

I Mina'trentai Sais 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
227-36 (COR) As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing; and further amended in the Committee of the Whole.	Amanda L. Shelton Telena Cruz Nelson Joe S. San Agustin Jose "Pedro" Terlaje James C. Moylan V. Anthony Ada Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT IN HELPING VETERANS ACCESS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE, THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."	11/30/21 6:13 p.m.	12/1/21	Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing	12/13/21 6:00 p.m.	2/10/22 4:49 p.m.	Request: 12/2/21 12/15/21	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES	
	2/18/22	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT."	2/25/22	2/28/22	3/11/22	36-84	3/11/22	Received: 3/11/22 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 36GL-22-1744	

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

36GL-22-1744
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE

March 11, 2022

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE, *Speaker*
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
36th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

-03-11-2022

Time: 5:13pm

Received:

Re: BILL NO. 227-36 (COR) – AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT*”

Hafa Adai Madame Speaker,

For too long, our veterans have had difficulty navigating the complex network of agencies responsible for assisting Veterans in obtaining the benefits they earned through their selfless service to Guam and our nation. The passage of Bill No. 227-26, which codifies the Securing and Ensuring the Rights Veterans Earned (SERVE) Act, is the first step in fulfilling our sacred obligation to care for our veterans and help them with their transition back into civilian life. The SERVE act provides Veterans with a single source of assistance in identifying the benefits they are entitled to receive here on Guam. I encourage all of the agencies providing services to our veterans to work closely with the Office of Veterans Affairs to ensure efficient implementation of the SERVE act. I hereby sign Bill No. 227-26 in law as ***Public Law No. 36-84***.

Senseremente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

March 14, 2022


8:00 A.M.

Enclosure: Bill No. 227-36 (COR) *nka P.L. No. 36-84*
cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*
Compiler of Laws


I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session

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


This is to certify that Bill No. 227-36 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT," was on the 25th day of February 2022, duly and regularly passed.

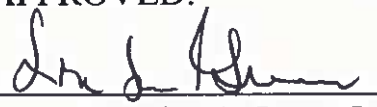

Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

Attested:


Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 28th day of Feb.,
2022, at 4:10 o'clock P.M.


Marilyn
Tablante
Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 3/11/2022

Public Law No. 36-84

2022-15952

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 227-36 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations, and Housing; and further amended
in the Committee of the Whole.

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton
Telena Cruz Nelson
Joe S. San Agustin
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
James C. Moylan
V. Anthony Ada
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Frank Blas Jr.
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Sabina Flores Perez
Clynton E. Ridgell
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje
Mary Camacho Torres

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.*"

1 This Act shall be cited as the “Securing and Ensuring the Rights Veterans
2 Earned (SERVE) Act.”

3 **§ 67201. Guam Office of Veterans Affairs as Lead Agency.**

4 All references to “Office” in this Act shall mean the Guam Office of Veterans
5 Affairs established under this Chapter, which shall be the agency responsible for
6 implementing the provisions of the Veterans Bill of Rights and this Act. In the
7 development of programs and services under this Act, the Office shall consider the
8 input of the Guam Veterans Commission.

9 The Office may apply for, receive, and administer grants or subgrants, or enter
10 into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to provide services to
11 veterans, as defined pursuant to local or federal laws, regulations, or guidelines. The
12 Office is authorized to comply with the requirements of federal grants, subgrants,
13 and intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements, to include the provision
14 of services to individuals who may qualify for such services pursuant to the terms of
15 federal grants, subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-governmental
16 agreements.

17 **§ 67202. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

18 (a) Housing Assistance.

19 (1) Increase veterans’ access to housing assistance by streamlining
20 processes through inter-governmental and intra-governmental partnerships.

21 (A) The Office shall target housing programs and streamline
22 federal and local processes to expedite and reward applicants through
23 interagency Memoranda of Understanding or Memoranda of
24 Agreement.

25 (b) Employment Support.

26 (1) Increase veterans’ access to jobs by applying data to direct
27 veterans to in-demand fields.

1 (A) The Office shall create and produce electronic reports of
2 workforce need projections, by industry, job type, geography, and
3 needed credentials; including a comparison of workforce needs with
4 existing and projected workforce and credential availability; and
5 highlight top in-demand industries, job types, and credentials.

6 (B) The Office shall include in its report(s) a pathway where
7 in-demand job titles and credentials would leverage skills, experience,
8 and credentials held by veterans; and forward the underlying data
9 report(s) and additional information monthly to appropriate military
10 outplacement offices, education centers, non-profit programs, and
11 government agencies working to connect veterans with jobs.

