

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

VOTING RECORD

NAME	Yea	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent
	Bill No. 10-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Finance and Government Operations; and further amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building March 31, 2025			
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada	✓				
Senator Chris Barnett	✓				
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.	✓				
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja	✓				
Senator Shelly V. Calvo	✓				
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓				
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao	✓				
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	✓				
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓				
Senator William A. Parkinson	✓				
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	✓				
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane	✓				
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓				
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓				
Senator Therese M. Terlaje	✓				

TOTAL

15

0

Yea


Nay

Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

Absent

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



 RENNAE V. C. MENO
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

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Introduced by:

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Christopher M. Dueñas
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
William A. Parkinson
Shelly V. Calvo
Joe S. San Agustin
V. Anthony Ada
Telo T. Taitague
Frank F. Blas, Jr.

AN ACT TO *ADD* NEW §§ 4131 AND 4131.1 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFIT, AND TO REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that public safety and law enforcement officers of the government of Guam work
4 hard every day to protect life and property and preserve law and order; and these
5 employees are critical to the timely, proper, and effective enforcement of the U.S.

1 Constitution, the Organic Act of Guam, and all federal and local statutes and
2 regulations applicable to the safety and health of island residents.

3 *I Liheslatura* further finds that because of the physical and mental health
4 demands that are placed on public safety and law enforcement officers, policymakers
5 have taken major steps in recent years to incentivize retention and recruitment,
6 particularly in the face of competitive job opportunities offered by the private sector
7 and federal public safety and law enforcement agencies. In addition to funding
8 compensation adjustments for employees across Guam’s public safety and law
9 enforcement entities, *I Liheslatura* authorized employees to retire on a service
10 retirement annuity once they reach fifty-five (55) years of age and complete twenty-
11 five (25) years of service, or attain at least fifty-seven (57) years of age and complete
12 five (5) years of service; and eligible public safety and law enforcement employees
13 are no longer subject to early retirement penalties established for non-public safety
14 and law enforcement personnel.

15 Consistent with the spirit of the foregoing policies, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*
16 intends through this Act to recognize the dangerous work that is unique to our public
17 safety and law enforcement officers, and the support our government must provide
18 to families who lose their loved ones in the line of duty.

19 *I Liheslatura* is cognizant of death benefit policies that have been established
20 in other U.S. jurisdictions including, but not limited to, the Commonwealth of the
21 Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Rhode Island, and Vermont, which are available
22 for public safety and law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty. The
23 CNMI allows for a payment of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be made to
24 specified survivors of a law enforcement officer who has died as the direct and
25 proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty regardless of
26 employment status. The state of Rhode Island provides a law enforcement officer’s
27 surviving spouse and children with a one (1)-time death benefit equal to forty percent

1 (40%) of the current federal death benefit for law enforcement killed in the line of
2 duty. The state of Vermont authorizes a one (1)-time line-of-duty death benefit in
3 the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to the beneficiaries of all sworn law
4 enforcement personnel from the Vermont Department of Public Safety.

5 Accordingly, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish the Public
6 Safety and Law Enforcement Officers' Line of Duty Benefit and the Public Safety
7 and Law Enforcement Officers' Line of Duty Benefit Fund.

8 **Section 2.** A new § 4131 is *added* to Article 1 of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam
9 Code Annotated, to read as follows:

10 **“§ 4131. Public Safety and Law Enforcement Officers' Line of**
11 **Duty Death Benefit.**

12 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or
13 regulation, if the death of a public safety or law enforcement officer in
14 the line of duty qualifies for death benefits pursuant to the U.S.
15 Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance's Public Safety
16 Officers' Benefits Program or its successor program, the public safety
17 or law enforcement officer's survivor shall be entitled to a one (1)-time
18 death benefit of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the
19 government of Guam payable through the Public Safety and Law
20 Enforcement Officers' Line of Duty Death Benefit Fund.

21 (b) The one (1)-time death benefit provided in this Section
22 shall not reduce any other benefit that a public safety or law
23 enforcement officer may be entitled to pursuant to Guam law or
24 regulation.

25 (c) A death benefit issued pursuant to this Section shall not be
26 subject to reduction or offsets for debts owed by a public safety or law
27 enforcement officer to the government of Guam.”

1 **Section 3.** A new § 4131.1 is *added* to Article 1 of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam
2 Code Annotated, to read as follows:

3 “§ 4131.1. **Public Safety and Law Enforcement Officers’ Line of**
4 **Duty Death Benefit Fund.**

5 (a) There is hereby created, separate and apart from other
6 funds of the government of Guam, a reserve fund known as the Public
7 Safety and Law Enforcement Officers’ Line of Duty Death Benefit
8 Fund (Fund). The Fund shall not be commingled with the General Fund
9 or any other fund of the government of Guam. The Fund shall be
10 administered by the Department of Administration and maintained in a
11 separate bank account.

12 (b) The Director of Administration shall as the need arises
13 request for additional appropriations to the Fund to ensure adequate
14 funding to pay for benefits pursuant to § 4131 of this Article.

15 (c) The A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority
16 and the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port shall reimburse the
17 Fund for death benefits issued for public safety and law enforcement
18 officers from these agencies pursuant to § 4131 of this Article.

19 (d) The Fund shall not be subject to *I*
20 *Maga'håga's/Maga'låhi's* transfer authority, and funds herein shall
21 remain available until fully expended.”

22 **Section 4. Administrative Rules and Regulations.** The Department of
23 Administration shall, within ninety (90) days following the enactment of this Act,
24 develop rules and regulations for the administration of the Public Safety and Law
25 Enforcement Officers’ Line of Duty Death Benefit and the Public Safety and Law
26 Enforcement Officers’ Line of Duty Death Benefit Fund established by this Act.

1 **Section 5. Agencies Authorized to Expend Fiscal Year 2025 General**
2 **Fund Appropriations.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, public safety
3 and law enforcement departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government
4 of Guam are authorized to utilize their respective General Fund appropriations for
5 death benefits issued during Fiscal Year 2025 consistent with the requirements of
6 this Act. The A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority and the Jose D.
7 Leon Guerrero Commercial Port shall be responsible for funding death benefits for
8 public safety and law enforcement officers from these agencies in accordance with
9 the provisions of this Act.

10 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.