

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
376-38 (LS)	Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation and Hagåtña Restoration by request of I Kongressun Manhoben Guåhan , the Guam Youth Congress, in accordance with 2 GCA § 7102	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SAFETY BARRIERS AT ALL SCHOOL BUS STOPS ACROSS GUAM TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS THROUGH ENHANCED TRANSPORATION SAFETY AND SECURITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "GUAM STUDENT SHIELD SAFETY ACT OF 2025."	10/15/26 12:58 p.m.						

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

Bill No. 376-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

Committee on Child Welfare, Youth Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women's Affairs, Disability
Services, the Arts, Culture, Historic Preservation
and Hagåtña Restoration 
by request of *I Kongressun Manhoben Guåhan*, the
Guam Youth Congress, in accordance with 2 GCA
§ 7102

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE
PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SAFETY
BARRIERS AT ALL SCHOOL BUS STOPS ACROSS
GUAM TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION AND WELL-
BEING OF STUDENTS THROUGH ENHANCED
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SECURITY, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE “GUAM STUDENT SHIELD SAFETY
ACT OF 2025.”**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH OF GUAM:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Guam Student
Shield Safety Act of 2025.”

Section 2. Legislative Intent and Purpose. *I Liheslaturan*
Guåhan finds that ensuring student safety at school bus stops is a critical concern
affecting every village across Guam. Students who rely on school bus
transportation are exposed to potential dangers, including reckless driving, high-
traffic areas, and insufficient protective infrastructure. These hazards create unsafe
conditions as children wait for and board school buses, placing their well-being at

unnecessary risk. Recognizing the urgent need for enhanced protections, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to mandate the installation of safety barriers at every school bus stop in every village throughout Guam, starting with the high-risk areas of vehicular traffic and any potential dangers.

By standardizing safety measures at all designated school bus stops, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* affirms the government's commitment to safeguarding students regardless of geographic location. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* believes that no child should be left vulnerable to unsafe conditions while waiting for transportation to and after school. The protective barriers will create a secure, designated waiting zone, preventing unnecessary exposure to vehicular traffic and enhancing a safer area for all students waiting for the school bus.

Furthermore, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to reinforce the principle of equal access to safety infrastructure, ensuring that no community, whether densely populated or more remote, faces disparities in student transportation security. The government must prioritize investment in effective solutions that mitigate risks and cultivate a safer, more responsible transportation environment for Guam's youth.

Section 3. Definitions. The following terms used in this Act shall mean as follows:

- (1) "*High-Risk Area*" shall refer to any location identified by the Director of Department of Public Works as having elevated traffic volume, history of vehicular incidents, limited pedestrian visibility, or other environmental factors that pose increased danger to students waiting at bus stops.
- (2) "*Temporary Bus Structure*" shall mean any provisional installation, including but not limited to portable shelters, signages, or protective barriers, constructed to provide basic safety and visibility for students at active pick-up and drop-off locations not

1 yet formally designated as permanent bus stops.

2 (3) “*Designated Personnel*” shall refer to individuals appointed by the
3 Director of the Department of Public Works, either from within
4 the Department or contracted externally, to carry out the
5 responsibilities outlined in this Act, including assessment,
6 installation, maintenance, and reporting related to safety barriers.

7 (4) “*Safety Committee*” or “*the Committee*” shall refer to a body
8 established by the Director of the Department of Public Works
9 composed of qualified individuals tasked with overseeing the
10 implementation, compliance, and maintenance of safety barrier
11 infrastructure at school bus stops on Guam. The Committee may
12 include engineers, safety officers, community representatives,
13 and other relevant stakeholders.

14 (5) “*Maintenance*” shall refer to the routine inspection, cleaning, repair,
15 and replacement of safety barriers and associated infrastructure to
16 ensure continued compliance with safety standards and functional
17 integrity.

18 (6) “*Installation*” shall mean the process of placing, securing, and
19 activating safety barriers or temporary structures at designated
20 school bus stops, in accordance with guidelines and safety
21 protocols prescribed by the Department of Public Works.

22 (7) “*Associated Administrative Costs*” shall mean expenses related to
23 planning, staffing, reporting, oversight, and other non-
24 construction activities necessary for the successful execution of
25 this Act.

26 (8) “*Standardized Safety Measures*” shall refer to the uniform design,
27 placement, and material specifications for safety barriers, as
28 determined by the Department of Public Works to ensure

consistency, effectiveness, and equitable protection across all school bus stops.

Section 4. Appropriation to the Department of Public Works. The sum of one-million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be appropriated from Fiscal Year 2025 Net Unobligated Excess Revenues to the Department of Public Works solely for the execution of this Act, to include the purchase and installation of safety barriers at all designated school bus stops across Guam and the construction of temporary or permanent bus structures at locations identified as active student pick-up and drop-off areas, as determined by the Department of Public Works in coordination with the Guam Department of Education and municipal mayors.

These funds shall be used exclusively for materials, labor, installation, and associated administrative costs. Any surplus funds remaining after the procurement and installation of these safety barriers and temporary or permanent bus structures shall be allocated only towards the ongoing maintenance, repair, and upkeep of these structures. These funds shall not be subject to the transfer authority of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* and shall remain with the Department of Public Works until fully expended.

Section 5. Implementation and Oversight. In executing this Act, the Director of Department of Public Works shall:

- (1) Assess each bust stop to determine the most effective safety barrier solutions;
- (2) Collaborate with the Guam Department of Education to identify priority bus stop locations requiring immediate action and attention;
- (3) Establish a Safety Committee, at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Public Works, to oversee the effective implementation of this initiative. Alternatively, the Department of Public Works may assign existing departmental personnel to carry out the responsibilities outline herein. In either case, the Department of Public Works shall have the

1 authority to determine the composition, structure, and compensation of
2 individuals tasked with these duties. All wages and related administrative
3 costs shall be appropriated from the allocation in this Act and designated
4 for this program;

5 (4) Ensure that all bus stop barriers are consistently maintained, promptly
6 repaired when necessary, and kept in full compliance with applicable
7 safety standards;

8 (5) Submit comprehensive progress reports, including expenditures,
9 installation progress, and effectiveness of the safety barriers, to *I*
10 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, *I Kongressun Manhoben Guåhan*, and the offices of
11 the respective village mayors on a biannual basis;

12 (6) Require that each bus stop shall be equipped with no less than two (2)
13 safety barriers positioned at the front to enhance passenger protection and
14 traffic safety;

15 (7) Establish a public feedback mechanism, such as a dedicated hotline or
16 online portal, to allow parents, students, and community members to
17 report safety concerns, suggest improvement, or provide feedback
18 regarding bus stop infrastructure. Feedback shall be reviewed quarterly
19 and incorporated into maintenance and planning efforts, when feasible;
20 and

21 (8) Ensure that in instances where safety barriers at school bus stops are
22 designed to allow for controlled bypass such as for emergency access,
23 maintenance, or student movement, that such designed do not compromise
24 the primary function of the barriers to protect students from vehicular
25 traffic and other external hazards. All bypassable safety barriers must meet
26 the same structural integrity, visibility, and durability standards as fixed
27 barriers, and shall be subject to routine inspection and testing to verify
28 their effectiveness. The Director shall prioritize barrier designs that

1 balance accessibility with maximum protective coverage, and shall
2 consult with safety engineers and community stakeholders to determine
3 optimal configurations.

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

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