

I Mina'trentai Siette 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
96-37 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 41212 TO CHAPTER 41 OF TITLE 17 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A LOCAL JOB COACH PROGRAM FOR ADULT VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CLIENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES.	4/12/23 3:35 p.m.						

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

Bill No. 96-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 41212 TO CHAPTER 41 OF TITLE 17 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A LOCAL JOB COACH PROGRAM FOR ADULT VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CLIENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** Public Law 24-16 established
3 the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, which was
4 landmark legislation providing a framework for assistance for our community
5 members with disabilities that promotes their independence, productivity, and
6 inclusion. With the implementation of the act, our island community continues to
7 learn how to strengthen the intent of the law.

8 The right to work for those with disabilities is an aspect that needs a full
9 continuum of lifelong programs and services to support productivity and inclusion
10 in the workforce. Ten percent of our population have identified disabilities.
11 Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, Workforce Innovation and
12 Opportunity Act, Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, and Civil
13 Service Reform Act are federal mandates that require such employment
14 opportunities with accommodations as needed.

1 The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that early
2 identification of students with disabilities, individual education plans, needed
3 resource support, and transition into the world of work or post-secondary programs
4 are facilitated. A transition often occurs between the school system and the
5 vocational rehabilitation program within DISID. Individual Education Plans
6 transform into Individual Plans for Employment.

7 The vocational rehabilitation program identifies potential work
8 opportunities, provides needed employer training, and resources needed for
9 employment success. The intent is independent employment within required time
10 frames. A goal is to nurture a natural support system where employees with
11 disabilities are included, supported, and provided successful work opportunities.
12 Families who navigate this life share that while a natural support system is ideal, it
13 is not always a reality. While many workers are compassionate, many do not
14 accept the challenging role of being a coach willing to provide the modeling
15 needed to succeed constantly and continuously daily.

16 As young adults no longer meet vocational rehabilitation eligibility
17 requirements, mostly because of age and/or duration in the program, the severity of
18 their disabilities requires the need for continued job support. Simply stated, their
19 disabilities do not dissipate, and accommodations are a lifelong necessity.

20 It is, therefore, the intent of this legislature to establish a locally funded job
21 coach program for those who transition from the federally funded vocational
22 rehabilitation program who continue to need extended services such as job
23 coaching support. Usually, by the age of 24-26, vocational rehabilitation clients no
24 longer receive extended services support like job coaching and for those who need
25 such support to continue employment suffer the consequences. Their employment
26 ends. If Guam was eligible for SSI, Medicaid would pay for continued extended

1 support services as needed but Guam does not receive SSI. This makes it critical
2 for the government to address the void needed by continued extended services.

3 **Section 2.** A new § 41212 is *added* to Chapter 41 of Title 17, Guam Code
4 Annotated, to read:

5 **“§ 41212. Job Coaching for Adults with Disabilities.**

6 The Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities
7 (DISID) Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator shall establish a list of vocational
8 rehabilitation clients who will continue to need job coaching support as adults to
9 continue employment. This effort will strengthen the success of the federally
10 funded vocational rehabilitation objectives of service support for people with
11 disabilities. DISID shall maintain a staff of at least three (3) job coaches as full-
12 time, classified positions. DISID will assign job coaches to workplaces as needed
13 for adult vocational rehabilitation clients who continue to need job support. DISID
14 will adjust the number of job coaches as needed. The Department of
15 Administration shall announce the position of Job Coach, formerly referred to as
16 the Developmentally Disabilities Aide. Funding for these positions shall come
17 from the annual appropriations to DISID.”