

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2015 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 47-33 (COR)

Introduced by:

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas 

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AN ACT TO ESTABLISH FINANCIAL  
EDUCATION CURRICULUM WITHIN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY *ADDING A  
NEW §4110 TO CHAPTER 4 OF DIVISION 2, TITLE  
17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.*

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be referred to as the  
3 “Responsible Financial Education Act.”

4 Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
5 finds that students must be taught the knowledge and skills needed to  
6 make informed decisions regarding their financial resources and that a  
7 financial education curriculum will provide students with the  
8 competencies needed to be responsible citizens and consumers.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that four out of ten American  
10 workers are not saving for retirement according to the Organization for  
11 Economic Cooperation and Development and that less than one-third of

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1 young adults possess basic knowledge of interest rates, inflation, and risk  
2 diversification according to the Journal of Consumer Affairs.

3 *I Liheslatura* finds that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
4 supports implementing financial education requirements for graduation in  
5 each state.

6 *I Liheslatura* further finds that Public Law 16-76, although repealed,  
7 had established a financial education curriculum within the Department of  
8 Education to provide “citizenship competencies needed by the individual  
9 for effectively performing his decision-making roles as a consumer, a  
10 worker making career choices, and a voter on personal and societal  
11 economic issues.”

12 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds a pressing need of financial  
13 education in the Department of Education’s curriculum to inform youth on  
14 financially wise habits and decisions, especially as the spending power of  
15 today’s youth increases.

16 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that providing financial education will  
17 provide a strong foundation for students in the Department of Education to  
18 develop financial plans for their future and spur greater economic growth  
19 in Guam.

20 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Oklahoma, California, Florida,  
21 Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina have  
22 adopted financial education legislation last year. Bills have recently been  
23 introduced in twenty-four (24) additional states and territories to adopt

1 financial education and personal financial literacy programs in public  
2 schools.

3 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to establish financial  
4 education curriculum within courses offered in the seventh grade to the  
5 senior year of high school in Department of Education schools by *adding* a  
6 *new* §4110 to Chapter 4 of Division 2, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated.

7 **Section 4. Financial Education.** A *new* §4110 is hereby *added* to  
8 Chapter 4 of Division 2, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

9 **“§4110. Financial Education.**

10 (a) Personal financial literacy education *shall* be taught in  
11 the public schools of Guam. Personal financial literacy  
12 education *shall* include, but is not limited to, the following areas  
13 of instruction:

14 (1) Understanding interest, credit card debt, and on-  
15 line commerce;

16 (2) Rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a  
17 home;

18 (3) Savings and investing;

19 (4) Planning for retirement;

20 (5) Bankruptcy;

21 (6) Banking and financial services;

22 (7) Balancing a checkbook;

1 (8) Understanding loans and borrowing money,  
2 including predatory lending and payday loans;

3 (9) Understanding insurance;

4 (10) Identity fraud and theft;

5 (11) Charitable giving;

6 (12) Understanding the financial impact and  
7 consequences of gambling;

8 (13) Earning an income; and

9 (14) Understanding state and federal taxes.

10 (b) The Guam Education Board *shall*:

11 (1) Establish requirements for personal financial  
12 literacy for students to begin in the 2016-2015 school year.  
13 The requirements for personal financial literacy shall be  
14 satisfactorily completed and assessed as determined by  
15 the Guam Education Board, in all areas of instruction in  
16 personal financial literacy as listed in subsection (a) of  
17 this section.

18 (2) Identify and adopt curriculum standards for  
19 personal financial literacy instruction that reflect the areas  
20 of instruction listed in subsection (a) of this section. The  
21 standards *shall* be incorporated into the academic  
22 curriculum policies adopted by the Board pursuant to  
23 §4104(a) of this Chapter;

1 (3) Integrate personal financial literacy instruction  
2 into existing courses of study and determine into which  
3 courses each area of instruction listed in subsection (a) of  
4 this section *shall* be integrated; and

5 (4) Require that prior to graduation from a Guam  
6 public school, students take a comprehensive financial  
7 literacy skills assessment examination, which shall cover  
8 each of the areas of instruction listed in subsection (a) of  
9 this section.

10 (c) The Guam Department of Education *shall*:

11 (1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year,  
12 provide instruction in personal financial literacy to  
13 students. The Guam Education Board shall have the  
14 option of determining when each area of instruction listed  
15 in subsection (a) of this section shall be presented to  
16 students pursuant to subsection (c)(3) of this section;

17 (2) Develop guidelines and material designed to  
18 enable schools to infuse personal financial literacy within  
19 any course of study currently offered by the Guam  
20 Department of Education. The guidelines *shall* outline the  
21 areas of instruction to be taught based on the curriculum  
22 standards adopted by the Guam Education Board;

1 (3) Develop professional development programs  
2 that are designed to help teachers provide instruction in  
3 personal financial literacy and incorporate the curriculum  
4 into an existing courses; and

5 (4) Provide resources, which may include online  
6 modules, as applicable, for integrating the teaching of  
7 personal financial literacy into existing courses of study.  
8 Any on-line modules *shall* include an assessment  
9 component for each area of instruction listed in  
10 subsection (a) of this section.

11 (d) The Guam Department of Education *may* work with  
12 one or more organizations that have proven expertise in the  
13 development of standards and curriculum and delivery of  
14 professional development in personal financial literacy for the  
15 purpose of developing and providing guidelines, materials,  
16 resources, professional development, and may include online  
17 modules.

18 (e) The Textbook Selection Committee created in §4104(c)  
19 of this Chapter *may* select those textbooks which contain help  
20 achieve the financial literacy requirements of this section as  
21 adopted by the Guam Education Board."

22 **Section 5. Severability.** *If any provision of this Act or its application*  
23 *to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law,*

- 1 such invalidity *shall* not affect other provisions or applications of this Act
- 2 which *can* be given effect *without* the invalid provisions or application, and
- 3 to this end the provisions of this Act *are* severable.