

Re: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2084.

From Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>  
Date Mon 3/23/2026 3:32 PM  
To 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>  
Cc Rennae Meno <rennae.meno@guamlegislature.gov>

*Håfa Adai,*

Received, and thank you.



**Elijah Untalan**  
**Clerks Office**

*I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Voice: (671) 472-3465/3460 Fax: (671) 472-3524

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Thank you

From: 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>  
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 3:24 PM  
To: Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>  
Cc: Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>  
Subject: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2084.

*Håfa Adai* Clerks Office,

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2084** for processing:

✓	38GL-26-2084	Office of the Governor of Guam	Bill for Introduction*
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Kindly reply to this email



*Si Yu'os ma'åse',*

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

**COMMITTEE ON RULES**

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

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**Messages and Communications 38GL-26-2084\***

2 messages

**Speaker Frank Blas Jr.** <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 3:01 PM

To: 38th Committee On Rules &lt;committeonrules@guamlegislature.gov&gt;, Sabrina Salas Matanane &lt;office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

*Håfa adai,*

Please see attached M&amp;C Doc. No. 38GL-26-2084

38GL-26-2084	Office of the Governor of Guam	Bill for Introduction*
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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'**Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant

**Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.**I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña

(671)969-6456

[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rikki Orsini** <[rikki.orsini@guam.gov](mailto:rikki.orsini@guam.gov)>

Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 1:34 PM

Subject: Transmittal of Bill for Introduction: Internationally Trained Physicians

To: Frank Blas Jr. <[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)>Cc: Senator Telo Taitague <[senatortelot@gmail.com](mailto:senatortelot@gmail.com)>

Hafa Adai Speaker Blas,

Please see the attached letter and legislation from Governor Lou Leon Guerrero for introduction relative to internationally trained physicians.

Considering that Senator Telo Taitague's Bill No. 206-38 (COR) on the same matter is on this week's session agenda, we are currently working with her office to incorporate the necessary revisions to Bill 206.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



**Rikki Orsini, MPA**

Director of Policy

Office of the Governor of Guam

Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex Hagåtña, Guam 96910

(671) 472-8931

**3 attachments** **3.23.26 Transmittal Letter to Speaker Blas.pdf**  
78K **Final Bill\_ Internationally Trained Physicians.docx**  
21K **38GL-26-2084.pdf**  
1236K**38th Committee On Rules** <committeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 3:14 PM

*Håfa Adai,*

Received, and thank you.



*Si Yu'os ma'åse',*

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

## **COMMITTEE ON RULES**

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

*38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

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[Quoted text hidden]



Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

## Transmittal of Bill for Introduction: Internationally Trained Physicians

1 message

**Rikki Orsini** <rikki.orsini@guam.gov>  
 To: "Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>  
 Cc: Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 1:34 PM

Hafa Adai Speaker Blas,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,



**Rikki Orsini, MPA**  
 Director of Policy  
 Office of the Governor of Guam  
 Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
 (671) 472-8931




Doc Type: 38GL-26-2084  
 OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
 FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

March 23, 2026

Time: 1:34 PM

Received: *BBK*

### 3 attachments

-  **3.23.26 Transmittal Letter to Speaker Blas.pdf**  
78K
-  **Final Bill\_ Internationally Trained Physicians.docx**  
21K
-  **Final Bill\_ Internationally Trained Physicians.docx**  
21K

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
GOVERNOR



**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

**Transmitted via email: [speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)**

March 23, 2026

**THE HONORABLE FRANK F. BLAS, JR.**

Speaker  
38th Guam Legislature  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: Transmittal of Bill for Introduction: Internationally Trained Physicians**

*Håfa Adai* Speaker Blas,

I am pleased to transmit for legislative consideration the enclosed bill relative to establishing an interim provisional license and a permanent limited license for internationally trained physicians (ITPs) to practice at government of Guam-funded healthcare facilities.

