

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

Bill No. 199-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting; and further amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building December 5, 2025					
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

13

1

1

1

Yea

Nay

Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

Absent

Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



Rennae V. C. Meno
Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

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Introduced by:

Vincent A.V. Borja
Shelly V. Calvo
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
V. Anthony Ada
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Christopher M. Dueñas
Chris Barnett
Telo T. Taitague
Sabina Flores Perez
Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 27027 TO CHAPTER 27,
TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
ADDING A LIFETIME TEACHING CERTIFICATE FOR
EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS ON GUAM.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the dedication and long-term service of educators are crucial to the development
4 and strength of Guam's education system. Recognizing the contributions of teachers
5 with extensive experience promotes professional excellence, retains seasoned
6 educators, and encourages ongoing commitment to teaching. Many states and

1 jurisdictions have adopted lifetime or permanent certification options to honor
2 veteran educators who have demonstrated sustained dedication and expertise.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that in Guam, some teachers retire and
4 then let their certification lapse after 40 years of service, which can discourage them
5 from returning to the profession. The process of re-certification can be complex and
6 burdensome, deterring many experienced educators from rejoining the workforce
7 even if they are interested.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT)
9 President Tim Fedenko’s testimony on April 21, 2025, highlighted that efforts to
10 bring teachers back require strategies that recognize their service and make re-entry
11 easier. One effective approach used by other states is reinstating a lifetime certificate
12 for teachers who have achieved, for example, 25 years of dedicated service. This not
13 only honors long-standing educators but also provides a pathway for those close to
14 retirement or interested in continued service to remain or return to the classroom.

15 Therefore, it is the purpose of this legislation to establish a lifetime
16 certification for qualified teachers, serving as a token of appreciation, reducing
17 administrative barriers, and helping to retain experienced educators within Guam’s
18 schools.

19 **Section 2.** A new § 27027 is *added* to Chapter 27, Title 17, Guam Code
20 Annotated, to read as follows:

21 **§ 27027. Lifetime Teacher Certification Requirements**

22 (a) Minimum Qualifications. An individual shall be eligible for a
23 Lifetime Teacher Certification upon meeting the following requirements:

- 24 (1) Accumulation of at least twenty-five (25) years of verified,
25 and satisfactory teaching experience in a recognized educational
26 institution in Guam;

1 (2) Possession of a valid and current certification in the
2 relevant subject area or grade level; and

3 (3) Completion of any required professional development or
4 activities as prescribed by the Guam Commission for Educator
5 Certification (GCEC) prior to issuance.

6 (b) Issuance of Lifetime Certificate.

7 (1) Upon verification of eligibility, the Guam Commission for
8 Educator Certification (GCEC) shall issue a Lifetime Teacher
9 Certification to the qualified educator. The certification shall:

10 (A) Be valid for the educator's lifetime and shall not
11 require renewal; and

12 (B) Be subject to the following conditions:

13 (i) Lifetime Certificate holders shall report to
14 the GCEC every five (5) years to declare their intent to
15 continue teaching and disclose any background check
16 issues that may disqualify them from holding a valid
17 license; and

18 (ii) Submission of a satisfactory evaluation every
19 five (5) years; and

20 (iii) Required to participate in their school or
21 district professional development; and

22 (iv) Active participation in the Guam Teacher
23 Evaluation Program (GTEP), including completion of all
24 Guam Department of Education requirements for
25 maintaining professional standards, such as annual
26 evaluations, training sessions, professional growth
27 planning, and fulfillment of student outcome assessments.

1 (2) The Lifetime Teacher Certification shall be revoked if the
2 holder is found to have violated the professional code of conduct or
3 code of ethics, or if character assessments indicate disqualifying
4 violations.

5 (c) Lifetime Certification Eligibility for Recently Retired
6 Individuals.

7 Individuals who have retired in good standing within the last ten (10)
8 years and whose certification has since lapsed may be eligible to apply for a
9 lifetime certification within six months of the passage of this legislation.

10 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
11 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
12 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
13 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
14 severable.

15 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.