



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, Fourth Special Session

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Fourth Special Session on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 10:18 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 seventeen members were present; Representatives Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Alice S. Igitol and Janet U. Maratita were absent and excused.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. Let the record reflect that I did receive a communication from the Vice Speaker Janet Maratita, Representative Alice Igitol and Chairman Francisco Dela Cruz notices that they are off-island and not able to make it on today's session. So with that we have 17 members present and 3 members absent, we do have the numbers to proceed on today's session. Before we go down to our Order of Business, I would like that we go on a recess. There is a presentation today for the Bridge Capital the folks are here. So with that we will go ahead and go into recess for the presentation of the House Resolution to the folks from Bridge Capital.

The House recessed at 10:20 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Back from our recess. Before we go further let me recognize our mayor. Mayor Apatang, thank you for showing up and of course our former Representative John Tenorio welcome to your House. So with that let me go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader for the motion.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8.

RULE V. DECORUM AND DEBATE.

Section 8. Dress Code.

All members and officers appearing on the Floor of the House shall be suitably attired. Members shall wear business shirt and tie, and on Fridays may wear formal island wear.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule V, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d).

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.

The Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

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

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	absent (<i>excused</i>)
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	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	absent (<i>excused</i>)
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all members voting in the affirmative, motion is hereby carried. Thank you members. Now moving down to our Order of Business, which is the Public Comments. Anyone who wishes to comment on any of the item on today’s Order of Business, you may do so the podium is right up to your left. I also ask that you identify yourself before you begin.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Joseph Horey
Mr. James Hoffman
Mr. Juan Carlos Benitez

The Chair directed the members to Adoption of Journals and recognized the Floor Leader.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following journal:

First Day, Third Special Session Journal – May 5, 2017

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, Third Special Session Journal – May 5, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to Introduction of Bills and recognized Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero for the first introduction.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-82

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.

REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-82 to the Committee on Gaming and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-83

To amend 4 CMC §§ 2172-2173, to enable the Marianas Visitors Authority to strengthen qualifications for tour guides and tour operators, and to add a new Section 2174; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Ivan A. Blanco, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-83 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-84

To reduce the Commonwealth poker and pachinko machine license fee.

REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Ivan A. Blanco, Angel A. Demapan, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-84 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Edmund S. Villagomez for the next introduction.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-85

To establish higher mandatory sentences for crimes that occurs within 1,000 feet of tourist sites and recreational areas.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-85 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Edmund S. Villagomez for the next introduction.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-86

To establish the CNMI Product Seal Act of 2017.

REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-86 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-87

To alleviate the Courts from expending significant resources and financial burden with debt collection cases, and to allow indigent persons an honest opportunity to recover and have a fresh start.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero)

The Chair recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-88

To repeal and re-enact “The Education Act of 1988” as amended and as codified as 3 CMC § 1101 through § 1193; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, and John Paul P. Sablan)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other member? Both unnumbered bill will be announced and will be referred to a respective committee on a later date. Moving along we will go down to item b, House Local Bill.

House Local Bills:

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Relative to House Local Bill 20-18, Madame Chair is not with us today. Did anyone receive any notice from Madame Chair for the introduction of her bill? If none, we will go ahead and leave the House Local Bill 20-18 on the Bill Calendar and move down to the Floor Leader recognized.

H. L. B. NO. 20-18

To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheet 06 of 29, rezoning lots 141 E 02 and 141 E 05 from “Village Residential” to “Tourist Resort” Zoning District.

REP. ALICE S. IGTOL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, and John Paul P. Sablan)

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-19

To appropriate the amount of Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000.00 USD) from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-20

To appropriate up to Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3730; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair recognized Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-21

To increase the poker and pachinko machine license fee.

REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Ivan A. Blanco, Angel A. Demapan, and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero)

The Chair recognized Representative Donald C. Barcinas for the next introduction.

Representative Donald C. Barcinas officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-22

To name the unnamed coral surfaced roads that turn off from Isa Drive in the As-Mahettog and Capitol Hill area, just north of the Vestcor Village.

REP. DONALD C. BARCINAS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized Representative Jose I. Itibus for the next introduction.

Representative Jose I. Itibus officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-23

To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, 10 CMC §3511, by amending the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheet 19 of 29.

REP. JOSE I. ITIBUS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair recognized Representative Francisco C. Aguon for the next introduction.

Representative Francisco C. Aguon officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-24

To re-appropriate a portion of the funds from a completed project in Precinct V under Business Unit No. 3753F (of Saipan Local Law No. 19-18) for the infrastructure and lighting system upgrade of the Basketball court in Kagman II; and for other purposes.