This measure responds directly to the critical physician shortages facing Guam's public health system, particularly at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center. By creating a structured, carefully regulated pathway for qualified, internationally trained physicians to serve in these settings, this legislation seeks to expand access to care while maintaining appropriate standards of medical oversight, patient safety, and professional accountability.

The proposed framework draws upon best practices adopted in multiple U.S. jurisdictions and reflects ongoing collaboration with the Guam Board of Medical Examiners and national medical regulatory bodies. It ensures that internationally trained physicians are vetted, supervised, and ultimately integrated into Guam's healthcare workforce in a manner that strengthens service delivery and improves health outcomes for our community.

Therefore, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam, I transmit the enclosed legislation for introduction and consideration by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. I respectfully request your support and the favorable consideration of this measure. Should your office or the members of the Legislature require additional information, my administration stands ready to assist.

**RICARDO J. BORDALLO GOVERNOR'S COMPLEX**  
513 W. Marine Corps Drive Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
[governor.guam.gov](http://governor.guam.gov) | (671) 472-8931

From: Governor Leon Guerrero  
To: Speaker Blas  
March 23, 2026  
Page 2 of 2

*Si Yu'os Ma'ãse'* for your continued partnership in advancing the health and well-being of the people of Guam.

*Senseramente,*



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam



**38GL-26-2084**  
Messages and Communications

**RECEIVED**  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
March 23, 2026

3:01 p.m.  
*Marie Crisostomo*

**RICARDO J. BORDALLO GOVERNOR'S COMPLEX**  
513 W. Marine Corps Drive Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
governor.guam.gov | (671) 472-8931

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

**Bill No.**

Introduced by:

Committee on Rules  
by request of *I Maga'hågan*  
*Guåhan*, the Governor of  
Guam, in accordance with  
the Organic Act of Guam.

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 12206.1, § 12206.2, § 12206.3, AND § 12206.4 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING AN INTERIM PROVISIONAL LICENSE AND PERMANENT LIMITED LICENSE FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS (ITPs) TO PRACTICE AT GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FUNDED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES SUCH AS THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (GMH), THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (DPHSS), FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs) AND GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER (GBHWC).**

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

2           **Section 1. Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the people of Guam  
3 continue to face a critical shortage of physicians, particularly at the Guam Memorial Hospital  
4 (GMH), the island's only public hospital, the Department of Public Health & Social Services  
5 (DPHSS), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and the Guam Behavioral Health and  
6 Wellness Center (GBHWC). This shortage places tremendous strain on the delivery of essential  
7 health care services. It jeopardizes the ability of GMHA, DPHSS, FQHCs, and GBHWC to meet  
8 the urgent, ongoing medical and healthcare needs of the people of Guam.

9           *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds nineteen (19) other jurisdictions including Arkansas,  
10 Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina,  
11 Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and the  
12 Northern Mariana Islands have enacted similar legislation to establish licensing pathways for  
13 Internationally Trained Physicians (ITPs) and an additional twenty-two (22) states having  
14 proposed or legislation pending. These comparable acts incorporate ITPs' education, training, and  
15 experience into the licensing process, allowing them to practice in areas of need under defined

1 supervision and subject to other conditions. Such policies have proven to be a vital mechanism to  
2 address physician shortages while maintaining appropriate safeguards for patient care and medical  
3 oversight.

4 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to create a pathway for government of Guam-  
5 funded healthcare agencies to recruit ITPs. This legislation will enable GMHA, DPHSS, FQHCs,  
6 and GBHWC to recruit qualified Internationally-Trained Physicians to address critical staffing  
7 shortages while also ensuring that physicians practice under appropriate supervision and remain  
8 committed to serving the people of Guam. In addition, the Guam Board of Medical Examiners, as  
9 a member board of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), has been actively studying  
10 this issue for several years, working closely with the FSMB and leaders of medical regulatory  
11 authorities across multiple states and territories of the United States. Most recently, the Board  
12 concluded an on-site visit with the leadership of the Federation of State Medical Boards, including  
13 the Chairman of the Board and the President of the FSMB, with extensive discussions along with  
14 GMHA, DPHSS, GBHWC and the Governor’s Health and Policy offices on how to finalize  
15 legislation that is appropriate for the unique circumstances and needs of the Territory of Guam.

