


*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
258-38 (COR)	William A. Parkinson	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 2116 TO CHAPTER 21, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING A 2026 GENERAL ELECTION LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION QUESTION ON GUAM'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH A PUBLIC VOTE, AND PROVIDING FOR UNIVERSAL REGISTERED VOTER ELIGIBILITY.	1/20/26 10:41 a.m.  1/22/26 4:26 p.m.						

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2026 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 258-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 2116 TO CHAPTER 21, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING A 2026 GENERAL ELECTION LEGISLATIVE SUBMISSION QUESTION ON GUAM'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH A PUBLIC VOTE, AND PROVIDING FOR UNIVERSAL REGISTERED VOTER ELIGIBILITY.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that Guam is recognized internationally as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, and the  
4 United Nations system continues to consider Guam's political status as unresolved  
5 for purposes of the decolonization framework.

6 Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations provides that Members  
7 administering territories "whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-  
8 government" accept a "sacred trust" to promote the well-being of the inhabitants and  
9 to develop self-government, taking due account of the political aspirations of the  
10 peoples.

11 The United Nations General Assembly's Declaration on the Granting of  
12 Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples affirms that "all peoples have the  
13 right to self-determination" and that, by virtue of that right, they "freely determine  
14 their political status."

1           The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the right  
2 of self-determination, and the United States deposited its instrument of ratification  
3 in 1992.

4           Guam’s contemporary political status originates from U.S. acquisition  
5 following the Spanish-American War and the Treaty of Peace between the United  
6 States and Spain.

7           Under U.S. constitutional and statutory practice, Guam remains an  
8 unincorporated territory, and Congress retains plenary authority over territories.

9           Guam law has previously established decolonization-related public policy  
10 structures, including the Commission on Decolonization, and local efforts have long  
11 contemplated a political status act of self-determination.

12           Any official public vote that is conducted by the Government of Guam as part  
13 of its self-determination processes must comply with the United States Constitution.  
14 The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that restricting Guam’s  
15 political status plebiscite to an ancestry-based class violated the Fifteenth  
16 Amendment.

17           The People of Guam have a legitimate and compelling interest in expressing,  
18 by universal suffrage, whether the Government of Guam should actively pursue the  
19 right to self-determination through a public vote, including the institutional steps  
20 necessary to prepare and conduct such a vote consistent with law.

21           It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to obtain a clear, islandwide  
22 expression of the People’s will through universal suffrage on whether the  
23 Government of Guam should pursue self-determination by means of a public vote,  
24 to ensure that this question is placed on the 2026 General Election ballot as a  
25 legislative submission, and to provide that eligibility to participate is open to all  
26 registered voters who are qualified to vote in the 2026 General Election.

1           **Section 2.** A new § 2116 is hereby *added* to Chapter 21, Title 1, Guam Code  
2 Annotated, to read as follows:

3           “§ 2116. 2026 General Election Legislative Submission; Self-  
4 Determination Through Public Vote; Universal Registered Voter Eligibility

5           (a) Submission Required. The Guam Election Commission shall place  
6 on the official ballot for the General Election to be held on Tuesday,  
7 November 3, 2026, a legislative submission question as provided in this  
8 Section.

9           (b) Ballot Question. The ballot shall present the following question  
10 substantially in the following form:

11                   QUESTION: “Shall the people of Guam vote in a plebiscite in  
12 2028 to change our unincorporated territory status?”

13                   ( ) YES

14                   ( ) NO

15           (c) Voter Eligibility. The vote on the question shall be open to all  
16 registered voters who are otherwise qualified to vote in the 2026 General  
17 Election pursuant to Title 3, Guam Code Annotated.

18           (d) Ballot Title and Summary. This question is a legislative submission.  
19 The Guam Election Commission shall prepare and publish the ballot title and  
20 other required materials in accordance with Chapter 16, Title 3, Guam Code  
21 Annotated.

22           (e) Languages. The Guam Election Commission shall ensure the  
23 question is presented in English and shall provide any additional language  
24 presentation required by law. The Commission may consult with appropriate  
25 entities for accurate translations.

1           (f) Certification of Results. The Guam Election Commission shall  
2           canvass, tabulate, and certify the results in the same manner as other questions  
3           submitted at the General Election.

4           (g) Effect of Vote. The result of this legislative submission shall serve  
5           as an official expression of the People of Guam on whether the Government  
6           of Guam should pursue the right to self-determination through a public vote.  
7           This Section does not, by itself, change Guam’s political status or constitute  
8           a final political status act, but shall inform executive and legislative policy  
9           and subsequent actions consistent with applicable law.”

10       **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

11       **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
12 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not  
13 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
14 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
15 severable.