12 (c) Higher Learning Opportunities.

13 (1) Award college credit from military training and experiences.

14 (A) Every veteran who is enrolled as a full-time or part-time
15 student in good standing at any institution within the local university
16 system and community college system, shall, upon application, be
17 granted academic credits, without limitation, towards his or her degree
18 for completion of courses that were part of such veteran's military
19 training or service if the completed courses meet the standards of the
20 local institution that are equivalent to or greater than the standards set
21 by the American Council on Education for the awarding of academic
22 credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed against a
23 veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this Subsection.

24 (B) The Office shall adopt procedures as necessary to fully
25 implement the provisions in this Section.

26 (2) Increase flexibility in course registration for veterans.

1 (A) At institutions within the local university system and
2 community college system:

3 (i) Institutions that offer an early course registration
4 period for any segment of the student population shall have a
5 process in place to offer early course registration to students who
6 are veterans or National Guard members.

7 (ii) A student who is called to active duty in the U.S.
8 Armed Forces after having regularly attended a course for
9 thirteen (13) or more weeks or having completed eighty-five
10 percent (85%) of the course's work for the term through
11 acceleration may be given credit for each course in which he or
12 she has a letter grade of "C" or better.

13 (iii) Students called to active duty may be entitled to a
14 one hundred percent (100%) refund of tuition and fees if no
15 accommodation(s) are provided by the educational institution.

16 (iv) Veterans with no previous college experience shall
17 be permitted an extension of one (1) week to file applications
18 after the end of the registration period and allowed to begin
19 classes pending completion of their application and provision of
20 supporting documents with the clearance of the institutions'
21 admissions and records office.

22 (v) Upon return from active duty, veterans may register
23 after the normal registration period ends, without late fees or
24 other penalties.

25 (3) Leverage veterans' experiences and expand proven cost-
26 effective training programs.

1 (A) The Office shall annually review apprentice, training, and
2 other vocational programs focused on providing job training and
3 placement to returning military service members and veterans. Such
4 annual review shall evaluate the costs and results, and recommend
5 programs for expansion with federal and/or local funding, including an
6 estimate of future returns to Guam, of improved outcomes from
7 program expansion.

8 (B) The Office shall provide an annual report to the Speaker
9 of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* on January 1 of
10 each year for five (5) years after the passage of this Act, to be used to
11 inform annual budget decisions.

12 (d) Access to Healthcare.

13 (1) Increase veterans' access to healthcare through eligible
14 healthcare coverage and treatment based on service.

15 (A) The Office shall develop and operate veteran health
16 navigator services to increase veteran access to healthcare coverage and
17 services.

18 (i) The Office shall identify, train, and deploy veteran
19 health navigators who have direct knowledge of the veteran
20 communities they serve.

21 (ii) Veteran health navigators shall identify all federal
22 and other healthcare benefits, coverage, and services available to
23 veterans and their families.

24 (iii) Veteran health navigators shall coordinate with
25 relevant departments, healthcare providers, and health insurance
26 programs to help veterans and their beneficiaries apply for
27 coverage under such programs, and help veterans overcome

1 barriers within the healthcare system to ensure enrollment in
2 healthcare plans and effective delivery and coordination of
3 healthcare services.

4 (2) Prevent veteran suicide and increase veterans' access to mental
5 health services.

6 (A) Ensure veterans and their families have access to mental
7 health treatment, including for post-traumatic stress disorder,
8 depression, suicide, and suicidal ideation.

9 (i) Ensure that access to mental health coverage,
10 services, and treatment is included as a holistic approach of the
11 veteran health navigator program described in Subsection
12 (d)(1)(A) of this Section. Based on the information about the
13 unique needs, coverage, and treatment gaps faced by veterans
14 and their families, the Office shall examine all existing programs
15 designed to increase access to affordable quality healthcare and
16 evaluate whether the needs of veterans and their families are met
17 by such programs.

18 (ii) The Office shall execute any steps identified in
19 Subsection (d)(2)(A)(i) of this Section and produce a report of its
20 findings, recommendations, to include any recommended
21 legislative or budgetary actions; and, shall transmit the report to
22 the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I Maga'hågan*
23 *Guåhan*, and release it to news media.

24 (iii) The Office shall prepare a report showing the
25 impacts of Medicaid expansion on veterans and their families to
26 date and shall include any recommendations for more inclusion
27 or serving veterans and their families; and, shall transmit such

1 report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I*
2 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and release it to the news media.

