

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
192-38 (COR)	Sabrina Salas Matanane Therese M. Terlaje William A. Parkinson Frank F. Blas, Jr. Jesse A. Lujan Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao V. Anthony Ada Christopher M. Dueñas Shelly V. Calvo Tina Rose Muña Barnes Vincent A. V. Borja Joe S. San Agustin Telo T. Taitague Chris Barnett	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> §67100, §67103, AND §67107 AND TO REPEAL § 67107.1 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER AND MEMBERS OF THE GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION, THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER, THE COMPOSITION AND OPERATIONS OF THE GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION, AND THE DEFINITION OF A VETERAN	9/22/25 4:44 p.m. ^10/8/25 11:43 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 192-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

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AN ACT TO AMEND §67100, §67103, AND §67107 AND TO REPEAL § 67107.1 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER AND MEMBERS OF THE GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION, THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER, THE COMPOSITION AND OPERATIONS OF THE GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION, AND THE DEFINITION OF A VETERAN.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that in 1970 P.L. 10-123 was enacted establishing the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs (GOVA). In 2005, P.L. 28-46 was enacted establishing the Guam Veterans

1 Commission (Commission) to work collaboratively with the GOVA in meeting its
2 mandate to assist Guam's Veterans in the filing of compensation claims for service-
3 connected disabilities and other benefits available to eligible Veterans and their
4 families. The Commission has since evolved to be the Voice of the Veterans
5 community.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that GOVA and the Commission must
7 work collaboratively so that the needs voiced by the Veterans community can be
8 duly prioritized and effectively addressed.

9 **Section 2. §67100 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is**
10 **amended to read as follows:**

11 **§ 67100. Creation of Office.**

12 There is within the Office of *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* an Office of
13 Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Affairs Officer is the administrative head of the
14 Office of Veterans Affairs and is a member of the ~~classified~~ unclassified service,
15 appointed by *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* and is the administrative head of
16 the Office of Veterans Affairs subject to the with advice of the Guam Veterans
17 Commission. ~~direction and control of *I Maga'hagan/Maga'låhen Guåhan*, who is~~
18 ~~the appointing authority.~~

19 **Section 3. §67103 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated is**
20 **amended to read as follows:**

21 **§ 67103. Powers and Duties of Officer.**

22 The Officer:

23 (a) shall administer the Office and implement the provisions set forth in
24 Section 67102 above;

25 (b) shall exercise and discharge the duties of the Office through such
26 organizational units as he may establish;

1 (c) shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter and of any other laws
2 granting him jurisdiction pertaining to veterans of the Armed Forces of the
3 United States;

4 (d) may administer and certify oaths and affirmations, take and certify
5 affidavits and acknowledgments, and exercise any other power of a notary
6 public, but only as part of his duties under this Chapter and neither he nor
7 his office shall charge any fee for such certification or notarial service;

8 (e) may formulate and adopt rules necessary or proper for the internal
9 administration of the Office; and

10 (f) may study and plan for the establishment of a Guam Veterans
11 Cemetery, seeking such assistance, advice and support from the Armed
12 Forces of the United States, the Federal Veterans Administration, other local
13 and Federal agencies, and veterans and veterans organizations.

14 (g) Shall receive and ~~consider~~ execute the policy recommendations of the
15 Guam Veterans Commission to the extent said recommendations are not in
16 contravention to existing law or directives.

17 **Section 4. §67107 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code**

18 **Annotated is amended to read as follows:**

19 **§ 67107. Guam Veterans Commission.**

20 (a) Commission Membership. There is hereby established a Guam
21 Veterans Commission which *shall*, at a minimum, be composed of a
22 total of ~~nine~~ six approved Veteran organizations whose representatives
23 to the Commission are Veterans members who have been nominated by
24 their respective organizations and approved by IMaga'hāgan/Maga'lāhen
25 Guāhan. The members to shall include, but not limited to, the following
26 representation:

1 (1) ~~four~~ a members, each of whom *shall* be representative of a
2 veterans or retirees association for each branch of the U.S. Armed
3 Forces to consist of:

4 (A) U.S. Army Retirees ~~(or Veterans)~~ Association;

