

I MINA'TRENTA UNO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) REGULAR SESSION

Bill No. 278 31 (LS)

Introduced by:

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. 

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CREDENTIALING OF
QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS APPLYING FOR A DENTAL
LICENSE IN GUAM, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION
(c) TO §12411 OF ARTICLE 4, PART 1, TITLE 10, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED.**

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*

finds that Guam does not have a dental school and must, therefore, entice qualified dentists from accredited dental schools to practice in this jurisdiction. Moreover, Guam has a shortage of dentists when compared to most states in the United States. For instance, the State of Hawaii has 0.782 dentists per thousand people, and the State of California has 0.739 dentists per thousand people. In contrast, Guam has only .322 dentists per thousand people.

Credentialing is the process by which an applicant for a dental license can submit proof of certain education and experience in order to be granted a dental license. According to the website of the American Dental Association, “. . .*the majority of states grant licensure by credentials.*” In addition, the California Dental Association website confirms “. . .*34 states currently have statutory authority to implement licensure by credential.*”

1 Both California and Hawaii permit the licensing of dentists by
2 credentialing in lieu of requiring all dentists applying for a license to take a
3 clinical exam. Inasmuch as many of Guam's laws are based on California
4 statutes, and many of Guam's professionals are educated in the State of
5 California, it is in the interest of the public that Guam adopt a dental
6 credentialing statute modeled after the one used in California.

7 A 1997 study by the National Bureau of Economics Research found
8 that "tougher licensing does not lead to improved outputs, but does raise
9 prices." Thus, allowing qualified dentists to be credentialed to practice in
10 Guam will benefit the public because it will result in a greater number of
11 dentists practicing in our jurisdiction, more access to dental care, and lower
12 prices due to competition.

13 **Section 2.** A new Subsection (c) is hereby added to §12411 of Article
14 4, Chapter 12, Part 1, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

15 "(c) Notwithstanding §12411(a) and (b), the Board shall grant a
16 license to practice dentistry to an applicant who complies with the
17 requirements in §12410(a) through (d), and submits all of the following to the
18 board:

19 (1) A completed application form and all fees required by the
20 Board.

21 (2) Satisfactory evidence of having graduated from a dental
22 school approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
23 American Dental Association.

24 (3) Satisfactory evidence of having completed a clinically

1 based advanced education program in general dentistry or an advanced
2 education program in general practice residency that is, at minimum,
3 one year in duration and is accredited by the Commission on Dental
4 Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

5 (4) Satisfactory evidence of having successfully completed the
6 written examinations of the National Board Dental Examination of the
7 Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations.

8 (5) Proof that the applicant has not failed the examination for
9 licensure to practice dentistry under this chapter within five years prior
10 to the date of his or her application for a license under this chapter.”

11 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect immediately
12 upon enactment.