REP. FRANCISCO C. AGUON of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Angel A. Demapan, and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Donald C. Barcinas for the next introduction.

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS***House Resolutions:***

Representative Donald C. Barcinas officially introduced the following House Resolution and welcomed the members to coauthor the resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-8

To respectfully request the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to request the United States Secretary of the Interior to transfer the administration of the American Memorial Park to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

REP. DONALD C. BARCINAS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Resolution 20-8 to the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs and recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan.

House Joint Resolutions:

Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 20-5

To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application No. B-17-ST69-0001; the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M17-ST69-0203; and, the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. S17-DC69-0001; to receive the funds requested therein and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant Programs.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Ivan A. Blanco)

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Representative Sablan. Referral will be announced on a later date. Any other member? Appears to be none. We will go ahead and move down to item c, House Commemorative Resolution. Let me recognize Chairman Ivan Blanco.

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution:

C. RES. NO. 20-7

To convey our sincere condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature to the bereaved family of the late Honorable Juan “Juanbo” Blanco Camacho on the occasion of his untimely passing and paying tribute to his services to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

The Chair directed the members to item VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 20-29: (4/23/17 received 5/12/17) Informing the House that he vetoed H. L. B. No. 20-8, D1 (To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 as amended; and for other purposes.). [**Deadline: 6/22/17**]

GOV. COMM. 20-30: (5/17/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Hessel Yntema IV, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$55,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-31: (5/17/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Matthew C. Baisley, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$77,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-32: (2/16/17 received 6/1/17) **Executive Order 2017-02** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

GOV. COMM. 20-33: (3/16/17 received 6/1/17) **Executive Order 2017-03** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

GOV. COMM. 20-34: (4/16/17 received 6/1/17) **Executive Order 2017-04** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

GOV. COMM. 20-35: (5/16/17 received 6/1/17) **Executive Order 2017-05** – Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation’s Imminent Generation and other Failure and the Need to Provide Immediate Reliable Power, Water and Wastewater services.

There was no discussion on the floor; the Chair directed the members to item VII, Senate Communications and recognized the Floor Leader.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept the following Senate Communications so they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-12: (5/11/17) Returning H. B. 20-56, entitled, “Governor Eloy S. Inos Peace Park”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on May 10, 2017. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 20-13: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-4, SD1, entitled, “To establish CNMI Group Life Insurance basic life benefits at two times the annual salary of the employee or retiree; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Health on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-14: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-5, SD1, entitled, “To authorize certain government employees and retirees to continue to participate in the CNMI Government Group Life Insurance Program after they separate from government service; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Health on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-15: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-6, SD1, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC § 1411(a) to earmark 100% of the environmental beautification tax to the Solid Waste Management Program to pay for critical landfill renovations and upgrades of the Marpi Landfill; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] – referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-16: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-7, SD1, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC §4435(f) and to repeal 2 CMC §4435(h); and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Social and Human Services on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-17: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-9, SD1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC Section 8117(i); and for other purposes”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-18: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-13, SD1, entitled, “To waive the Northern Marianas College tuition for a veteran with 30 percent or greater service-connected disability; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Education on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-19: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-15, SD1, entitled, “To establish a Regent Nominating Committee Process in the Selection and Appointment of Regents to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Education on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-20: (5/11/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-17, SD1, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC § 1402(c)(4) to include passenger vehicles for disabled persons as an exemption from excise tax; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For action*] referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on June 6, 2017.

