

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
335-38 (COR)	Vincent A.V. Borja Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> CHAPTER 56, DIVISION 5 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO RULEMAKING AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.	6/17/26 9:26 a.m.						

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

Bill No. 335-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Vincent A.V. Borja 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* CHAPTER 56, DIVISION 5 OF
TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEDURES FOR THE GUAM VETERANS HIGHER
EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.**

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

2 **Section 1.** Chapter 56 of Division 5, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, is
3 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

4 **“CHAPTER 56**
5 **GUAM VETERANS HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT.**

6 § 56101. Short Title.

7 § 56102. Definitions.

8 § 56103. Educational Benefits.

9 § 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.

10 § 56105. Administration.

11 § 56106. Implementation.

12 **§ 56101. Short Title.**

13 This Chapter shall be known as the “Guam Veterans Higher Education
14 Benefits Act”

1 **§ 56102. Definitions.**

2 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall mean:

3 (a) ~~‘Commission’ means the Commission on Post-Secondary~~
4 ~~Education~~ ‘Board’ shall mean the Board of Regents of the University of
5 Guam, and the Board of Trustees of the Guam Community College, each with
6 authority limited to their respective Institution.

7 (b) ‘Dependent’ means:

8 (1) A spouse; or

9 (2) A child who:

10 (A) Is twenty-five (25) years old or younger on the first
11 day of the semester or term for which the exemption is claimed;
12 and

13 (B) Was claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax
14 return filed for the preceding year

15 (c) ‘Qualifying Veteran’ means a person who:

16 (1) At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, was a
17 resident of Guam and officially declared Guam as their home of record;

18 (2) Is a legal resident of Guam at the time of application for
19 benefits under this Chapter; and

20 (3) Served in the active military, naval, air service to include
21 and was discharged or released there from under conditions other than
22 dishonorable. Qualifying Veteran includes veterans of the Guam
23 Combat Patrol, the United States Insular Force, Philippine Scouts of
24 World War II, and the United States Armed Forces; or

25 (4) Is a current member in good standing or a former member
26 who received an honorable discharge from the Guam National Guard

1 or a Reserve Component of the U.S Armed Forces, regardless of active
2 duty time served; and

3 (d) 'Institution' shall mean the University of Guam, and the Guam
4 Community College.

5 (e) 'Tuition' shall mean the fees charged by an institution for
6 enrollment in a course, but does not include any other fees, charges, or costs,
7 such as student activity fees, laboratory fees, or the cost of books and
8 instructional materials.

9 (f) 'Tuition-paying students' means those students who pay tuition
10 fees and/or utilize student loans, receive federal government tuition assistance
11 such as federal student aid, utilizes an awarded scholarship, and/or receive
12 tuition waivers or assistance on account of age eligibility.

13 **§ 56103. Educational Benefits.**

14 (a) ~~The following persons, Qualifying veterans and their eligible~~
15 ~~dependents subject to the requirements and limitations of this Chapter and if~~
16 ~~sufficient institutional capacity exists as determined by the Institutions, shall be~~
17 exempt from the payment of tuition at an Institution;

18 ~~(1) Qualifying veterans and their dependent spouse and children may~~
19 ~~be included if sufficient institutional capacity exists, as determined by the~~
20 ~~Commission on post-secondary education through rule making.~~

21 (b) The tuition exemption provided under this Chapter:

22 (1) At the undergraduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of
23 ninety (90) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be used by the
24 veteran or allocated to one (1) or more eligible dependents. No individual may
25 receive more than eighteen (18) credit hours of tuition exemption per
26 academic semester;

1 (2) At the graduate level, shall not exceed a lifetime total of thirty
2 (30) credit hours per Qualifying Veteran, which may be used by the veteran
3 or allocated to one (1) or more eligible dependents. Such exemption shall be
4 limited to master's degree programs, except that professional doctoral
5 programs may qualify if ~~designated by the Commission on Post-Secondary~~
6 ~~Education as a critical workforce shortage area~~ approved by the Board of the
7 Institution offering such program;

8 (3) Shall apply only to charges for tuition as defined in §56102(e)
9 and shall not cover fees to include, but not be limited to student fees,
10 laboratory charges, instructional materials, or other incidental costs;

11 (4) Shall not be applied to repeated courses beyond one additional
12 attempt;

13 (5) Shall be contingent upon space being available in a course after
14 all tuition-paying students have completed registration; and

15 (6) Shall only be available to a Qualifying Veteran or eligible
16 dependent after all applicable federal veterans' educational benefits and other
17 federal tuition assistance programs, including federal Title IV financial aid,
18 have been fully exhausted.

