

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
85-38 (COR)	Sabrina Salas Matanane Vincent A. V. Borja V. Anthony Ada Tina Rose Muña Barnes William A. Parkinson Christopher M. Dueñas Shelly V. Calvo Jesse A. Lujan Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Frank F. Blas, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin	AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT TO DIVISION 4, OF CHAPTER 41, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; ADD A NEW § 1103(C) TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE 18, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AMEND § 10101 OF CHAPTER 10, TITLE 18, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND ADD A NEW § 1909(E) TO CHAPTER 19, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM STATE VETERANS AGENCY, PROVIDING FOR ITS GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS WITH AN ELECTED GUAM VETERANS GOVERNING COMMISSION, ESTABLISHING A VETERANS SERVICE PROVIDER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, AND TO AUTHORIZE A PROCESS FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR VETERANS' SERVICES; TO BE KNOWN AS THE "GUAM VETERANS EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2025".	3/7/25 1:41 p.m.	3/14/25 4:24 p.m.	Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.	Request: 3/14/25 3/24/25			



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

March 24, 2025

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 85-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 85-38 (COR).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly copy the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.



Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 85-38 (COR)

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT TO DIVISION 4, OF CHAPTER 41, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; ADD A NEW § 1103(C) TO CHAPTER 1, TITLE 18, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AMEND § 10101 OF CHAPTER 10, TITLE 18, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND ADD A NEW § 1909(E) TO CHAPTER 19, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM STATE VETERANS AGENCY, PROVIDING FOR ITS GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS WITH AN ELECTED GUAM VETERANS GOVERNING COMMISSION, ESTABLISHING A VETERANS SERVICE PROVIDER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, AND TO AUTHORIZE A PROCESS FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR VETERANS' SERVICES; TO BE KNOWN AS THE "GUAM VETERANS EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2025".

Department/Agency Appropriation Information	
Dept./Agency Affected: Guam Office of Veterans Affairs (GOVA)	Dept./Agency Head: Jose San Agustin, Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$1,224,345
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date:	\$0
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$1,224,345

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation			
	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2024 Unreserved Fund Balance		\$0	\$0
FY 2025 Adopted Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2025 Appro. (P.L. 37-125)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill						
	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2025 (if applicable)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund	\$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Special Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

- Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? /X/ Yes // No
If Yes, see attachment
- Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? /X/ N/A // Yes // No
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ /X/ N/A
- Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? /X/ Yes // No
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? // N/A /X/ Yes // No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? // Yes /X/ No
- Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? // Yes /X/ No
- Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept./agency? If no, indicate reason: // Yes /X/ No
/X/ Requested agency comments not received by due date // Other:

Analyst: <u></u> Date: <u>03/21/25</u> Director: <u></u> Date: <u>MAR 24 2025</u>
Gasmine C. Tereas, BMA II Lester L. Carlson, Jr.

Comments:
 1/ See attached comments for Bill No. 85-38 (COR).

Bureau of Budget and Management Research
Comments on Bill No. 85-38 (COR)

The proposed Bill No. 85-38 (COR) seeks to repeal and reenact to Division 4, of Chapter 41, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated; add a new § 1103(C) to Chapter 1, Title 18, Guam Code Annotated; Amend § 10101 of Chapter 10, Title 18, GCA; and add a new § 1909(C) to Chapter 19, Title 1, GCA relative to establishing the Guam State Veterans Agency, providing for its governance and operations with an elected Guam Veterans Governing Commission, establishing a Veterans Service Provider Certification Program, and to authorize a process for special assessments for veterans' services; to be known as the "Guam Veterans Empowerment Act of 2025".

According to the legislative intent of Bill 85-38, Veteran services on Guam are currently distributed across multiple agencies and offices, creating significant historical inefficiencies and barriers to access for veterans seeking assistance and benefits. Thus, Bill 85-38 intends to create a comprehensive system of veteran empowerment through the establishment of direct oversight of veteran service providers through a Good Standing certification program. By creating a dedicated agency that is responsible for veteran needs, establishing veterans-only electorate for Commission elections, maintaining veteran oversight of service quality, and providing a means for revenue generation, this Act intends to lead to improved services, better access to resources, and an overall strengthening of support for veterans.

The proposed legislation intends to establish in lieu of the current Guam Office of Veterans Affairs (GOVA) within the Office of *I Maga'håga* and *I Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, a new Guam State Veterans Agency (GSVA) within the Government of Guam and under the direct authority and control of the Guam Veterans Governing Commission (GVGC). The GVGC shall have 7 members and are to be elected in any regularly scheduled general election and be compensated a monthly stipend of \$1,000. The Bureau notes the potential impact to the Guam Election Commission to include the GVGC in the conduct of the general election and to maintain a separate veterans voter registry of verified veterans and their dependents to ensure voter eligibility. The Bill also allows for the GSVA to establish its own personnel rules and regulations and its procurement system that is consistent with the Guam Procurement Law and approved by the GVGC.

The Bureau had sought input on the financial impact of the proposed Bill 85-38 from the GOVA on March 12, 2025 with a follow-up request on March 20, 2025. The Bureau has not received any official comments as of the date of this fiscal note.

However, if Bill 85-38 (COR) is enacted, the Bureau does anticipate a financial impact on the GSVA's annual fiscal year appropriation. The GSVA may require additional funding to establish and maintain the Veterans Service Provider Certification Program, the acquisition and maintenance of a separate personnel/payroll and procurement system, additional personnel staffing, payment of stipends, and other related operational costs. It is also noted that the proposed legislation carries forward all FY 2025 amounts appropriated to the GOVA in the FY 2025 Budget and any supplemental funding amounts. The Bureau notes concerns relative to the proposed special assessment on real property and its ability to fully fund the GSVA's operations, GVGC functions and other services set out in the proposed legislation. This assessment is dependent on the outcome

of a general election. Absent information from the GOVA on the specific personnel and operational requirements that this new GSVA may entail, the Bureau is unable to provide an estimated cost impact at this time.