

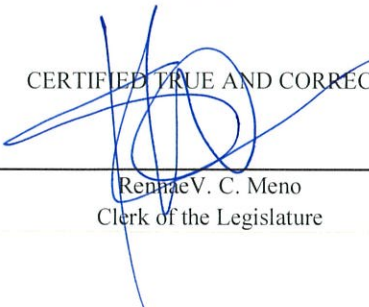
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session
VOTING RECORD

	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building December 5, 2025					
Bill No. 192-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs; and further amended on the Floor.						
NAME	Yea	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
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

14	0			1	1
Yea	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



 Renne V. C. Meno
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

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Introduced by:

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Therese M. Terlaje
William A. Parkinson
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Jesse A. Lujan
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
V. Anthony Ada
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Shelly V. Calvo
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
Vincent A.V. Borja
Joe S. San Agustin
Telo T. Taitague
Chris Barnett

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 67100, 67101, 67103, AND 67107
AND TO *REPEAL* § 67107.1 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10,
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE
APPOINTMENT OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICER AND MEMBERS OF THE GUAM VETERANS
COMMISSION, THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE
VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER, THE COMPOSITION
AND OPERATIONS OF THE GUAM VETERANS
COMMISSION, AND THE DEFINITION OF A
VETERAN.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that in 1970 P.L. 10-123 was enacted establishing the Guam Office of Veterans
4 Affairs (GOVA). In 2005, P.L. 28-46 was enacted establishing the Guam Veterans
5 Commission (Commission) to work collaboratively with the GOVA in meeting its
6 mandate to assist Guam’s Veterans in the filing of compensation claims for service-
7 connected disabilities and other benefits available to eligible Veterans and their
8 families. The Commission has since evolved to be the Voice of the Veterans
9 community.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that GOVA and the Commission must
11 work collaboratively so that the needs voiced by the Veterans community can be
12 duly prioritized and effectively addressed.

13 **Section 2.** § 67100 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
14 *amended* to read as follows:

15 **“§ 67100. Creation of Office.**

16 There is within the Office of *IMaga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* an Office
17 of Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Affairs Officer is the administrative head
18 of the Office of Veterans Affairs and is a member of the unclassified service,
19 appointed by *IMaga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* and with advice of the Guam
20 Veterans Commission.”

21 **Section 3.** § 67101 (c) of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
22 *amended* to read as follows:

23 “(c) A veteran means a person who served in the active military,
24 naval, air service to include and was discharged or released there from under
25 conditions other than dishonorable. Veteran includes veterans of the Guam
26 Combat Patrol, the United States Insular Force, Philippine Scouts of World
27 War II, and the United States Armed Forces.”

1 **Section 4.** § 67103 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated is
2 *amended* to read as follows:

3 **“§ 67103. Powers and Duties of Officer.**

4 The Officer:

5 (a) shall administer the Office and implement the provisions
6 set forth in § 67102 above;

7 (b) shall exercise and discharge the duties of the Office
8 through such organizational units as he may establish;

9 (c) shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter and of any
10 other laws granting him jurisdiction pertaining to veterans of the Armed
11 Forces of the United States;

12 (d) may administer and certify oaths and affirmations, take
13 and certify affidavits and acknowledgments, and exercise any other
14 power of a notary public, but only as part of his duties under this
15 Chapter and neither he nor his office shall charge any fee for such
16 certification or notarial service;

17 (e) may formulate and adopt rules necessary or proper for the
18 internal administration of the Office; and

19 (f) may study and plan for the establishment of a Guam
20 Veterans Cemetery, seeking such assistance, advice and support from
21 the Armed Forces of the United States, the Federal Veterans
22 Administration, other local and Federal agencies, and veterans and
23 veterans organizations.

24 (g) Shall receive and execute the policy recommendations of
25 the Guam Veterans Commission to the extent said recommendations
26 are not in contravention to existing law or directives.”

27 **Section 5.** § 67107 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated is

1 *amended* to read as follows:

2 **“§ 67107. Guam Veterans Commission.**

3 (a) Commission Membership. There is hereby established a Guam
4 Veterans Commission which *shall*, at a minimum, be composed of a total of
5 six approved Veteran organizations whose representatives to the Commission
6 are Veterans who have been nominated by their respective organizations and
7 approved by *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan*. The members shall include,
8 but are not limited to the following representation:

9 (1) A member, each of whom *shall* be representative of
10 veterans or retirees association for each branch of the U.S. Armed
11 Forces to consist of:

- 12 (A) U.S. Army;
- 13 (B) U.S. Marine Corps;
- 14 (C) U.S. Navy;
- 15 (D) U.S. Air Force;
- 16 (E) U.S. Space Force;
- 17 (F) U.S. Coast Guard.

18 (2) A member from the officially chartered Guam chapters of
19 multi-service Veteran Service Organization include but are not limited
20 to: the American Legion (AL), Military Order of the Purple Heart
21 (MOPH), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Vietnam Veterans
22 of America (VVA).

