


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

Bill No. 211-33 (COR)

Introduced by:

D.G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. 

AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 122317 AND 122318 OF ARTICLE 23, CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE TIMELINE FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE UPON THE PROMULGATION AND ENACTMENT OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Finding and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that the members of the Guam Board of Social Work continue to require additional
4 time to promulgate the requisite rules and regulation, as authorized pursuant to
5 §122312 of Guam Social Work Practice Act, as enacted on Dec 10, 2012, and
6 amended on June 24, 2014 (P.L. 32-167).

7 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the statutory timelines by which
8 existing, currently practicing social workers may obtain either exemptions or
9 exceptions necessary for the renewal of their licenses will expire on December 10,
10 2015. This will effectively result in the inability of over two hundred (200) social
11 workers from continuing their practice in the allied healthcare workforce. It will
12 likewise negatively impact the thousands of clients requiring their services.

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

1 develop 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 amended to read:

5 **“§ 122317. Exemptions.**

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

16 **Section 3.** §122318 of Article 23, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code
17 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

18 **“§ 122318. Exceptions.**

19 An exception is granted to any person meeting the following conditions:

20 (a) a person who is employed or has retired with the job title “social
21 worker” or any derivative thereof and possesses a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Ph.D.
22 degree in the field of social work from an accredited or unaccredited social work
23 degree program as of the date of passage of this law. Those granted exceptions
24 must obtain a social work license by upon promulgation and enactment of the

1 Rules and Regulations ~~December 10, 2015~~, or within eighteen (18) months of the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later;

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

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

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

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

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

23 (4) submit three (3) letters of verification; one (1) from their current
24 employer acknowledging that he/she is an individual in good standing, and

1 is highly recommended for employment with the job title, “social worker”;
2 and

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

15 (d) All persons qualified for exceptions do not need to take the appropriate
16 licensure examination, but must conform to all other requirements consistent with
17 the appropriate level of licensure as prescribed in the law. Exceptions may only be
18 granted by the Board up until the promulgation and enactment of the Rules and
19 Regulations as provided pursuant to this Chapter. ~~December 10, 2015, or within~~
20 ~~eighteen (18) months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later.~~

21 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to
22 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such
23 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be
24 given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the
25 provisions of this Act are severable.

1 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* become immediately effective
2 upon enactment.