SEN. COMM. 20-21: (5/11/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-1, entitled, “To pay tribute to the life and memory of the late Honorable Richard B. Seman on his untimely passing and to express heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family for their loss.”, which was adopted by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-22: (5/11/17) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 20-2, entitled, “To express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the Late Kevin Taimanao Atalig on his untimely passing and to memorialize his longstanding service to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”, which was adopted by the Senate on May 10, 2017. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 20-23: (5/18/17) Returning H. B. NO. 20-15, HD1, entitled, “To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, CNMI Drug Court, and establishing a special account.”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on May 18, 2017, in the form of **H. B. NO. 20-15, HD1, SD2**, to read: “*To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, payment of land claim settlements, and other money judgments and settlements against the CNMI government, retirees death benefits, the First Senatorial District, the Second Senatorial District, the Third Senatorial District and establishing a special account.*” [*For action on Senate amendments*] Floor Leader moved to place on Bill Calendar; motion to place was carried by voice vote on June 6, 2017.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-12 to 20-23 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair referred Senate Communication 20-13 and 20-14 to the Committee on Health, Senate Communication 20-15 and 20-20 to the Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Communication 20-16 to the Committee on Social and Human Services, Senate Communication 20-17 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Senate Communication 20-18 and 20-19 to the Committee on Education.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to place House Bill 20-15, HD1, SD2 reference to Senate Communication 20-23 on the Bill Calendar.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to place House Bill 20-15, HD1, SD2 reference to Senate Communication 20-23 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Chair directed the members to House Communications and recognized the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 20-38: (5/5/17) From the Speaker informing all Members that he will be out of the Commonwealth on May 6, 2017 and will return on May 9, 2017 and designates Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita as Acting Speaker. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-39: (5/8/17) From Representative Angel A. Demapan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning Monday, May 8, 2017 and returning on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-40: (5/15/17) From Representative Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth from Friday, May 19, 2017 and returning on Sunday, May 21, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-41: (5/18/17) From Representative Igitol, informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official representation beginning Sunday, May 21, 2017 and returning on Sunday, May 28, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-42: (5/26/17) From the Speaker informing all Members that he will be out of the Commonwealth on May 29, 2017 to June 1, 2017 and designates Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita as Acting Speaker. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-43: (5/29/17) From Representative Igitol, informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth beginning Monday, May 30, 2017 and returning on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during her absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 20-44: (6/5/17) From Representative Aldan, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Tuesday, June 6, 2017 to Wednesday, June 14, 2017; and on personal business from Thursday, June 15, 2017 to July 2, 2017 and request to be excused from any meetings or sessions during his absence. [*For info*]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any comment under item VIII? Appears to be none. Can we have a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:08 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:29 a.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you members back from our recess. Prior to our recess, we are on House Communication. I believe we are done with the House Communication. We will go ahead and go down to item IX to XI. Appears to be none on Communications from the Judicial Branch. Communications from Department and Agencies, none. Miscellaneous Communications, none. As discussed earlier on item XII, Reports of Standing Committees, we are going to entertain all Standing Committee Reports on our next session. That should be in about a week or so. In the mean time, I also ask the respective Chairs that if you still have other bills to be entertained within the committee, I ask that you do so that we can entertain it on our next session too.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No action taken on this part of the agenda.

S. C. R. NO. 20-10, S1: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-43, entitled: “To clarify and define the Attorney General’s duties and responsibilities in the promulgation of rules and regulations, in reviewing contracts and in representing the commonwealth government or its executive departments; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-43, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-11, S1: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-18, entitled: “To amend 6 CMC §2256 (a) (10), the hours of operation for shooting galleries and shooting ranges; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-18 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-22: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-52, entitled: “To require all sales and purchases to be made by credit or debit card as one of the methods for making payments.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-52, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-23: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-74, entitled: “To amend Title 4 Section 5523 of the Commonwealth’s Alcoholic Beverage Control, to provide an exception to licensure requirements for alcoholic beverages produced for home or personal consumption; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-74 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-24: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-16, entitled: “To amend 7 CMC 3101(a) to mandate when a jury is impanel to hear all felonies and misdemeanors charges; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-16 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-25: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-41, entitled: “To establish requirements for vehicle rental businesses; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-41, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-26: Reporting on S. B. No. 20-14, entitled: “To amend 6 CMC §2253, to limit the number of shooting gallery and shooting range; amend section 2256(a)(10), shooting gallery and shooting range operation time; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 20-14, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-27: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-20, entitled: “To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1 § 2104 to provide veterans a discounted benefit for the vehicle registration fee; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-20, HDI.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-28: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-42, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture Producers and Fishing to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-42 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-29: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-75, entitled: “To establish the Drug Court Revolving Fund and to authorize the Commonwealth Superior Court’s Drug Court to impose fees on Drug Court participants; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-75 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-30: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-10, entitled: “To establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. NO. 20-10 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-31: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-14, entitled: “To improve the justice system’s response to domestic violence, and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 20-14 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-32: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-7, entitled: “To amend 9 CMC §2107 to provide an extended time period before the vehicle registration late fee would apply; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-7, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-33: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-12, entitled: “To reform drug sentencing laws to effectuate the rehabilitation and treatment principles of evidence-based sentencing.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 20-12 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 20-34: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-57, entitled: “To authorize the Department of Labor to enforce the criminal penalties and provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act Section 274 relating to assisting the illegal entry of certain aliens into the CNMI.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 20-57 in its current form.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Moving along we will go ahead and go down to item XIII, Reports of Special and Conference Committee, appears to be none also. Same goes with item XV through item XVI, we are going to entertain those resolutions and bills on our next session.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

No action taken on this part of the agenda.