16 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* declares that passage of this Act is essential to strengthening  
17 Guam’s healthcare system, improving access to physicians, ensuring GMHA, DPHSS, FQHCs  
18 and GBHWC fulfill their mission, with GMH’s mission to provide compassionate, forward-  
19 thinking, quality-driven, and safe healthcare that honors the community, with the ultimate goal of  
20 improving the health and well-being of the people of Guam in tandem with DPHSS’ mission to  
21 assist the people of Guam in achieving and maintaining their highest levels of independence and  
22 self-sufficiency in health and social welfare; with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)  
23 addressing health disparities and promoting health equity, providing accessible, affordable,  
24 patient-centered care (medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy) to all ages and incomes,  
25 working to keep the island community healthy and strong by focusing on prevention and  
26 addressing social determinants of health, often through community outreach and partnerships; and  
27 further supported by the GBHWC’s mission to lead and foster culturally respectful and inclusive  
28 quality behavioral health services that strengthen the well-being of our community.

29 **Section 2.** A new § 12206.1 is added to Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code  
30 Annotated, to read as follows:

31 **§ 12206.1. Internationally-Trained Physicians (ITPs) Interim Provisional License.**

32 (a) The Guam Board of Medical Examiners (GBME) may issue an Interim Provisional  
33 License, a limited licensed, to Internationally-Trained Physicians (ITPs) to practice medicine to a

1 physician when the Board has received satisfactory verification of all of the following  
2 requirements:

3 1. The applicant has been offered employment as a physician at a government  
4 of Guam-funded healthcare facility, such as but not limited to Guam Memorial Hospital  
5 Authority (GMHA), Department of Public Health Social Services (DPHSS), Federally  
6 Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), or the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center  
7 (GBHWC);

8 2. The applicant has a current and active license in good standing to practice  
9 medicine in a foreign country.

10 3. The applicant previously completed at least one hundred thirty (130) weeks  
11 of medical education at a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools  
12 and is certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or its  
13 Board-approved successor(s), or by an equivalent Board-approved entity, and meets one  
14 of the following requirements:

15 a. The applicant has completed three (3) years of progressive  
16 postgraduate training in a graduate medical education program approved by the  
17 applicant's country of licensure; or

18 4. The applicant has demonstrated competency to practice medicine in one of  
19 the following ways:

20 a. Successfully passed each part of the United States Medical  
21 Licensing Examination (USMLE) or an equivalent examination recognized by the  
22 Board; or

23 b. Successfully passed each part of a nationally recognized standard  
24 medical licensing examination from a country that is Board-approved and that  
25 meets all of the following requirements:

26 i. Tests for the ability to practice medicine;

27 ii. Tests for medical knowledge, skills, and understanding of  
28 clinical science essential for providing patient care;

29 iii. Tests for communication and interpersonal skills; and

30 iv. Includes an interactive testing component; or

31 c. Received specialty board certification as approved by any of the  
32 following:

33 i. The American Board of Medical Specialties;

1                    ii. The Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the American  
2                    Osteopathic Association;

3                    iii. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada;

4                    or

5                    iv. Any other specialty board recognized pursuant to rules  
6                    adopted by the Board; or

7                    d. Submits to a comprehensive assessment demonstrating clinical  
8                    competence by a program approved by the Board. Alternatively, the Board may  
9                    waive this requirement and issue a temporary license, requiring the applicant to  
10                    successfully pass a Post-Licensure Assessment System, such as the Special Purpose  
11                    Examination (SPEX), within one (1) year from the date of Board approval.

12                    5.            The applicant has not had a license revoked, suspended, restricted, denied,  
13                    or otherwise acted against in any jurisdiction and is not the subject of any pending  
14                    investigations, in whole or in part.