5 (B) U.S. Marine Corps Air Force Retirees ~~(or Veterans)~~
6 Association;

7 (C) U.S. Navy Retirees ~~(or Veterans)~~ Association;

8 (D) U.S. Air Force Marine Corps Retirees ~~(or Veterans)~~
9 Association;

10 (E) U.S. Space Force

11 (F) U.S. Coast Guard;

12 (2) ~~two~~ a members from the officially chartered Guam chapters of
13 multi-service Veteran Service Organizations to include but not limited
14 to: the American Legion (AL), Military Order of the Purple Heart
15 (MOPH), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Vietnam Veterans
16 of America (VVA). ~~Organizations to be represented on the Guam~~
17 ~~Veterans Commission, pertaining to this subsection Subsections (1) and~~
18 ~~(2), are required to be duly registered as a non-profit organization with~~
19 ~~the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation, in accordance with~~
20 ~~Title 18 of Guam Code Annotated; and/or is registered as a non-profit~~
21 ~~organization within the United States and recognized as exempt under~~
22 ~~IRC 501(c)(19). The organizations shall furnish the Guam Veterans~~
23 ~~Affairs Office (GOVA) with a copy of an official documentation~~
24 ~~reflecting such requirement; and~~

25 (3) Approved Veteran Organizations. Organizations to be
26 represented on the Guam Veterans Commission, pertaining to
27 Subsections (1) and (2), are required to be duly registered as a non-

1 profit organization with the Guam Department of Revenue and
2 Taxation, in accordance with Title 18 of Guam Code Annotated;
3 and/or is registered as a non-profit organization within the United
4 States and recognized as exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), IRC 501 (4),
5 or IRC 501(c)(3). The organizations shall furnish the Guam Veterans
6 Affairs Office (GOVA) a copy of official documentation reflecting
7 their non-profit status, a current certificate of Good Standing, and a
8 copy of the organization's By-Laws. GOVA shall maintain a file of
9 each organization represented on the Commission; and

10 ~~(3) a maximum of three members, whom each shall be a veteran, may~~
11 ~~be appointed from other veteran organizations on Guam, to include the~~
12 ~~Coast Guard. Should a Veteran Service Organization have more than~~
13 ~~one Chapter, each Chapter may recommend a representative to serve as~~
14 ~~a member of the Commission, of which said appointment may be~~
15 ~~authorized to serve as provided herein.~~

16 (4)Ex-Officio Members. With the recommendation of the Guam
17 Veterans Commission, *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* may
18 appoint as an ex-officio, non-voting member a veteran of a foreign
19 country who has fought alongside U.S. armed forces members as
20 allies in combat, who is a representative of an established allied
21 veterans organization on Guam which is compliant with
22 §67107(a)(3), and is a resident of ~~who has resided on~~ Guam for a
23 ~~minimum of three years immediately preceding the appointment.~~
24 Said veteran *shall* serve for a term of three years from the date of
25 appointment.

26 (b) Commission Membership Terms and Conduct of Business.

27 (1)Veteran Organization Nominations. ~~Appointments.~~ The

1 Commander, or designee, of a Veteran Service Organizations *shall*
2 present in writing to the Chairman of the Commission the names of
3 two the individuals, to be transmitted to I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen
4 Guåhan who shall for approval to the Commission to represent their
5 respective veteran organization to serve on the Commission, which
6 *shall* be subject to the aforementioned provisions above. The
7 nominating Organization shall designate each nominee as the Primary
8 and Alternate representative, respectively.

9 (2) Terms of Commission Representatives Members. Every
10 representative member of to the Commission *shall* serve for a term of
11 three years, to commence on the date of appointment approval by the
12 Governor.

13 (A) Should the approved primary Commission representative
14 terminate his/her term prior to the conclusion of the three years,
15 the approved Alternate shall assume the Primary representative
16 position. In the event both approved representatives terminate,
17 the nominating Veteran Service Organization *shall* appoint
18 nominate a successor to serve for a new the balance of the three
19 year term, which shall commence upon the date of appointment
20 approval by the Governor.

