

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 286-37 (LS)

As Substituted on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO AMEND §6105 (B) OF ARTICLE 1,
CHAPTER 6, TITLE 12 GCA RELATIVE TO
PROVIDING FREE BUS PASSES TO THOSE WHO
LACK ACCESS TO RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION**

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

2 **Section 1. Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan*
3 *Guåhan* finds that transportation can be a barrier to accessing essential services or
4 appearing before appointments for economically disadvantaged individuals who
5 cannot afford to purchase their own vehicles or afford the current costs of public
6 transportation. The lack of access to reliable transportation results in limited access
7 to crucial services perpetuating cycles of poverty and hindering opportunities for
8 economic advancement.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the lack of reliable transportation for
10 this population, especially those facing legal challenges including court orders and
11 probation, creates obstacles for them meeting their obligations such as their ability
12 to attend court-mandated appointments, hearings, and other legal requirements.

13 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that a portion of the population in need face
14 challenges in accessing essential health services and public assistance programs due

1 to transportation barriers. Limited mobility exacerbates health disparities and
2 restricts access to vital resources that can improve overall well-being.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also finds that foster families, who play a pivotal role
4 in providing stability for children in need, may also encounter difficulties in
5 transporting foster children to essential appointments, schools, or other activities,
6 which fundamentally limits the overall development and well-being of the children
7 in their care.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the Guam Regional Transit Authority is a
9 government entity that aims to provide reliable and affordable public transportation
10 for the people of Guåhan. Current bus fare rates include \$1.50 for a single ride pass,
11 \$4.00 for a one-day pass, \$20.00 for a one-week pass, and \$65.00 for a one-month
12 pass. While the costs for these fares may appear affordable for some, for others who
13 are lacking the financial means, these costs are the determining factor in whether
14 they can access transportation for the day, week, or month.

15 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to address the identified
16 challenges of those experiencing financial hardships by mandating the Guam
17 Regional Transit Authority (GRTA) to provide free bus passes.

18 **Section 2. §6105. Powers. (b)** is hereby amended to read:

19 “(b) The Authority shall:

20 (1) Operate a system of public transportation.

21 (2) Establish operational routes, schedules, fares and policies consistent with
22 the purpose of the Authority. Such services may be altered or modified only after
23 completing the following:

24 (A) Public Outreach Notice. The GRTA shall provide notice no less
25 than ten (10) working days before the effective date of the proposed changes.
26 Notices shall be posted, made available and disseminated at the office of the
27 GRTA and within vehicles used to provide the services of the GRTA.

1 (B) World Wide Web Notice. The GRTA, no less than ten (10) working
2 days before the effective date of the proposed changes, shall publish a World
3 Wide Web (Web) page, available to the public via the GRTA website. The
4 Web page link shall be highly visible on the GRTA’s main web page, and
5 should legibly state in bold letters, “Guam Regional Transit Authority Service
6 Change Proposal”.

7 (C) Public Hearing Notice. The GRTA shall hold at least three (3)
8 public hearings on proposed changes at least thirty (30) days prior to the
9 effective date of the proposed changes. One (1) of the public hearings shall be
10 held in a location in northern Guam; one (1) of the public hearings shall be
11 held in a location in central Guam; and one (1) of the public hearings shall be
12 held in southern Guam.

13 (i) No public hearing shall be held unless notice of the hearing
14 has been advertised in a newspaper of general circulation at least twice.
15 The notices shall be made five (5) working days and forty-eight (48)
16 hours prior to the first scheduled hearing.

17 (ii) Any interested party, in person or their authorized
18 representative, shall be afforded an adequate opportunity to participate
19 in the formulation of the proposed changes through the presentation of
20 facts or arguments or the submission of written data or views. All
21 relevant matter presented shall be documented by the GRTA and
22 officially submitted to the Board for disposition.

23 (D) Notices. All notices shall include the following: (i) date of notice;

24 (ii) GRTA point of contact name, telephone number and email;

25 (iii) effective date of proposed change(s);

26 (iv) all public hearing dates, locations and times; and

1 (v) summary of proposed change(s) to established route,
2 schedule fare or policy.

3 (E) Board Approval. The Board shall approve or disapprove the
4 proposed changes.

5 (F) Effective Date. No change(s) to established operational routes,
6 schedules, fare and policies shall be effective until after compliance with the
7 provisions of this Section.”

8 (3) Provide a combination of one-month and daily bus passes days at no cost
9 to agencies on a need basis which the agencies shall distribute to individuals who do
10 not have access to reliable transportation but require transport services to avail for
11 essential services or attend appointments.

12 (A) Bus passes shall be provided to Child Protective Services (CPS),
13 Guam Department of Education (GDOE), Guam Department of Public Health and
14 Social Services, Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA), the
15 Judiciary of Guam, or Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) at
16 the request of the agencies.

17 (B) Bus passes shall be requested at least five (5) business days in
18 advance to provide ample time for GRTA to prepare the requested passes. However,
19 GRTA shall establish an emergency inventory of bus passes to be utilized by the
20 agencies in the event an emergency need arises for a pass.

21 (C) A log of bus passes distributed, and other pertinent information
22 shall be recorded by each agency and transmitted to GRTA on a monthly basis.

23 (D) GRTA may distribute free bus passes directly to individuals for the
24 purposes of availing for public assistance, medical or behavioral treatment, court or
25 probation related needs, GHURA assistance, and GDOE appointments. GRTA shall
26 also maintain a log of bus passes distributed for the aforementioned purposes.

1 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become immediately effective
2 upon enactment.