15                    6.            The applicant does not have any convictions involving violations of medical  
16                    practice law or a conviction substantially equivalent to a felony. The applicant shall submit  
17                    to a background check from both the jurisdiction of prior licensure and the Federal Bureau  
18                    of Investigation (FBI).

19                    7.            The applicant has demonstrated proficiency in English through a  
20                    standardized assessment, documentation of medical education completed entirely in  
21                    English, or other evidence accepted by the Board.

22                    8.            The applicant is legally authorized to work in the United States. An  
23                    applicant may apply for an ITP License before receiving federal work authorization, but  
24                    may not begin employment at government of Guam-funded healthcare facilities until  
25                    receiving legal work authorization and is issued a License by the Board.

26                    9.            The applicant must submit an application and pay a fee in accordance with  
27                    rules adopted by the Board.

28                    (a) If an applicant has not engaged in clinical practice for a period of  
29                    twenty-four (24) or more consecutive months at the time the Board receives the  
30                    application, the applicant shall complete a physical reentry program approved by  
31                    the Board in the United States prior to being eligible for an Interim Provisional  
32                    License under this Article.

1           **Section 3.** A new § 12206.2 is added to Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code  
2 Annotated, to read as follows:

3           **§ 12206.2. Interim Provisional License to Permanent Limited License.**

4           (a) An Interim Provisional License holder shall be eligible for a Permanent Limited  
5 License after completing at least three (3) years of practice under the Interim Provisional  
6 License, if the licensee:

7                   (i) Has successfully completed the assessment and evaluation requirements of  
8 Section 12256;

9                   (ii) Has received an attestation from the participating healthcare facility that the  
10 licensee has demonstrated competence to practice independently in all the current  
11 areas of the general competency domains;

12                   (iii) Has achieved a passing score on Step 3 of the USMLE within three (3)  
13 attempts;

14                   (iv) Has maintained the Interim Provisional License in good standing with no  
15 disciplinary actions;

16                   (v) Has complied with all terms and conditions of the Interim Provisional  
17 License; and

18                   (vi) Has submitted a complete application and paid the applicable fee.

19           (b) A Permanent Limited License issued pursuant to this Section shall authorize the  
20 holder to practice medicine with full clinical autonomy, without direct supervision, but  
21 only at government of Guam-funded healthcare facilities approved by the Board.

22           (c) A Permanent Limited License holder shall not be eligible for:

23                   (i) Conversion to a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine;

24                   (ii) Practice at private hospitals, private clinics, or private healthcare facilities;

25                   (iii) Participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; or

26                   (iv) Any other license category that would permit practice outside of  
27 government of Guam-funded healthcare facilities.

28           (d) The Board may, in its discretion, require additional supervised practice or  
29 remediation if the Board determines that the applicant has not demonstrated competence  
30 in one or more of the current general competency domains.

1 (e) A Permanent Limited License shall be subject to renewal in accordance with the  
2 same schedule and requirements applicable to full and unrestricted licenses, provided that  
3 the restriction to government of Guam-funded healthcare facilities shall remain in effect  
4 permanently and shall not be removed or modified.

5 **Section 4.** A new § 12206.3 is added to Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code  
6 Annotated, to read as follows:

7 **§ 12206.3. Enforcement and Disciplinary Authority.**

8 (a) Holders of an Interim Provisional or Permanent Limited License issued pursuant to  
9 this Article shall be subject to the same disciplinary authority of the Board as holders of  
10 full and unrestricted licenses, including but not limited to suspension, revocation, and  
11 imposition of conditions.

12 (b) An Interim Provisional or Permanent Limited License shall be automatically  
13 suspended if the licensee ceases to be employed by a government of Guam-funded  
14 healthcare facility approved by the Board.

15 (c) The Board may immediately suspend an Interim Provisional License or Permanent  
16 Limited License if the Board determines that continued practice poses an imminent risk to  
17 patient safety.

