


I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 109-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Committee on Maritime
and Air Transportation,
Parks, Tourism, Higher
Education, and the
Advancement of Women,
Youth, and Senior Citizens 
by request of *I Kongressun*
Manhoben Guåhan, the Guam
Youth Congress, in accordance
with 2 GCA §7102.

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 4124(b)(3) AND (4) TO
CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,
RELATIVE TO PROVIDING PARITY BY CREATING AN
EXEMPTION FROM COMPLETING THE FULL
SEVENTY-FIVE (75) HOURS OF SERVICE LEARNING
REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024 AND INSTEAD
REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF THIRTY-FIVE (35)
HOURS OF SERVICE LEARNING AND FOR
GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
YEAR 2024-2025 AND INSTEAD REQUIRE THE
COMPLETION OF FIFTY-FIVE (55) HOURS OF
SERVICE LEARNING.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that Public Law 30-53, codified at § 4124(b) of Chapter 4, Title 17, Guam Code
4 Annotated, requires Guam Department of Education (G.D.O.E.) high school

1 students to complete seventy-five (75) hours of service learning in order to graduate
2 from high school beginning with the ninth (9th) grade class during School Year
3 2011-2012.

4 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also finds that on April 29, 2022, *I Mina'trentai Sais*
5 *Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* duly and regularly passed Bill 287-36 and was signed into
6 law on the May 13, 2022, by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* as Public Law 36-96, which
7 exempted graduating high school students for School Years 2021-2022 and 2022-
8 2023 from the full seventy-five (75) hours of service learning requirement, set forth
9 by 17 GCA § 4124(b), due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that the ill-effects of the COVID-19
11 pandemic and the ensuing public health emergency, which had begun on March 14,
12 2020, at the onset of the pandemic and ended on January 6, 2023, has affected the
13 education of the island's students, many of whom had been unable to physically
14 participate in service activities during School Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, to
15 include the graduating high school students of School Years 2023- 2024 and 2024-
16 2025, who were excluded from the effects of Public Law 36-96, as governmental
17 entities, non-profit organizations, and community partners refrained from offering
18 many service learning opportunities as the island slowly lifted its pandemic
19 restrictions.

20 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the opening of full and only face-to-
21 face learning in School Year 2022-2023 and the conclusion of the public health
22 emergency by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* on January 6, 2023, serves as a proper point
23 in the return to normalcy for the education of our island's students and as an
24 appropriate time for students to fully comply with the provisions set forth in 17 GCA
25 § 4124(b). Thus, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide parity by
26 creating an exemption for all graduating high school students for School Year 2023-
27 2024, who had been the ninth (9th) grade and tenth (10th) grade class in School

1 Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 respectively, from completing the full seventy-five
2 (75) hours of service learning, as required in 17 GCA § 4124(b), and instead require
3 them to complete thirty-five (35) hours of service learning.

4 Further, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide parity by creating
5 an exemption for all graduating high school students for School Year 2024-2025,
6 who had been the ninth (9th) grade class in School Year 2021-2022, from completing
7 the full seventy-five (75) hours of service learning, as required in 17 GCA § 4124(b),
8 and instead require them to complete fifty-five (55) hours of service learning.

9 **Section 2.** A new § 4124(b)(3) and (4) are hereby *added* to Chapter 4 of
10 Title 17, Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:

11 “(3) Graduating high school students for School Year 2023-2024 shall be
12 exempt from the provisions of § 4124(b), and instead shall be required to complete
13 thirty-five (35) hours of service learning as a requirement for high school graduation.

14 (4) Graduating high school students for School Year 2024-2025 shall be
15 exempt from the provisions of § 4124(b), and instead shall be required to complete
16 fifty-five (55) hours of service learning as a requirement for high school graduation.”

17 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* be effective upon enactment.

18 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
19 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity *shall not*
20 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
21 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
22 severable.