3 (e) Burial Benefits pursuant to 10 GCA § 67105.”

4 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
5 (\$500,000) from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit
6 reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of Chapter 77,
7 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and Section 9625(a) of U.S. Public Law 117-2, the
8 American Rescue Plan Act or the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Unappropriated
9 Revenues, is hereby appropriated to the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs for its
10 operations and the implementation of programs and services under this Act for Fiscal
11 Year 2022. This appropriation shall be available until fully expended.

12 **Section 4. Implementation.** The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs shall
13 have one (1) year from the effective date of this Act to implement programs and
14 services, and any other mandates under the Veterans Bill of Rights as established by
15 this Act.

16 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
18 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
20 severable.

21 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

Speaker's Office Received	COR Received via Email	Doc. No.	Messages and Communications Doc. Title	Agency	SENT TO CLERKS
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:01 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M. (Hard Copy)	36GL-22-1739	Executive Order No. 2022-06: Relative to Rescinding Vaccination Requirements for Government of Guam Executive Branch Employees and Amending Outdoor Social Gathering Restrictions*.	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/11/22 5:12 P.M. (Electronic) 3/15/22 9:14 A.M. (Hard Copy)
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M.	36GL-22-1742	Bill No. 172-36 (LS) nka P.L. No. 36-82 - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,500,000) FROM 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND/OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REVITALIZATION AND RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC FRANCISCO Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE HUMATAK MAYOR'S OFFICE*.	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/15/22 9:14 A.M.
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M.	36GL-22-1743	Substitute Bill No. 151-36 (COR) nka P.L. No. 36-83 - AN ACT TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 OF CHAPTER 66, TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING THE PROCESS AND PENALTIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH UNSAFE AND DERELICT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES*.	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/15/22 9:14 A.M.
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M.	36GL-22-1744	Bill No. 227-36 (COR) nka P.L. No. 36-84 - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT".	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/15/22 9:14 A.M.
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M.	36GL-22-1745	Bill No. 223-36 (COR) nka P.L. No. 36-85 - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 849.15 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 8, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DESIGNATING ROUTE 3 AS "BG BEN BLAZ MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/15/22 9:14 A.M.
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M.	36GL-22-1746	Bill No. 170-36 (LS) nka P.L. No. 36-86 - AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT AND/OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM UNIQUE MERCHANDISE AND ART (GUMA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INCUBATED BUSINESSES GRADUATES OF THE GUMA PROGRAM*.	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/15/22 9:14 A.M.
3/11/22 4:19 P.M. (Electronic) 3/11/22 5:13 P.M. (Hard Copy)	3/11/22 5:48 P.M. 3/14/22 8:00 A.M.	36GL-22-1747	Substitute Bill No. 194-36 (COR) lapsed into law and is nka P.L. No. 36-87 - AN ACT TO AMEND § 14101 AND REPEAL AND REENACT § 14102 OF CHAPTER 14, DIVISION 4, TITLE 8, GUAM ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS, RELATIVE TO THE GUAM INVASIVE SPECIES INSPECTION FEE AND ASSESSMENTS*.	Office of the Governor of Guam	3/15/22 9:14 A.M.

3/15/22
4:46
10:55 AM KC

3/15/22
10:55 AM KC

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

36GL-22-1744
**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE**

March 11, 2022

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE, *Speaker*
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
36th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

-03-11-2022

Time: 5:13pm

Received:

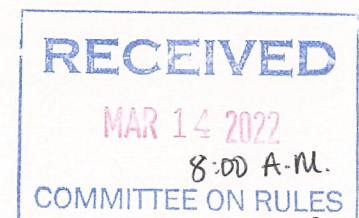
Re: **BILL NO. 227-36 (COR) – AN ACT TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT”**

Hafa Adai Madame Speaker,

For too long, our veterans have had difficulty navigating the complex network of agencies responsible for assisting Veterans in obtaining the benefits they earned through their selfless service to Guam and our nation. The passage of Bill No. 227-26, which codifies the Securing and Ensuring the Rights Veterans Earned (SERVE) Act, is the first step in fulfilling our sacred obligation to care for our veterans and help them with their transition back into civilian life. The SERVE act provides Veterans with a single source of assistance in identifying the benefits they are entitled to receive here on Guam. I encourage all of the agencies providing services to our veterans to work closely with the Office of Veterans Affairs to ensure efficient implementation of the SERVE act. I hereby sign Bill No. 227-26 in law as **Public Law No. 36-84**.