18 (d) The holder of the Interim Provisional License or Permanent Limited License shall  
19 not practice medicine outside the confines of government of Guam-funded healthcare  
20 facilities. A violation of this provision is subject to penalties under Guam law, including  
21 fines not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per offense, and may result in  
22 revocation of the License by the Board. The Board may, at its discretion, revoke the License  
23 at any time.

24 (e) An Interim Provisional License or Permanent Limited License shall become  
25 inactive if its holder ceases employment with the government of Guam-funded healthcare  
26 facilities.

27 (f) The Board shall retain jurisdiction over the holder of inactive Licenses.

28 (g) The Board, in coordination with the DPHSS' Health Professional Licensing Office  
29 (HPLO), shall collect and evaluate data on the implementation and success of this pathway  
30 to licensure, including, at a minimum:

31 (i) The number of applicants for licensure under this section;

32 (ii) The number of licenses issued and denied;

- (iii) Reasons for denial of applications
- (iv) The applicant’s licensing country and medical education background;
- (v) The number of Interim Provisional and Permanent Limited Licenses granted following completion of each pathway;
- (vi) The number of complaints or disciplinary actions involving ITP License holders;
- (vii) The specialties and practice settings of applicants; and
- (viii) The geographic distribution of licensees practicing in Guam.

(h) On or before December 1 of each year, the Board shall report the information collected pursuant to Subsection (g) to the Governor of Guam and the Speaker of the Guam Legislature.”

**Section 5.** A new § 12206.4 is added to Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

**“§ 12206.4. Determination of Need Requirement.**

As part of offering employment to an ITP, the hiring authority of the government of Guam funded healthcare facility such as the CEO/Administrator of GMH, the Director of the DPHSS, the Chief Executive Officer of the FQHCs as applicable, or the Director of GBHWC upon receiving approval, as applicable, from their respective board or council, shall demonstrate the need to hire an ITP to provide adequate coverage in the provision of medical care at their healthcare agency to the Board by filing a Determination of Need statement that includes the following attestations:

- (a) There are not sufficient individuals able, willing, qualified, and available at the location of employment with the government of Guam-funded healthcare agency at the time of the offer; and
- (b) The employment of the ITP will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of individuals similarly employed at the qualifying location.

A copy of the job offer for employment with the government of Guam-funded healthcare agency must be submitted to the Board, along with the filing of the Determination of Need statement.

**Section 6.** A new § 12206.5 is added to Article 2, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

- (a) The Board shall adopt rules necessary to issue an ITP License. The Board is authorized to develop the Internationally-Trained Physicians Interim Provisional Licence and Permanent Limited Licence pathway, to include, but not limited to, the rules

1 and regulations governing the application, supervision, management, and execution of the  
2 Internationally-Trained Physicians program. The Board shall be guided, at a minimum, by  
3 the latest Federation of State Medical Boards general competencies endorsed by the  
4 Coalition of Physician Accountability.

5 (b) The Board shall provide for the issuance of an ITP Interim Provisional  
6 License for a term not to exceed four (4) years from the date of issuance. An ITP may apply  
7 for a Permanent Limited License during the third year of the ITP's service. If granted, the  
8 Permanent Limited License shall be valid for the remainder of the initial four (4)-year term.  
9 It may be extended for one (1) additional term not to exceed two (2) years, for a total period  
10 not to exceed six (6) years.

11 (c) The Board shall work with government of Guam-funded healthcare  
12 facilities, starting with GMH and the HPLO of DPHSS, for the first eighteen (18) months  
13 following the enactment of this provision, to offer employment to an ITP at GMH. After  
14 the eighteen (18)-month period has elapsed, the Board shall accept applications from other  
15 government of Guam-funded healthcare facilities.

16 (d) The Board shall issue an Interim Provisional License or Permanent Limited  
17 License to ITPs who meet the requirements. The Board shall approve and grant exceptions  
18 to countries on a case-by-case basis, provided all other requirements are met, and it is  
19 evident that the employment of the ITP is to the benefit of the public.

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

24 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.