19 **§ 56104. Eligibility Requirements and Limitations.**

20 (a) To be eligible for and to maintain benefits under this Chapter, a person
21 must:

22 (1) Be admitted and enrolled at an Institution;

23 (2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or
24 certificate program, as defined by the policies of the respective Institution,
25 and possess a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 for
26 undergraduate programs and 3.0 for graduate programs;

1 (3) Attest that they have exhausted all eligibility for any federal
2 veterans' educational benefits that provide tuition assistance prior to receiving
3 a waiver under this Chapter; and

4 (4) Not be in default on any student loan made or guaranteed by the
5 government of Guam;

6 (b) Benefits conferred by this Chapter shall be subject to the following
7 limitations:

8 (1) The provision of a tuition exemption shall be contingent upon
9 space being available in a course after all tuition-paying students have
10 completed registration;

11 (2) This Chapter does not guarantee admission into any academic
12 program, course, or Institution;

13 (3) The benefit is subject to all course capacity limits and program
14 enrollment restrictions established by the Institution;

15 (4) A tuition exemption shall not be granted for any course that has
16 reached its maximum enrollment capacity or for which a waitlist of tuition-
17 paying students exists.

18 (c) If a recipient withdraws from or fails a course for which a tuition
19 exemption was granted, the recipient shall be responsible for repayment of waived
20 tuition, unless otherwise waived for good cause as defined by ~~Commission rule~~ the
21 Board of the Institution in which the course was taken. Such reimbursed funds shall
22 be deposited into the Student Financial Aid Program (SFAP) fund of the ~~respective~~
23 ~~Institution~~ University of Guam, or in the case of the Guam Community College, into
24 such student financial assistance fund as designated by the Board of Trustees.

25 **§ 56105. Administration.**

26 ~~(a) The Commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are~~
27 ~~necessary for the administration of this Chapter. The University of Guam and the~~

1 ~~Guam Community College shall establish and amend internal policies and~~
2 ~~administrative procedures as required to ensure full compliance with the provisions~~
3 ~~of this Chapter.~~

4 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions and requirements of Chapter 9, Title 5,
5 Guam Code Annotated (the Administrative Adjudication Law), the Board of
6 Regents of the University of Guam and the Board of Trustees of the Guam
7 Community College shall each independently promulgate such rules and regulations
8 as are necessary for the administration of this Chapter within their respective
9 institutions. Each respective board shall adopt such rules and regulations no later
10 than one hundred twenty days (120) days after the effective date of this Act.

11 (b) The government of Guam entity responsible for veterans affairs shall
12 provide necessary assistance in the verification of a veteran's status, service record,
13 and eligibility for benefits under this Chapter upon request by an Institution.

14 **§ 56106. Implementation.**

15 (a) The benefits prescribed by this Chapter shall be implemented and
16 provided by the University of Guam and the Guam Community College through a
17 tuition waiver mechanism;

18 (b) The University of Guam, the Guam Community College shall each:

19 ~~(1) Develop and publish clear procedures for the application and~~
20 ~~processing of tuition exemptions consistent with institutional enrollment~~
21 ~~timelines and course availability;~~

22 (1) (2) Submit a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than ninety
23 (90) days after the end of each academic year, detailing the number of
24 beneficiaries served, the total number of credit hours exempted, the total
25 amount of credits failed or withdrawn and repayment received, if applicable,
26 list of the types of undergraduate and graduate degrees that recipients enrolled
27 in, and the calculated value of the tuition waived;

1 (2) (3) Implement control measures to ensure that the granting of
2 exemptions under this Chapter does not result in the displacement of any
3 tuition-paying student from any course or program.

4 ~~(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, benefits under this Chapter~~
5 ~~shall be implemented no earlier than April 1, 2026, to allow Institutions adequate~~
6 ~~time to establish administrative procedures.”~~

7 (c) Each Institution shall implement all administrative procedures
8 necessary to begin accepting applications no later than sixty (60) days after the
9 adoption of rules and regulations by its respective Board and processing tuition
10 exemptions beginning at the next full semester.”

11 **Section 2. 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.

16 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.