

I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

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Bill No. 158-31(cor)

Introduced by:

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. ✓

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AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN URGENT CARE CENTER FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES WITHIN THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PREMISES TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION AND COSTS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM, BY ADDING A NEW §80122 TO CHAPTER 80, DIVISION 4, TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

1        **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**  
2        **Section 1. Legislative Finding and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that a disproportionately high percentage of services being provided by the Guam  
4 Memorial Hospital Authority emergency room are dedicated to non-emergency  
5 medical services, as compared to normal, dedicated emergency room services.  
6 Further, these non-emergency medical services are more costly to provide within  
7 the setting of an emergency room, and should more appropriately be available  
8 through a private medical clinic, or, by way of an *Urgent Care Center*.

9        *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that whereas the government of Guam is  
10 mandated pursuant to the Organic Act of Guam to provide medical care services  
11 for the people of Guam, regardless of a patient's ability to pay or availability of  
12 medical insurance coverage. The cost of providing the requisite medical services  
13 can be reduced by establishing an urgent care center to address the non-emergency

1 medical needs of patients currently availing themselves of GMHA emergency  
2 room services and resources.

3 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide for and mandate the  
4 provision of urgent care center medical services within the GMHA facility  
5 premises, so as to alleviate the current strain being imposed upon the emergency  
6 room, and imposition of exorbitant costs against limited GMHA finances.

7 **Section 2.** A new §80122 is hereby added to Chapter 80 of Division 4, Title  
8 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

9 **“§80122. Urgent Care Center, Established.** The Guam Memorial  
10 Hospital Authority shall establish within the premises of the hospital facility an  
11 urgent care center for outpatient medical services. The urgent care center shall  
12 serve as a center to treat patients who have an injury or illness that requires  
13 immediate care, but are not apparently serious enough to require emergency room  
14 attention. The GMHA Urgent Care Center shall meet the criteria for urgent care  
15 centers as set forth by the Urgent Care Association of America (UCAOA) and shall  
16 be certified by this organization. The Administrator shall, upon approval by the  
17 GMHA Board of Trustees and in accordance with all relevant procurement laws,  
18 contract a licensed physician(s), or group of physicians, or private medical clinic to  
19 either lease and/or operate the functions of a Urgent Care Center within the  
20 hospital premises. The contract shall be for a term of up to five (5) years, but not  
21 less than three (3) years, renewable by mutual agreement for an additional term of  
22 up to five (5) year period, but not less than three (3) years.”

23 **Section 3. Hours of Operation.** The Urgent Care Center shall be open on a  
24 daily basis, inclusive of weekends and holidays. Hours of operation shall, at a

1 minimum, commence at 6:00 pm daily and shall remain open for a minimum of ten  
2 (10) hours or more per day.

3 **Section 4. Criteria for Urgent Care Center.** (a) The Urgent Care center  
4 shall meet the minimum criteria and requirements as set forth by the Joint  
5 Commission and the Urgent Care Association of America (UCAOA).

6 (b) The Urgent Care Center shall have all necessary medical personnel and  
7 resources to operate and maintain a fully functioning urgent care center for  
8 outpatient medical services, as deemed appropriate pursuant to applicable medical  
9 standards and estimated population demand criteria.

10 (c) The urgent care center shall be required to accept patients on the same  
11 basis, terms and conditions as the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, as  
12 mandated by the Organic Act of Guam relative to its requisite provision that the  
13 Governor of Guam shall ensure for the provision of medical and hospital care for  
14 the people of Guam. The urgent care center shall accept Medically Indigent  
15 Program patients and Medicaid program patients. This Section shall not be  
16 construed or interpreted to in any way impede the Urgent Care Center from  
17 collecting or seeking the collection of payment for medical services rendered.  
18 Patients shall be financially liable for medical services rendered as required  
19 pursuant by applicable law.

20 **Section 5. Effective Date, and Schedule of Implementation.** (a) This Act  
21 shall become effective upon enactment.

22 (b) The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) shall within six (6)  
23 months of enactment of this Act; (1) develop the Urgent Care Center criteria  
24 required to provide the medical services mandated pursuant to spirit and intent of

1 this Act, (2) identify and dedicate adequate, available space for the establishment  
2 of the urgent care facility, and, (3) announce and solicit a *Request for Proposals*  
3 pursuant to applicable procurement law relative to the availability of the  
4 opportunity to provide contractual services to manage and/or operate an urgent  
5 care center for outpatient medical services at GMHA.