Senseremente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

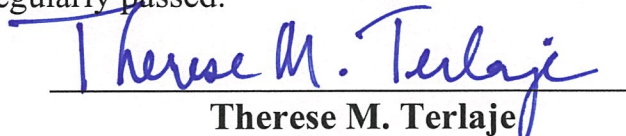


Enclosure: Bill No. 227-36 (COR) *nka P.L. No. 36-84*
cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*
Compiler of Laws

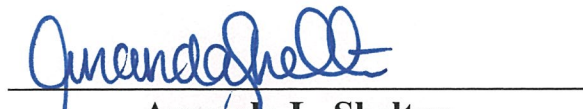
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session

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

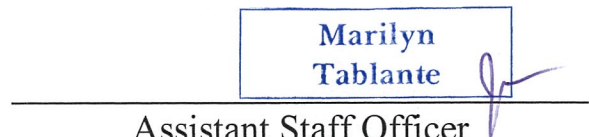
This is to certify that **Bill No. 227-36 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT*," was on the 25th day of February 2022, duly and regularly passed.


Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

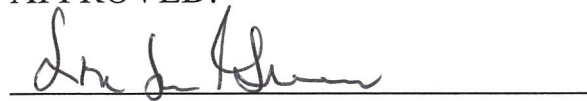
Attested:


Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 27th day of Feb.,
2022, at 4:10 o'clock p..M.


Marilyn
Tablante
Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:


Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 3/11/2022

Public Law No. 36-84

2022-15952

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 227-36 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations, and Housing; and further amended
in the Committee of the Whole.

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton
Telena Cruz Nelson
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Therese M. Terlaje
Mary Camacho Torres

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.*"

1 This Act shall be cited as the “Securing and Ensuring the Rights Veterans
2 Earned (SERVE) Act.”

3 **§ 67201. Guam Office of Veterans Affairs as Lead Agency.**

4 All references to “Office” in this Act shall mean the Guam Office of Veterans
5 Affairs established under this Chapter, which shall be the agency responsible for
6 implementing the provisions of the Veterans Bill of Rights and this Act. In the
7 development of programs and services under this Act, the Office shall consider the
8 input of the Guam Veterans Commission.

9 The Office may apply for, receive, and administer grants or subgrants, or enter
10 into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to provide services to
11 veterans, as defined pursuant to local or federal laws, regulations, or guidelines. The
12 Office is authorized to comply with the requirements of federal grants, subgrants,
13 and intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements, to include the provision
14 of services to individuals who may qualify for such services pursuant to the terms of
15 federal grants, subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-governmental
16 agreements.

17 **§ 67202. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

18 (a) Housing Assistance.

19 (1) Increase veterans’ access to housing assistance by streamlining
20 processes through inter-governmental and intra-governmental partnerships.

21 (A) The Office shall target housing programs and streamline
22 federal and local processes to expedite and reward applicants through
23 interagency Memoranda of Understanding or Memoranda of
24 Agreement.

25 (b) Employment Support.

26 (1) Increase veterans’ access to jobs by applying data to direct
27 veterans to in-demand fields.

1 (A) The Office shall create and produce electronic reports of
2 workforce need projections, by industry, job type, geography, and
3 needed credentials; including a comparison of workforce needs with
4 existing and projected workforce and credential availability; and
5 highlight top in-demand industries, job types, and credentials.

6 (B) The Office shall include in its report(s) a pathway where
7 in-demand job titles and credentials would leverage skills, experience,
8 and credentials held by veterans; and forward the underlying data
9 report(s) and additional information monthly to appropriate military
10 outplacement offices, education centers, non-profit programs, and
11 government agencies working to connect veterans with jobs.

12 (c) Higher Learning Opportunities.

13 (1) Award college credit from military training and experiences.

14 (A) Every veteran who is enrolled as a full-time or part-time
15 student in good standing at any institution within the local university
16 system and community college system, shall, upon application, be
17 granted academic credits, without limitation, towards his or her degree
18 for completion of courses that were part of such veteran's military
19 training or service if the completed courses meet the standards of the
20 local institution that are equivalent to or greater than the standards set
21 by the American Council on Education for the awarding of academic
22 credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed against a
23 veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this Subsection.

24 (B) The Office shall adopt procedures as necessary to fully
25 implement the provisions in this Section.

26 (2) Increase flexibility in course registration for veterans.

