

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
286-37 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje	AN ACT TO AMEND §6105 (B) OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 6, TITLE 12 GCA RELATIVE TO PROVIDING FREE BUS PASSES VALID FOR 30 DAYS TO THOSE WHO LACK ACCESS TO RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION.	4/29/24 10:12 a.m.						

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

Bill No. 286-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

**AN ACT TO AMEND §6105 (B) OF ARTICLE 1,
CHAPTER 6, TITLE 12 GCA RELATIVE TO
PROVIDING FREE BUS PASSES VALID FOR 30 DAYS
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 valid for thirty (30)
18 day.

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

20 “(b) The Authority shall:

21 (1) Operate a system of public transportation.

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

25 (A) Public Outreach Notice. The GRTA shall provide notice no less
26 than ten (10) working days before the effective date of the proposed changes.

1 Notices shall be posted, made available and disseminated at the office of the
2 GRTA and within vehicles used to provide the services of the GRTA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (3) Provide bus passes valid for thirty (30) days at no cost to agencies on a
10 need basis which the agencies shall distribute to individuals who do not have access
11 to reliable transportation but require transport services to avail for essential services
12 or attend appointments.

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

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

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

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

1 GRTA shall also maintain a log of bus passes distributed for the aforementioned
2 purposes.

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