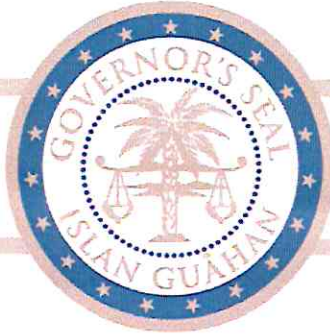


*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
<b>253-35 (COR)</b> As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing; and substituted and amended on the Floor.	Amanda L. Shelton Joe S. San Agustin Telena Cruz Nelson Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO AMEND § 28202 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 28, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO GRANDFATHERING EXISTING MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS MADE IN PUBLIC LAW 34-151 AND REQUIRING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT AWARD TO TUITION AND FEES, AND TO ALLOW FOR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR MERIT SCHOLARS.	11/25/19 1:40 p.m.	2/4/20	Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing	2/27/20 5:30 p.m.	11/9/20 11:12 p.m.  As Amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing	Request: 2/5/20  2/12/20	11/24/20 11:12 a.m.  Supplemental Document to the Committee Report on Bill No. 253-35 (COR), As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing
	<b>SESSION DATE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE PASSED</b>	<b>TRANSMITTED</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>PUBLIC LAW NO.</b>	<b>DATE SIGNED</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	
	11/16/20	AN ACT TO AMEND § 28202 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 28, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO GRANDFATHERING EXISTING MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS MADE IN PUBLIC LAW 34-151 AND REQUIRING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT AWARD TO TUITION AND FEES, AND TO ALLOW FOR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR MERIT SCHOLARS.	12/1/20	12/1/20	12/12/20	35-120	12/11/20	Received: 12/11/20 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 35GL-20-2502	

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HAGA • GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SIGUNDO MAGA'LAHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 11, 2020

**HONORABLE TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

*Speaker*

*I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

356E - 20 - 2502

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

DEC 11 2020

Time 5:25 (P.M.) ✓

Initiated By: Jh-

**Re: Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR) - An Act to Amend § 28202 of Article 2, Chapter 28, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Grandfathering Existing Merit Award Recipients from the Changes in Benefits made in Public Law 34-151 and Requiring the Application of the Merit Award to Tuition and Fees, and to Allow for Other Forms of Financial Aid to Cover Other Aspects of the Total Cost of Attendance, in Order to Ensure the Success of our Merit Scholars**

Dear Madame Speaker:

The merit scholarship program was designed to empower exemplary high school students to pursue higher education, in an effort to invest in a better future for our island. Public Law 34-151 required that federal Pell Grant benefits be applied to a student's tuition and costs before merit scholarship awards. However, students with existing awards were unable to access the same level of funding available at the time they first received their award, and some, particularly our students from lower income households, face a difficult challenge adjusting their existing need to the change in award structure and available funding. Substitute Bill No. 253-35, now known as **Public Law No. 35-120**, ensures that students with existing awards through these two programs will be able to continue their education with the same funding structure, so they may complete their education with the same support they and their families have come to rely on, and provides prospective recipients of both awards the ability to plan effectively for their futures.

*Senseramente,*

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**

*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Governor of Guam

Enclosure: Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR) *nka P.L. 35-120*

cc via email: *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*  
*Compiler of Laws*

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

**CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN**

This is to certify that **Substitute Bill No. 253-35 (COR) "AN ACT TO AMEND § 28202 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 28, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO GRANDFATHERING EXISTING MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS MADE IN PUBLIC LAW 34-151 AND REQUIRING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT AWARD TO TUITION AND FEES, AND TO ALLOW FOR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR MERIT SCHOLARS,"** was on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2020, duly and regularly passed.



**Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
Speaker

Attested:



**Amanda L. Shelton**  
Legislative Secretary

-----  
This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December,  
2020, at 4:33 o'clock P.M.



