

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 |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 350-38 (LS) | Chris Barnett<br>Sabina Flores Perez | AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW CHAPTER 57 TO TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE "GUAM HEAD START STANDARDS ACT" TO PRESERVE MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS FOR HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS OPERATING WITHIN GUAM, TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR REVIEWING FUTURE FEDERAL STANDARDS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF ENHANCED STANDARDS CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW. | 8/18/26<br>3:51 p.m. |               |               |              |                     |                             |       |

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

**Bill No. 350-38 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Chris Barnett *CB*  
Sabina F. Perez *SFP*

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 57 TO TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE “GUAM HEAD START STANDARDS ACT” TO PRESERVE MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS FOR HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS OPERATING WITHIN GUAM, TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR REVIEWING FUTURE FEDERAL STANDARDS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF ENHANCED STANDARDS CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW.**

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

**Section 1.** This Act may be cited as the “Guam Head Start Standards Act.”

**Section 2.** Legislative Findings and Intent.

*I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive educational, developmental, health, nutritional, disability, mental health, and family engagement services that improve school readiness and long-term outcomes for Guam’s children and families.

*I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards have historically established a nationally recognized minimum standard for the delivery of such services.

It is therefore the intent of this Act to preserve those minimum standards for programs operating within Guam notwithstanding any future reduction in federal

1 administrative requirements, while providing an orderly process through which  
2 future federal improvements may be evaluated and incorporated into Guam law.

3 It is further the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* that any reduction in  
4 protections afforded to children participating in Head Start or Early Head Start  
5 programs shall occur only through an affirmative Act of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

6 **Section 3.** A new Chapter 57 is hereby *added* to Title 17, Guam Code  
7 Annotated, to read:

8 “CHAPTER 57

9 GUAM HEAD START STANDARDS ACT

10 § 57101. Definitions.

11 As used in this Chapter:

12 (a) Board means the Guam Board of Education.

13 (b) Early Head Start Program means any recipient of financial assistance  
14 under the federal Head Start Act providing Early Head Start services within Guam.

15 (c) Federal Head Start Standards means the requirements established under the  
16 federal Head Start Act, as amended, and the implementing regulations contained in  
17 Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1301 through 1305, together with all  
18 mandatory requirements incorporated therein, as those authorities existed on January  
19 1, 2026.

20 (d) Head Start Program means any recipient of financial assistance under the  
21 federal Head Start Act providing Head Start services within Guam.

22 (e) More Protective means standards that provide equal or greater educational,  
23 developmental, health, nutritional, disability, mental health, child safety, staffing,  
24 family engagement, governance, or program quality protections than those  
25 incorporated pursuant to this Chapter.

26 (f) Superintendent means the Superintendent of Education.

27 § 57102. Applicability.

1       (a) This Chapter applies only to recipients of financial assistance under the  
2 federal Head Start Act operating within Guam.

3       (b) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be construed to regulate, license,  
4 supervise, or establish educational or operational standards for:

5           (1) private childcare centers;

6           (2) private preschools;

7           (3) family childcare homes;

8           (4) faith-based childcare providers;

9           (5) licensed childcare facilities operating pursuant to Guam law; or

10          (6) any other early childhood education provider not receiving financial  
11 assistance under the federal Head Start Act.

12       (c) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be construed to alter or diminish  
13 any licensing authority otherwise provided by Guam law.

14       § 57103. Minimum Standards.

15       (a) Every Head Start Program and Early Head Start Program operating within  
16 Guam shall comply with the Federal Head Start Standards incorporated pursuant to  
17 this Chapter.

18       (b) The Federal Head Start Standards in effect on January 1, 2026, are hereby  
19 adopted as the minimum standards applicable to all Head Start and Early Head Start  
20 programs operating within Guam.

21       (c) No subsequent amendment to federal law, federal regulation, or federal  
22 administrative guidance shall reduce the minimum standards established pursuant to  
23 this Chapter unless expressly authorized by an Act of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

24       (d) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall prohibit Guam from adopting  
25 standards providing greater protections than those required under federal law,  
26 provided such standards are not inconsistent with federal law or any condition  
27 governing the receipt or administration of federal financial assistance.

1        (e) This Chapter shall be interpreted in favor of preserving or enhancing  
2        protections for children participating in Head Start and Early Head Start programs  
3        to the fullest extent permitted by federal law.”