21 (B) Said appointment nomination *shall* be in writing and
22 presented to the Chairman of the Guam Veterans Commission
23 for transmittal to I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan, with a copy
24 to be furnished to the Veterans Affairs Officer of the Office of
25 Veterans Affairs.

26 (3) Quorum Requirements. The presence of fifty percent (50%)
27 plus one of the appointed primary or alternate members shall be

1 required to establish quorum. For purposes of a quorum and for the
2 official conduct of business, a minimum of five voting members on
3 the Commission shall constitute a quorum. For the official conduct of
4 business, a majority of the members present, following the
5 constituting of a quorum, *shall* be required to conduct official
6 business.

7 (4) Scheduled Meetings. The Commission *shall* meet at least once
8 every quarter. However, nothing herein prevents the convening of
9 additional meetings to deliberate on emergent issues. ~~monthly and~~
10 ~~shall advise the Veterans Affairs Officer regarding matters affecting~~
11 ~~Veterans and related issues. Said meeting times, place and dates shall~~
12 ~~be decided to allow the greatest level of participation and attendance~~
13 ~~by Commission members.~~

14 (5) Conduct of meetings. The Commission shall conduct its
15 meetings in accordance with the Open Government Law, 5GCA
16 Ch 8.

17 (6) Use of Video Teleconferencing. Commission members may
18 participate in regular meetings via video teleconferencing and in
19 accordance with 5GCA Ch 43 § 43121. Participation of a member
20 via teleconferencing may be counted towards quorum
21 requirements. The Commission shall broadcast regular meetings
22 in accordance with 5GCA Ch 43 § 43122.

23 (7) Removal from Commission for Unexcused Absences. The
24 unexcused absences of a member from three (3) consecutive
25 regular meetings of the Commission shall constitute a cause for
26 removal of the member from the Commission, I
27 Maga'hāgan/Maga'lāhen Guāhan may thereupon remove the

1 member from the Commission. The determination of whether a
2 member's absence is excused or unexcused shall be made by the
3 Commission.

4 ~~(8)~~(5) Veteran Community Participation. The Commission *shall*
5 provide veterans and their families ~~with~~ the opportunity to ~~air~~
6 present grievances and concerns for the purpose of effecting
7 corrective action or change to existing policies that affect the
8 delivery of benefits and services to the Guam's Veteran
9 population.

10 ~~(9)~~(6) Administrative Support. The Guam Veterans Office (VAO)
11 through the direction of the ~~VAO Administrator~~ Veterans Affairs
12 Officer, shall provide administrative support to the Guam Veterans
13 Commission in the conduct of its meetings.

14 ~~(10)~~ ~~(7) Commission Activities. Upon official written request~~
15 ~~by the Chairman of the Commission for information or action by~~
16 ~~the VAO Administrator on issues affecting the Commission or~~
17 ~~Veterans, the VAO Administrator shall provide a written timely~~
18 ~~response to the Commission within four weeks by the next regularly~~
19 ~~scheduled Commission meeting, or sooner from the date of receipt~~
20 ~~of such communication. Should the VAO Administrator require~~
21 ~~additional time to provide a sufficient response to the matter, the~~
22 ~~VAO shall request in writing a time extension, not to exceed an~~
23 ~~additional four weeks, and further provide justification for the need~~
24 ~~for such time extension in said written communication. Such~~
25 ~~request shall be granted upon receipt by the Chairman of the~~
26 ~~Commission.~~ Ethics Training. Commission representatives shall
27 complete an ethics training within six months from the date of

1 approval.

2 **Section 5.** § 67107.1 of Chapter 67, Guam Code Annotated, is
3 hereby repealed in its entirety

4 ~~§ 67107.1. New Membership Process.~~

5 ~~The process for new membership to the Guam Veterans~~
6 ~~Commission is as follows:~~

7 ~~(a) The Guam Veterans Affairs Office shall receive new~~
8 ~~membership requests and submit same~~
9 ~~to the Chairman of the Guam Veterans Commission.~~

10 ~~(b) The Veterans Commission shall review the new~~
11 ~~membership request and forward its~~
12 ~~recommendation to I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan for~~
13 ~~appropriate action.~~

14 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
15 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
16 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
17 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
18 severable.

19 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.