**Jessica Cruz**  
Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'håga's Office*

APPROVED:



**Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero**  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Date: 12/11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Public Law No. 35-170

Jessica Cruz  
RCUD AT CENTRAL FILE:  
DEC 1 '20 PM 4:33

2020-12257

***I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2019 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 253-35 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on General  
Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing;  
and substituted and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Telena Cruz Nelson  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
William M. Castro  
Régine Biscoe Lee  
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD  
James C. Moylan  
Louise B. Muña  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Clynton E. Ridgell  
Telo T. Taitague  
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Mary Camacho Torres

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 28202 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 28, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO GRANDFATHERING EXISTING MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CHANGES IN BENEFITS MADE IN PUBLIC LAW 34-151 AND REQUIRING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERIT AWARD TO TUITION AND FEES, AND TO ALLOW FOR OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR MERIT SCHOLARS.**

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

2       **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that Public Law 34-151 was passed by *I Liheslatura* on December 17, 2018, and

1 enacted into law on December 28, 2018, which changed the merit award benefit in  
2 law so that the Federal Pell Grant awarded to a student under 20 U.S.C. § 1070a of  
3 the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, would apply first before the merit  
4 award, which would pay the remaining tuition and fees to recipients at the University  
5 of Guam. However, merit award recipients were unaware of the bill or the public  
6 hearing, and the subsequent passage of the bill and the change in their benefits until  
7 August 2019.

8 This change significantly altered the financial status of many merit award  
9 recipients who had signed a contract with a certain financial aid formulation in mind.  
10 Many of them planned and counted on a stable amount of financial aid from the  
11 merit award; however, the application of the Federal Pell Grant on a variety of  
12 expenses in addition to tuition and fees, such as, books and supplies, room and board,  
13 and transportation, decreases the amount of aid, if any, received under the merit  
14 award. Because the merit award is applied toward tuition and fees, students may be  
15 unable to pay for rent or transportation expenses incurred as they travel to and from  
16 the University. This may also affect their graduate and doctoral pursuits.  
17 Furthermore, to change the award distributed while maintaining the years of service  
18 required without their consent is a clear violation of their contract; and many students  
19 had worked hard in high school in order to obtain the merit award with this benefit  
20 in mind.

21 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to have the merit award  
22 encompass the total cost of attendance to ensure that students on the current benefit  
23 schedule graduate with their expected benefit level.

24 **Section 2.** § 28202 of Article 2, Chapter 28, Title 17, Guam Code  
25 Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

26 **“§ 28202. Benefits.**

1 Students entitled to awards pursuant to this Article shall receive the  
2 following benefits:

3 (a) Tuition and Fees at the University of Guam and the Guam  
4 Community College. Tuition and fees for each academic year will be  
5 paid by the Student Financial Assistance Fund for a period of not more  
6 than four (4) years in an undergraduate program at either the University  
7 of Guam, or the Guam Community College, or both. Merit award  
8 recipients, including recipients that sign the University of Guam Merit  
9 Award Promissory Note and Merit Award Rules and Regulations  
10 contract effective as of the *Fanuchånan* Semester of 2020, who are  
11 eligible for and receive the Federal Pell Grant under 20 U.S.C. § 1070a  
12 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, shall have their merit  
13 award applied to their tuition and fees first for each academic year.

14 (b) Stipend. Award recipients are entitled to a monthly stipend  
15 to be disbursed in nine (9) monthly installments during the academic  
16 year, as follows:

17 (1) First Year and Second Year Students: Three  
18 Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per month.

19 (2) Third Year and Fourth Year Students: Five Hundred  
20 Dollars (\$500.00) per month.

21 (c) Allowance for Textbooks and School Supplies. Each  
22 student receiving an award under this Article beginning with students  
23 who sign the contract beginning in the *Fanuchånan* Semester of 2020  
24 at the University of Guam or the Guam Community College shall be  
25 entitled to an additional Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350.00) per  
26 semester for textbooks and school supplies.

27 (d) Optional Inter-Session Allowed.

1                   (1) Summer Semester. Each student shall be entitled to  
2 tuition for full time enrollment, fees, and textbooks.

3                   (2) Between Fall and Spring Semesters. Each student  
4 shall be entitled for tuition for full time enrollment, fees, and  
5 textbooks. Students attending inter-session between Fall and  
6 Spring Semesters shall not be entitled to an additional stipend.”