

MINA' TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2014 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 336 -32 (65)

Introduced by:

D.G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. 

AN ACT TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE, BY AMENDING §122317 AND §122318 OF ARTICLE 23, CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

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

that the members of the Guam Board of social Work require additional time to promulgate the requisite rules and regulation, as authorized pursuant to §122312 of Guam Social Work Practice Act, as enacted on Dec 10, 2012. However, the members of the Board were only recently nominated and confirmed in early 2014.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the statutory timelines by which existing, currently practicing social workers may obtain either *exemptions* or *exceptions* necessary for the renewal of their licenses will expire on June 10, 2014. This will effectively result in the inability of over two hundred (200) social workers from continuing their practice in the allied healthcare workforce. It will likewise negatively impact the thousands of clients requiring their services.

It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to accommodate the Guam Board of Social Work by extending the date by current social workers may obtain exemptions or exceptions for the renewal of their licenses, and to provide time during which they may promulgate their rules and regulations, as well as develop

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1 the requisite applications and forms required to conduct the business of the
2 program.

3 **Section 2.** The first paragraph of §122317 of Article 23, Chapter 12, Part 2,
4 Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *AMENDED* to read:

5 **“§ 122317. Exemptions.** Exemptions may be granted to non-social work
6 degree holders who are employed with the job title “social worker” or any
7 derivative thereof. Those granted a Certificate of Exemption by the Board would
8 be allowed to remain in their social work positions without a social work license.
9 Persons may apply for a Certificate of Exemption by December 10, 2015 or within
10 eighteen (18) months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later.
11 After the eighteen (18) months period has expired, no person shall be granted a
12 Certificate of Exemption. The Certificate of Exemption shall be effective
13 indefinitely the course of the person’s professional career.”

14 **Section 3.** §122318 - Exceptions, of Article 23, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10,
15 Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *AMENDED* to read:

16 **“§ 122318. Exceptions.** An exception is granted to any person meeting the
17 following conditions:

18 (a) a person who is employed or has retired with the job title “social
19 worker” or any derivative thereof and possesses a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Ph.D.
20 degree in the field of social work from an accredited or unaccredited social work
21 degree program as of the date of passage of this law. Those granted exceptions
22 must obtain a social work license by December 10, 2015, or within eighteen (18)
23 months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later;

1 (b) a person who self-identifies as a social worker and possesses a
2 Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D. degree in the field of social work from an accredited
3 or unaccredited social work degree program upon enactment of this Act. Those
4 granted exceptions must obtain a social work license by December 10, 2015, or
5 within eighteen (18) months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is
6 later; and

7 (c) a person who possess a non-social work degree, but possesses a degree
8 in a related social science, to include degrees such as psychology, sociology,
9 counseling, human relations and human services, political science, criminal justice,
10 and any other degrees as approved by the Board; and who self-identifies as a social
11 worker may apply for an exception to obtain social work licensure meeting the
12 following requirements:

13 (1) provide a written request for exception from licensure
14 requirements to the Board;

15 (2) provide a written declaration that they are individuals in good
16 standing based on satisfactory employment performance evaluations and
17 with no ethical complaints in the course of their employment with the job
18 title "social worker";

19 (3) sign a declaration statement that they will abide by the National
20 Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics;

21 (4) submit three (3) letters of verification; one (1) from their current
22 employer acknowledging that he/she is an individual in good standing, and
23 is highly recommended for employment with the job title, "social worker";
24 and

25 (5) obtain fifty (50) continuing education units (CEU) or certified
26 training contact hours approved by the Social Work Board in the field of

1 social work to include the following: the application of social work theory,
2 knowledge, methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or
3 enhance social, psychosocial, or bio-psychosocial functioning of individuals,
4 couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and training in
5 the social work Generalist Practice Model that includes assessment,
6 planning, intervention, evaluation, case management, information and
7 referral, counseling, supervision, consultation, education, advocacy,
8 community organization, and the development, implementation, and
9 administration of policies, programs, and activities. The fifty (50) CEUs or
10 certified training contact hours shall have no time or date limitations.

11 (d) All persons qualified for exceptions do not need to take the appropriate
12 licensure examination, but must conform to all other requirements consistent with
13 the appropriate level of licensure as prescribed in the law. Exceptions may only
14 be granted by the Board up until December 10, 2015, or within eighteen (18)
15 months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later.”

16 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become immediately effective
17 upon enactment.