23 (3) Approved Veteran Organizations. Organizations to be
24 represented on the Guam Veterans Commission, pertaining to
25 Subsections (1) and (2), are required to be duly registered as a non-
26 profit organization with the Guam Department of Revenue and
27 Taxation, in accordance with Title 18 of Guam Code Annotated. The

1 organizations *shall* furnish the Guam Veterans Affairs Office (GOVA)
2 a copy of official documentation reflecting their non-profit status, a
3 current certificate of Good Standing, and a copy of the organization's
4 By-Laws. GOVA shall maintain a file of each organization represented
5 on the Commission; and

6 (4) *Ex-Officio* Members. With the recommendation of the
7 Guam Veterans Commission, *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* may
8 appoint as an *ex-officio*, non-voting member a veteran of a foreign
9 country who has fought alongside U.S. armed forces members as allies
10 in combat, who is a representative of an established allied veterans
11 organization on Guam which is compliant with §67107(a)(3), and is a
12 resident of Guam. Said veteran *shall* serve for a term of three years from
13 the date of appointment.

14 (b) Commission Membership Terms and Conduct of Business.

15 (1) Veteran Organization Nominations. The Commander, or
16 designee, of a Veteran Service Organization *shall* present in writing to
17 the Chairman of the Commission the names of two individuals, to be
18 transmitted to *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* for approval to the
19 Commission to represent their respective veteran organization, which
20 *shall* be subject to the aforementioned provisions. The nominating
21 Organization shall designate each nominee as the Primary and
22 Alternate representative, respectively.

23 (2) Terms of Commission Representatives. Every
24 representative to the Commission *shall* serve for a term of three years,
25 to commence on the date of approval by the Governor.

26 (A) Should the approved primary Commission
27 representative terminate his/her term prior to the conclusion of

1 the three years, the approved Alternate shall assume the Primary
2 representative position. In the event both approved
3 representatives terminate, the nominating Veteran Service
4 Organization *shall* nominate a successor to serve for the balance
5 of the three (3) year term, which *shall* commence upon the date
6 of approval by the Governor.

7 (B) Said nomination *shall* be in writing and presented to
8 the Chairman of the Guam Veterans Commission for transmittal
9 to *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan*, with a copy to be furnished
10 to the Veterans Affairs Officer of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

11 (3) Quorum Requirements. The presence of fifty percent
12 (50%) plus one of the appointed primary or alternate members shall be
13 required to establish quorum. For the official conduct of business, a
14 majority of the members present, following the constituting of a
15 quorum, *shall* be required to conduct official business.

16 (4) Meetings. The Commission *shall* meet at least once every
17 quarter. However, nothing herein prevents the convening of additional
18 meetings to deliberate on emergent issues.

19 (5) Conduct of meetings. The Commission shall conduct its
20 meetings in accordance with the Open Government Law, 5 GCA Chapter
21 8.

22 (6) Use of Video Teleconferencing. Commission members
23 may participate in regular meetings via video teleconferencing and in
24 accordance with 5 GCA § 43121. Participation of a member via
25 teleconferencing may be counted towards quorum requirements. The
26 Commission shall broadcast regular meetings in accordance with 5
27 GCA § 43122.

1 (7) Removal from Commission for Unexcused Absences. The
2 unexcused absences of a member from three (3) consecutive regular
3 meetings of the Commission shall constitute a cause for removal of the
4 member from the Commission, *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* may
5 thereupon remove the member from the Commission. The
6 determination of whether a member's absence is excused or unexcused
7 shall be made by the Commission.

8 (8) Veteran Community Participation. The Commission
9 *shall* provide veterans and their families the opportunity to present
10 grievances and concerns for the purpose of effecting corrective action
11 or change to existing policies that affect the delivery of benefits and
12 services to Guam's Veteran population.

13 (9) Administrative Support. The Guam Veterans Office
14 (VAO) through the direction of the Veterans Affairs Officer, shall
15 provide administrative support to the Guam Veterans Commission in
16 the conduct of its meetings.

17 (10) Ethics Training. Commission representatives shall
18 complete an ethics training within six months from the date of approval.

19 (11) Commission Duties and Responsibilities. The
20 Commission shall have the authority to:

21 (a) Develop appropriate policies to address the
22 concerns of all veterans;

23 (b) Recommend any legislation including budgetary
24 requirements which may be necessary for the implementation,
25 operation and maintenance of the Guam Office of Veterans
26 Affairs;

27 (c) Develop and adopt internal rules and procedures to

1 govern the conduct of the Commission and to facilitate
2 coordination with the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs;

3 (d) Perform all functions necessary to carry out the
4 provisions of this Chapter; and

5 (e) Submit a written report no later than May 1st of
6 each year to *I Maga'hågan/Maga'låhen Guåhan* and the Speaker
7 of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* summarizing the Commission's
8 activities, accomplishments, challenges, and plans to support the
9 Guam Office of the Veterans Affairs. The report shall also
10 include information regarding costs and agreements related to
11 veterans' claims data. All veterans' claims data shall be
12 consistent with federal-data sharing and privacy regulations.

13 (f) The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs is authorized
14 to provide resource and/or administrative support to fulfill the
15 Commission's expanded reporting and oversight
16 responsibilities.”

17 **Section 6.** § 67107.1 of Chapter 67, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby
18 *repealed* in its entirety

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

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