively and efficiently; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, George N. Camacho, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Edwin K. Propst, and Antonio P. Sablan) on February 2, 2016 and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 19-130: To amend 1 CMC § 2809. Homesteads by inserting a new subsection (c) that would allow the Department of Public Lands to require water and power infrastructure designs from all contracts pertaining to the development of homesteads; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 2, 2016; was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on February 4, 2016.

House information on deadlines for override:

GOV. COMM. 19-104: (1/6/16) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. L. B. 19-37, D7 (To appropriate \$4,272,000.00 from revenues to be collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended anticipated being collected for fiscal year 2016; and for other purposes.). Became **Saipan Local Law 19-11, item vetoed [Deadline 3/6/16]**

H. B. NO. 19-131: To amend 2 CMC, § 4831, Coordination with Other Agencies; Issuance of Permit; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 2, 2016; was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on February 4, 2016.