

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
60-38 (COR)	Sabina Flores Perez Chris Barnett Tina Rose Muña Barnes Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO <i>APPROPRIATE</i> ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (DISID) RELATIVE TO IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIVATE CARE SERVICES.	2/14/25 2:41 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No.60-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez, *SFP*
Chris Barnett *CB*
Tina Rose Muña Barnes *TRMB*
Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

AN ACT TO *APPROPRIATE* ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE ADOPTED LEVELS ENUMERATED IN PUBLIC LAW 37-125 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (DISID) RELATIVE TO IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIVATE CARE SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*

finds that the care needs of individuals with severe disabilities continues to grow and, as such, creates a heightened awareness of the urgency to develop an effective means to address these needs. Currently, Catholic Social Services (CSS), through a contract from the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID), provides the following programs: (1) Community Habilitation Program (CHP) for Individuals with Moderate to Severe Intellectual/Cognitive, Developmental, or Other Significant Disabilities – presently servicing 12 clients (maximum capacity per contract), (2) Residential Care for Adults with Profound

1 Intellectual and/or Cognitive Disabilities – presently servicing 22 clients (maximum
2 capacity per contract), and (3) Respite and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) –
3 presently servicing 35 clients, a total of 488 hours per month (maximum capacity
4 per contract).

5 *I Liheslatura* finds that DISID manages a waiting list for each of their
6 programs, which as of May 24, 2024 reflects the following: (1) Community
7 Habilitation Program (CHP) for Individuals with Moderate to Severe
8 Intellectual/Cognitive, Developmental, or Other Significant Disabilities – 5 clients
9 awaiting admission (avg. wait time: 219 days), (2) Residential Care for Adults with
10 Profound Intellectual and/or Cognitive Disabilities – 3 clients awaiting admission
11 (avg. wait time 413 days), and (3) Respite and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) – 13
12 clients awaiting respite services (avg. wait time: 292 days) and 22 clients awaiting
13 PCA (avg. wait time: 329 days). Additionally, respite and PCA services are often
14 requested for individuals whose disability has progressed over time and whose social
15 systems are either unstable or otherwise unavailable. Providing access to care for
16 clients awaiting these specific services and those presently receiving limited services
17 through CSS has become a focal point for DISID.

18 *I Liheslatura* finds that both current and awaiting clients of the Respite and
19 PCA programs have economic limitations and depend on government assistance.
20 Recognizing the current capacities of CSS, DISID acknowledges the most suitable
21 resource that can provide services and adjust quickly to changes in client needs is
22 private care service providers who, on average, charge fifteen dollars (\$15) per hour,
23 some adding fees for mileage depending on travel distance. In good faith, DISID has
24 issued five proposal requests hoping to award a contract to one of several providers,
25 however, to no avail. Upon inquiry, it was revealed that they were unable to accept
26 a government contract due to the waiting time to receive payment for services.
27 Private care providers, apart from those associated with large corporate

1 organizations, do not have the capital to fund their workers while awaiting payment
2 from the government.

3 *I Liheslatura* finds that, at minimum, clients are scheduled on average for
4 sixteen (16) hours per month, based on CSS reports. Applying this minimum to the
5 number of clients of thirty-five (35) waiting and the average cost of fifteen dollars
6 (\$15) for private care services, funding necessary to meet the minimum is \$8,400.
7 At the far end of the cost spectrum, clients may require up to twenty-one (21) hours
8 per week or eighty-four (84) hours per month. Using the same variables, the cost
9 could rise up to \$44,100 per month.

10 *I Liheslatura* finds that DISID, as the designated point of entry for services
11 for persons with disabilities, continues to explore ways to improve access to much
12 needed services. Its efforts include evaluating the potential of direct hiring of care
13 providers as staff under the Support Services Division and increased collaboration
14 with non-profit and volunteer organizations. To complement these efforts, it is
15 critical a mechanism be established, through policy, to allow DISID to expedite
16 payment to private care providers who have the resources to meet the ever-changing
17 care needs of persons with disabilities.

18 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate the sum of
19 One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to provide DISID with the ability
20 to expedite direct payments to private care providers, in order to increase access to
21 individuals with disabilities to consistent care and assistance, and to shorten the
22 waiting period for those individuals seeking private care services.

23 **Section 2. Appropriation to the Department of Integrated Services for**
24 **Individuals with Disabilities (DISID).**

25 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sum of One Hundred Fifty
26 Thousand Dollars (**\$150,000**) is hereby appropriated from Fiscal Year 2025 General
27 Fund Revenues collected in excess of the adopted levels enumerated in Public Law

1 37-125 to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities
2 (DISID) for the express purpose of providing private care services to individuals
3 with disabilities. This appropriation shall not lapse and shall continue to be available
4 until fully expended.

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