



I Mina'Trentai Kuáttro Na Liheslaturan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
207-34 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin	AN ACT TO REORGANIZE AND RECLASSIFY THE ELIGIBILITY SPECIALISTS AND ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR PERSONNEL AS WELFARE PROGRAM SPECIALISTS AND PROVIDE FOR THE COINCIDING PAY GRADES WITHIN THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC WELFARE'S BUREAU OF ECONOMIC SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY ONE (\$122,761) DOLLARS FOR THE VARIANCE IN FUNDING REQUIRED FOR AFFECTED POSITIONS, AND THE FILLING	11/09/17 9:34 a.m.						

MINA' TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 207-34 (COR)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. 
Joe S. San Agustin 

AN ACT TO REORGANIZE AND RECLASSIFY THE ELIGIBILITY SPECIALISTS AND ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR PERSONNEL AS WELFARE PROGRAM SPECIALISTS AND PROVIDE FOR THE COINCIDING PAY GRADES WITHIN THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC WELFARE'S BUREAU OF ECONOMIC SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY ONE (\$122,761) DOLLARS FOR THE VARIANCE IN FUNDING REQUIRED FOR AFFECTED POSITIONS, AND THE FILLING OF VACANCIES.

2017 NOV -9 AM 9:34 

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Finding and Intent.**

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that there is a significant disparity in pay grade
4 versus the position mandates and responsibilities for the Eligibility Specialist
5 position series within the Division of Public Welfare's Bureau of Economic
6 Security (BES) of the Department of Public Health and Social Services. They
7 determine the eligibility for benefits for low-income individuals for the
8 Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program), the
9 cash assistance to families or individuals who qualify under the Temporary
10 Assistance for Needy Families, Aid to the Blind, General Assistance, Old Age
11 Assistance, and the Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled. They

1 additionally process and determine eligibility for medical assistance under the
2 Medicaid and the Medically Indigent Program and the Child Care Development
3 Fund.

4 Annually, the Eligibility Specialists' issue over \$110,000,000 in SNAP
5 benefits, and \$107,064,410 of medical costs (Medicaid and MIP combined) to an
6 estimated 50,000 low income-individuals under public assistance. Additionally,
7 BES provides cash benefits of \$3,832,908 to over 6,000 recipients. Every month,
8 BES is tasked with the processing of over 5,000 eligibility determinations which
9 include, the processing of new applications, processing of renewals, the interview
10 process, processing of periodic change reports and change reports, all while
11 entertaining and resolving the issues of over 3,000 office visits and attending to
12 over 500 calls.

13 Of the total of 36 budgeted positions, only fifteen (15) personnel occupy the
14 positions (41.7%), which cause delays, and occasionally results in inaccuracy of
15 the payment of benefits. There is a high turnover rate caused by early retirement,
16 resignation, and transfer as a result of the staff's burning out due to unbearable
17 stress. Notwithstanding the recruitment announcements for openings, very few
18 apply, largely due to the high stress and low pay grade for the position.

19 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* that the long-standing inequity in
20 position duties versus current pay grades shall be immediately and equitably
21 corrected.

22 **Section 2. Amendment of Position Title and Pay Grades for Eligibility**
23 **Specialist Positions to Welfare Program Specialist, within the Department of**
24 **Public Health and Social Services.**

1 (a) A new position by the title of Welfare Program Specialist is hereby
2 established and *shall* be immediately applied and *shall* replace the current position
3 title of Eligibility Program Specialist for all current Eligibility Program Specialist
4 personnel within the Bureau of Economic Security, Division of Public Welfare of
5 the Department of Public Health and Social Services. All current Eligibility
6 Program Specialists within the Division *shall* be retained as classified employees
7 under the new position title of Welfare Program Specialist.

8 (b) All existing vacant positions for the Eligibility ~~Program~~ Specialist, as
9 approved pursuant to the FY-2018 Budget Act, shall continue be authorized under
10 the new title of Welfare Program Specialist.

11 (c) The position pay grades for the new Welfare Program Specialist
12 positions within the Department of Public Health and Social Services *shall* be
13 immediately applied to the Welfare Program Specialist series, as follows:

14	Title	Approved Pay Grade
15	Welfare Program Specialist:	J
16	Welfare Program Specialist Supervisor	L

17 (d) Concurrent with the adjustment of paygrades pursuant to this Act, the
18 Department of Administration *shall* include in the application of the salary
19 adjustment, a corresponding continuance of the step to be applied relative to time-
20 in-service for existing Eligibility Specialist personnel, which *shall* be applied
21 without loss or reduction of current step status to their new Welfare Program
22 Specialist position, effective as of the date of enactment of this Act.

23 **Section 3.** The Department of Public Health and Social Services *shall*,
24 through the Department of Administration, immediately proceed for the
25 recruitment of the Welfare Program Specialist series (formerly Eligibility

1 Specialists) to fill any vacant positions, as authorized pursuant to the FY-2018
2 Budget Act.

3 **Section 4. Appropriation to Fund Salary Variance.** The Sum of One
4 Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One (\$122,761) is hereby
5 Appropriated from the Unencumbered Funds of the General Fund to the
6 Department of Public Health and Social Services to fund the salary variance
7 caused the Pay Grade adjustment pursuant to Section 2 of this Act.

8 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall be immediately effective upon
9 enactment.