








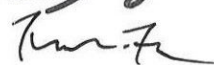
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Lihelaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
211-37 (COR)	Amanda L. Shelton Roy A. B. Quinata Jesse A. Lujan William A. Parkinson Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Joe S. San Agustin Christopher M. Dueñas Thomas J. Fisher	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.	12/6/23 10:29 a.m.						

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

Bill No. 211-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 
Roy A.B. Quinata 
Jesse A. Lujan 
William A. Parkinson 
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Christopher M. Dueñas 
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**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF
CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,
RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that a post-secondary education provides individuals with opportunities to develop
4 or enhance professional skills which are essential to their career of choice. The
5 value of a post-secondary education goes beyond the higher financial earnings
6 potential, it prepares individuals to develop the leadership and temperament to
7 successfully contribute to society as a member of their respective organization.

8 *I Liheslatura* finds that post-secondary education costs are not immune to
9 inflationary impacts. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the
10 average tuition and fees were higher in academic year 2020-2021 than in academic
11 year 2010-2011 for first-time, full-time undergraduate students at public, private

1 nonprofit, and private for-profit 4-year institutions. At 2-year institutions, the
2 average tuition and fees were higher in 2020-2021 than in 2010-2011 for public
3 and private nonprofit institutions, but lower for private for-profit institutions. At
4 public 4-year institutions, the average tuition and fees were \$9,400 in 2020-2021,
5 about 10% higher than they were in 2010-2011 (\$8,500). At private nonprofit 4-
6 year institutions, the average tuition and fees were \$37,600 in 2020-2-21, about
7 19% higher than they were in 2010-2011 (\$31,700). At private for-profit 4-year
8 institutions, the average tuition and fees were \$18,200 in 2020-2-21, about 1%
9 higher than they were in 2010-2011 (\$18,100). The average tuition and fees were
10 18% higher in academic year 2020-2021 than in academic year 2010-2011 at
11 public 2-year institutions (\$3,900 vs. \$3,300) and 9% higher in 2020-2021 than in
12 2010-2011 at private nonprofit 2-year institutions (\$18,000 vs. \$16,500). In
13 contrast, the average tuition and fees were 5% lower in 2020-2021 than in 2010-
14 2011 at private for-profit 2-year institutions (\$15,800 vs. \$16,600).

15 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that additional efforts must be
16 implemented to encourage high school students to apply for federal student
17 financial aid. Without confirming whether they qualify for federal financial
18 assistance, students may be discouraged from pursuing a post-secondary education
19 despite the availability of federal student aid. Based on information provided by
20 the National College Attainment Network, the high school class of 2022 left
21 approximately \$3.6 billion in Pell Grants on the table by not completing the Free
22 Application for Federal Student Aid. National data suggests that states that have
23 adopted FAFSA completion requirements have seen impressive results for their
24 students completing the process.

25 Through this Act, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to prioritize access to
26 federal financial assistance by requiring Guam public high school seniors to
27 complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The adoption of this Act is

1 critical to ensuring Guam students are in a stronger position to maximize federal
2 student aid benefits.

3 **Section 2.** A new § 3223 is *added* to Article 2 of Chapter 3, Title 17,
4 Guam Code Annotated, to read:

5 **“§ 3223. Free Application for Federal Student Aid.**

6 (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, and in addition to any other
7 requirements established by law and the Guam Education Board, as a prerequisite
8 to receiving a high school diploma from a public high school including a charter
9 school partially or fully funded by the Government of Guam, the parent or
10 guardian of each student or, if a student is at least eighteen (18) years of age, the
11 parent, guardian or student must complete and submit a Free Application for
12 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Each high school must provide students or their
13 parents or guardian with any support or assistance necessary to complete the
14 FAFSA.

15 (2) A high school must award a high school diploma to a student who is
16 unable to meet the requirements due to extenuating circumstances, as determined
17 by the high school, when:

18 (a) A parent or legal guardian, or a student if the student is at least
19 eighteen (18) years of age, certifies a waiver in writing to their
20 principal if he or she refuses to complete such an application; or,

21 (b) A school counselor authorizes the student to decline to complete and
22 submit the financial aid application for compelling cause, as
23 determined by the school counselor.

24 (3) The Guam Education Board may adopt rules to implement the
25 requirements of this Section.”

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

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