



I Mina'Trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
30-34 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez Joe S. San Agustin	AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION § 1103 OF CHAPTER 1, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE MEDICAL REFERRAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE.	2/27/17 10:15 a.m.						

MINA' TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 30 -34 (COR)

Introduced by:

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

**AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION § 1103 OF
CHAPTER 1, DIVISION 1, OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE MEDICAL REFERRAL
ASSISTANCE OFFICE.**

2017 FEB 27 AM 10:15



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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Intent.**

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that the provision of assistance to Guam
4 residents in seeking medically necessary off island health care is needed and
5 valuable to successful health quality outcomes.

6 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the services provided by the Medical
7 Referral Office contract have evolved and many of the referral hospitals, insurance
8 companies and local not-for-profits are currently providing these services free of
9 charge. Besides the obvious duplication of services, the Government of Guam
10 contracted services are no longer wholly needed and are needlessly costing the
11 government.

12 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* however finds that not all residents can partake of the
13 free services currently available given their individual circumstances or eligibility
14 and thus the Medical Referral Assistance Office assistance function is still needed.

15 The intent of this Act is to provide a mechanism for the Medical Referral
16 Office to streamline operations, maintain high quality referral assistance and
17 enhance cost savings. The FY 2016 3rd Quarterly Report found that the average cost

1 per patient per quarter to the Philippines was \$407.15, Los Angeles averaged
2 \$693.52, and Honolulu averaged \$712.68.

3 In an effort to improve and maximize the services of the medical assistance
4 provided to residents seeking care off-island, *I Liheslaturan* Guåhan therefore
5 changes the criteria for eligibility and benefit coverage of referral services to reflect
6 current constraints and opportunities.

7 **Section 2.** Section § 1103. of Chapter 1, Division 1, of Title 10, Guam Code
8 Annotated is hereby *repealed and reenacted*, to read:

9 ~~“§ 1103. Medical Referral Assistance Offices. There are created Medical~~
10 ~~Referral Assistance Offices in Honolulu, Hawaii, in Los Angeles, California, and in~~
11 ~~Metro Manila, Philippines, which shall be within the responsibility of the Office of~~
12 ~~the Governor. The Offices shall assist in coordinating appropriate medical~~
13 ~~appointments, as well as coordinating temporary housing and transportation.~~

14 **§ 1103. Medical Referral Assistance Office.** There is created the Medical
15 Referral Assistance Office (MRAO) within the Office of the Governor. The MRAO
16 shall assist residents of Guam in coordinating appropriate medical appointments, as
17 well as coordinating temporary housing and transportation.

18 **§ 1103.1. Provision of Assistance.**

19 (a) The MRAO shall develop an eligibility algorithm that will apply to
20 those benefits a resident seeking off island care qualifies for. Residents with
21 commercial insurance benefits that cover transportation and lodging fees are not
22 eligible for direct assistance from the Government of Guam MRAO. They may
23 however qualify for education and coordination assistance.

1 **(b) The MRAO shall develop a Health Insurance Portability and**
2 **Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant quality improvement program that will**
3 **consist at a minimum of tracking patient issues and resolutions and a patient**
4 **satisfaction survey that shall be offered to each patient serviced. The MRAO or**
5 **contracted not-for-profit provider shall provide each patient a brochure explaining**
6 **the program and contact information. The MRAO or contracted not-for-profit**
7 **provider shall also provide appropriate information of the destination medical**
8 **facility, transportation organization, lodging facility and surrounding area.**

9 **(c) The MRAO shall develop and maintain reports that include number of**
10 **referred patients served, number of patient escorts or accompany family members**
11 **served, average cost per patient referral. The MRAO shall also maintain a monthly**
12 **report containing the following information:**

- 13 (1) **Name of patient.**
- 14 (2) **Gender and age of patient.**
- 15 (3) **Date of Referral.**
- 16 (4) **Date assisted.**
- 17 (5) **Name of accepting medical facility.**
- 18 (6) **Insurance provider.**
- 19 (7) **Number of escorts/family members.**
- 20 (8) **Departure date.**
- 21 (9) **Service rendered.**

22 **(d) The MRAO in providing assistance to Guam residents shall, to the**
23 **greatest extent practicable, coordinate with existing services provided by insurance**
24 **carriers, referring facilities and local not-for-profit organizations. These services are**
25 **provided free of charge and as such may only require verification of availability and**
26 **education of the resident utilizing the service.**

1 (e) For those residents that are not eligible for existing services provided
2 by insurance companies, referring facilities or local not-for profits, the MRAO may:

3 (i) Develop a request for proposal to provide assistance services
4 from a duly registered Guam based not-for-profit organization
5 that can provide such services including coordination of
6 appointments, transportation and lodging. This proposal shall
7 use a voucher type system to provide direct services to residents
8 seeking off island care. The contracted not-for-profit shall to the
9 greatest extent possible, coordinate with existing services
10 provided by insurance carriers and referring facilities for the
11 provision of transportation and lodging services. A limit of 15%
12 of the negotiated proposal is set for administrative overhead of
13 such a proposal.

14 (ii) Provide services through the development of memorandum of
15 understandings or individual contracts with required off island
16 transportation and lodging organizations to provide
17 transportation and lodging services. The MRAO shall develop
18 internal assistance policies and procedures to guide the operation
19 of the office. This function shall reside within the Guam based
20 MRAO and is subject to the 15% administrative overhead of the
21 approved budgeted amount appropriated in the Governor's
22 budget submission for the office.

23 **§ 1103.2. Term of Assistance.**

24 (a) The contract term, if this option is selected by the MRAO, with a local
25 duly registered Guam based not-for-profit shall run 5 years with annual renewal,
26 subject to availability of funds.

1 **(b)** If the MRAO chooses to provide assistance services “in house” the
2 funding for the provision of such services is subject to the budgeted 15%
3 administrative overhead (salary, equipment, supplies, etcetera) and is subject to the
4 availability of funds on an annual basis.”

5 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Law or its application to any
6 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
7 not affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given effect
8 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this
9 Law are severable.

10 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become immediately effective upon
11 enactment, and further provided, no government of Guam funding is authorized that
12 does not follow the provisions and methodologies provided pursuant to this Act.