

***I MINA 'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2020 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 330-35 (COR)**

As further Substituted on the Floor

Introduced by:

Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD  
Joe S. San Agustin

**AN ACT TO PERMIT ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL  
QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE 2020 PRIMARY  
ELECTION TO MITIGATE THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
RISKS CREATED BY COVID-19.**

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

2        **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that a public health crisis exists due to the ongoing novel coronavirus disease 2019  
4 (COVID-19) pandemic. However, the pandemic impacts our community in other  
5 ways as well. For some voters, it is the difficulty of ensuring childcare on the same  
6 day that caregivers will also need to vote. For other voters, it is worrying about the  
7 security of their jobs if they request to take time off from work to vote on the same  
8 day that their colleagues will be requesting time off to do the same. For some voters,  
9 it is being more vulnerable physically, therefore they may not be able to stand or  
10 wait in long lines at polling sites, which may put them at greater risk. And, for other  
11 voters, it is the worry and the stress of being potentially exposed to conditions that  
12 could allow the spread of COVID-19.

13        *I Liheslatura* also finds that the Center for Disease Control is encouraging  
14 voters to use voting methods that minimize direct contact with other people as there  
15 is currently no vaccine to stop the spread of the virus. Even with evolving protocols  
16 designed to reduce the risk of transmission, large gatherings of people standing in

1 even longer lines with lengthy waiting periods due to additional protocols at polling  
2 sites on a single day still pose a threat to public health.

3 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to protect the right to vote  
4 while also protecting the health and well-being of Guam voters, election officials,  
5 and polling site workers by permitting voters to vote in the 2020 primary and general  
6 elections during the thirty (30) day in-office absentee voting period to reduce the  
7 likelihood of spreading COVID-19.

8 **Section 2. Permitting Absentee Voting for All Qualified Voters.**

9 Notwithstanding 3 GCA § 10101, any qualified voter of Guam *may* vote in the 2020  
10 primary and general elections during the thirty (30) day in-office absentee voting  
11 period as provided for in 3 GCA § 10107.

12 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.