

*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
<b>281-38 (COR)</b>	Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 3101.5 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 16, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO EXPANDING GUAM'S WORKFORCE THROUGH A DIRECT DRIVER'S LICENSE PATHWAY FOR ADULTS.	2/24/26 9:43 a.m.						

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

**Bill No. 281-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 3101.5 TO ARTICLE 1,  
CHAPTER 3, TITLE 16, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED  
RELATIVE TO EXPANDING GUAM'S WORKFORCE  
THROUGH A DIRECT DRIVER'S LICENSE PATHWAY  
FOR ADULTS.**

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

2 **Section 1. Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that access to a  
3 driver's license is directly tied to employment, workforce participation, and the  
4 ability of individuals to support themselves and their families. On Guam, where  
5 public transportation options are limited and many employment opportunities  
6 require reliable personal transportation, a valid driver's license is often essential to  
7 securing and maintaining steady work.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that imposing youth-focused driver  
9 education and supervised driving-hour requirements on adults aged twenty-one (21)  
10 and older may create unnecessary financial and practical barriers. The cost of  
11 mandatory driver education courses and related fees may be burdensome for  
12 working adults, particularly those supporting families. In addition, supervised  
13 driving-hour requirements may require adults to take time off from work, arrange

1 childcare, coordinate schedules with licensed drivers, and incur additional  
2 transportation costs while completing required hours.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that according to the National Highway Traffic  
4 Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) system  
5 and mandatory driver education requirements are primarily designed to protect teen  
6 drivers “mainly because of their immaturity, lack of skills, and lack of experience”.

7 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that “in most States, GDL only applies to drivers  
8 under the age of 18”. The NHTSA also notes that “more research is needed to  
9 determine whether GDL which was designed for teenagers- can benefit older  
10 novices who may have different life circumstances”. These findings demonstrate  
11 that GDL systems were structured primarily to address risks associated with minor  
12 drivers and that the applicability of such youth-focused requirements to adults has  
13 not been conclusively established.

14 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that research indicates “older novice drivers, 18  
15 to 20 years old, have increased crash rates immediately after licensure” (Curry,  
16 Metzger, et al., 2017). Accordingly, this Act limits the proposed direct-licensing  
17 pathway to individuals aged twenty-one (21) and older, recognizing the heightened  
18 crash risk identified among drivers under that age threshold.

19 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that this Act would not repeal, weaken,  
20 or diminish the graduated driver licensing framework, but instead establishes a  
21 limited exemption for adults twenty-one (21) years of age and older who have  
22 demonstrated responsible behavior by maintaining a clean traffic record for at least  
23 three years and who remain subject to all existing written, vision, and on-road skills  
24 testing requirements necessary to ensure public safety.

25 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide a streamlined,  
26 safe, and efficient pathway for eligible adults to obtain a driver’s license while  
27 preserving all existing testing standards that ensure competency and public safety.

1 **Section 2.** A new § 3101.5 is hereby added to Article 1, Chapter 3, Title 16, Guam  
2 Code Annotated to read:

3 “§ 3101.5 Adult Direct Licensing Pathway.

4 (a) Any person who is twenty-one (21) years or older and who has not been  
5 convicted of any traffic offense in Guam or in any state, territory, or  
6 jurisdiction of the United States or any other country within the three (3) years  
7 immediately preceding the date of application shall be eligible for the direct-  
8 licensing pathway and be issued a driver’s license upon:

9 (1) Submission to DRT of an original traffic clearance letter issued by  
10 the Superior Court of Guam, dated not more than thirty (30) days prior to the  
11 application, certifying that the applicant has no convictions for any traffic  
12 offense within the three (3) years immediately preceding the application;

13 (2) Submission of an application for a license under the direct licensing  
14 pathway to the Department of Revenue and Taxation in conformance with  
15 applicable provisions of § 3101 (f).

16 (3) Successful completion of the vision, hearing, written knowledge  
17 examination, and on-road skills test as required by § 3101 (h) and the payment  
18 of applicable fees as enumerated in §3102.

19 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, applicants for a  
20 driver’s license who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older who qualify  
21 under this Section shall be exempt from all driver education requirements,  
22 supervised driving-hour requirements, and learner’s permit requirements,  
23 including all graduated licensing provisions.

24 **Section 3.** Severability.

25 If any of the provisions of this Act or the application thereof to any person or  
26 circumstance are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or

1 application of this Act, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or  
2 application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.