1 (A) At institutions within the local university system and
2 community college system:

3 (i) Institutions that offer an early course registration
4 period for any segment of the student population shall have a
5 process in place to offer early course registration to students who
6 are veterans or National Guard members.

7 (ii) A student who is called to active duty in the U.S.
8 Armed Forces after having regularly attended a course for
9 thirteen (13) or more weeks or having completed eighty-five
10 percent (85%) of the course's work for the term through
11 acceleration may be given credit for each course in which he or
12 she has a letter grade of "C" or better.

13 (iii) Students called to active duty may be entitled to a
14 one hundred percent (100%) refund of tuition and fees if no
15 accommodation(s) are provided by the educational institution.

16 (iv) Veterans with no previous college experience shall
17 be permitted an extension of one (1) week to file applications
18 after the end of the registration period and allowed to begin
19 classes pending completion of their application and provision of
20 supporting documents with the clearance of the institutions'
21 admissions and records office.

22 (v) Upon return from active duty, veterans may register
23 after the normal registration period ends, without late fees or
24 other penalties.

25 (3) Leverage veterans' experiences and expand proven cost-
26 effective training programs.

1 (A) The Office shall annually review apprentice, training, and
2 other vocational programs focused on providing job training and
3 placement to returning military service members and veterans. Such
4 annual review shall evaluate the costs and results, and recommend
5 programs for expansion with federal and/or local funding, including an
6 estimate of future returns to Guam, of improved outcomes from
7 program expansion.

8 (B) The Office shall provide an annual report to the Speaker
9 of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* on January 1 of
10 each year for five (5) years after the passage of this Act, to be used to
11 inform annual budget decisions.

12 (d) Access to Healthcare.

13 (1) Increase veterans' access to healthcare through eligible
14 healthcare coverage and treatment based on service.

15 (A) The Office shall develop and operate veteran health
16 navigator services to increase veteran access to healthcare coverage and
17 services.

18 (i) The Office shall identify, train, and deploy veteran
19 health navigators who have direct knowledge of the veteran
20 communities they serve.

21 (ii) Veteran health navigators shall identify all federal
22 and other healthcare benefits, coverage, and services available to
23 veterans and their families.

24 (iii) Veteran health navigators shall coordinate with
25 relevant departments, healthcare providers, and health insurance
26 programs to help veterans and their beneficiaries apply for
27 coverage under such programs, and help veterans overcome

1 barriers within the healthcare system to ensure enrollment in
2 healthcare plans and effective delivery and coordination of
3 healthcare services.

4 (2) Prevent veteran suicide and increase veterans' access to mental
5 health services.

6 (A) Ensure veterans and their families have access to mental
7 health treatment, including for post-traumatic stress disorder,
8 depression, suicide, and suicidal ideation.

9 (i) Ensure that access to mental health coverage,
10 services, and treatment is included as a holistic approach of the
11 veteran health navigator program described in Subsection
12 (d)(1)(A) of this Section. Based on the information about the
13 unique needs, coverage, and treatment gaps faced by veterans
14 and their families, the Office shall examine all existing programs
15 designed to increase access to affordable quality healthcare and
16 evaluate whether the needs of veterans and their families are met
17 by such programs.

18 (ii) The Office shall execute any steps identified in
19 Subsection (d)(2)(A)(i) of this Section and produce a report of its
20 findings, recommendations, to include any recommended
21 legislative or budgetary actions; and, shall transmit the report to
22 the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I Maga'hågan*
23 *Guåhan*, and release it to news media.

24 (iii) The Office shall prepare a report showing the
25 impacts of Medicaid expansion on veterans and their families to
26 date and shall include any recommendations for more inclusion
27 or serving veterans and their families; and, shall transmit such

1 report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I*
2 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and release it to the news media.

3 (e) Burial Benefits pursuant to 10 GCA § 67105.”

4 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
5 (\$500,000) from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit
6 reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of Chapter 77,
7 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and Section 9625(a) of U.S. Public Law 117-2, the
8 American Rescue Plan Act or the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Unappropriated
9 Revenues, is hereby appropriated to the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs for its
10 operations and the implementation of programs and services under this Act for Fiscal
11 Year 2022. This appropriation shall be available until fully expended.

12 **Section 4. Implementation.** The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs shall
13 have one (1) year from the effective date of this Act to implement programs and
14 services, and any other mandates under the Veterans Bill of Rights as established by
15 this Act.

16 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
18 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
20 severable.

21 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.