C. RES. NO. 20-6

A House Commemorative Resolution to recognize the outstanding achievements and services of Captain Guillermo T. Faller to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

BILL CALENDAR

No action taken on this part of the agenda.

H. B. NO. 20-15, HD1, SD2

A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, payment of land claim settlements, and other money judgments and settlements against the CNMI government, retirees death benefits, the First Senatorial District, the Second Senatorial District, the Third Senatorial District and establishing a special account. *See [SEN. COMM. 20-23]*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Going down to our Order of Business XVII Miscellaneous Business. XVIII, Announcement? Recognize Representative Vinson Sablan.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just two announcement. One, next week is the PIEC, I do not know if you guys heard about the Pacific Island Environmental Conference happens every year through the leadership and arrangement of BECQ. The Speaker has got the message and I am sure he has passed it down to some representatives. There will be on Wednesday, June 14. So this is happening from June 12 to June 16, which is next week World Resort. I am not sure if you guys got the agenda, I can send it to you if not. On Wednesday, June 14 there is going to be a panel and the portion of the conference is called Legislation in the Pacific and you will have Representatives and Senators from the CNMI as well as Guam, American Samoa and Palau and this will be a panel to bring up issues with what is going on with the respective jurisdictions. So I am hoping to – I will be moderating that portion of the conference so just an invitation. Second, I just want to officially say congratulations and thank you to all the nurses. It is nurses week it was from June 2nd to June 10th. If you see a nurse thank them and also you did receive a solicitation from their organization for their activities for nurses week. So just on behalf of all of us thank you to all the nurses and congratulations. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Any other member? If none, we will go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I 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 11:33 a.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:

H. L. B. NO. 20-14: To require all property owners that hold blighted properties within the island of Saipan to be held accountable to secure and maintain abandoned, vacant, and blighted properties; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Vinson F. Sablan) on May 5, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-15: To repeal Chapter 4 of the Saipan Municipal Code and to establish the Saipan Bingo Act of 2017; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, and John Paul P. Sablan)

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 20-13: To amend the height and landscaping requirements in Article 5 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 for the Beach Road Garapan East, Garapan Core, Industrial, Mixed Commercial, Public Resource, Rural and Village Commercial Zoning Districts. Introduced by REP. DONALD C. BARCINAS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on April 21, 2017.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session May 5, 2017:

H. B. NO. 20-76: To amend 4 CMC § 8210 Damage; Cost of Repairing and § 8212 (e) Civil Penalties. REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Angel A. Demapan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Glenn L. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 5, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Public Utilities and Communications.

H. B. NO. 20-77: To establish a separate statute and penalty for individuals committing the act of vandalism; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 5, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-78: To amend 6 CMC §10101(y) to include special agents (investigators) and enforcement agents of any gaming commission to give them the authority to possess firearms; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VINSON F. SABLANS of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*) on May 5, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-79: To protect coral reefs through recovery of monetary damages resulting from vessel groundings and anchoring-related injuries, destructive fishing practices, and non-permitted taking of threatened species. Introduced

by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on May 5, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 20-80: To provide a tax incentive for business entities that hire qualified ex-offenders. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan) on May 5, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED 5/5/17] H. B. NO. 20-81: To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 14 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting new sections to restrict future public land leases until the completion of the comprehensive land use plans. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on May 5, 2017; subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. L. B. NO. 20-14: To require all property owners that hold blighted properties within the island of Saipan to be held accountable to secure and maintain abandoned, vacant, and blighted properties; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Vinson F. Sablan) on May 5, 2017.

[ADDED 5/5/17] H. L. B. NO. 20-15: To repeal Chapter 4 of the Saipan Municipal Code and to establish the Saipan Bingo Act of 2017; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, and John Paul P. Sablan)

[ADDED 5/5/17] H. L. B. NO. 20-16: To re-appropriate Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars and Ninety-Two cents (\$10,759.92) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-08 and One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-23; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Edwin K. Propst, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.)

[ADDED 5/5/17] H. L. B. NO. 20-17: To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 as amended; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

C. RES. NO. 20-5: To express our sincere condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family of the late Kevin T. Atalig and to pay tribute to his countless contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on May 5, 2017; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

[ADDED 5/5/17] C. RES. NO. 20-6: To recognize the outstanding achievements and services of Captain Guillermo T. Faller to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Introduced by REP. DONALD C. BARCINAS of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on May 5, 2017; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None