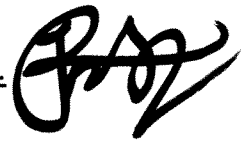


I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2013 (First) Regular Session

Bill No. 135-32 (COR)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON, JR.



AN ACT RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE REPRESENTATION OF THE NUMBER OF VETERANS SERVING ON THE GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION, TO INITIATE EFFORTS TOWARD THE EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “*SENGSONG BETERANUN GUAHAN - GUAM VETERANS VILLAGE*”, WHICH SHALL SERVE AS A ONE-STOP VETERANS SERVICES CENTER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; THROUGH THE REPEAL AND RE-ENACTMENT §67107 OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

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

2 Section 1. §§67107 of Chapter 67 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, relative to
3 the Guam Veterans Commission is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as
4 follows:

5 **“§67107. Guam Veterans Commission.**

6 **A.) Commission Membership.**

7 There is hereby established a Guam Veterans Commission which shall, at a
8 minimum, be composed of a total of nine (9) members to include the following
9 representation:

10 (1) Four members, each of whom shall be representative of a veterans
11 or retirees association for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to consist
12 of,

- 13 a. U.S. Army Retirees (or Veterans) Association,
- 14 b. U.S. Air Force Retirees (or Veterans) Association,
- 15 c. U.S. Navy Retirees (or Veterans) Association,

1 d. U.S. Marine Corps Retirees (or Veterans) Associations;
2 (2) Two (2) members from the officially chartered Guam chapters of
3 multi-service Veteran Service Organizations.

4 Organizations to be represented on the Guam Veterans Commission,
5 pertaining to subsection 1 and 2 above, are required to be duly registered as a non-
6 profit organization with the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation in
7 accordance with Title 18 of Guam Code Annotated and *shall* furnish the Guam
8 Veterans Affairs Office with a copy of an official documentation reflecting such
9 requirement.

10 (3) A maximum of three (3) members, whom each shall be a veteran,
11 may be appointed from other veteran organizations on Guam, to include the Coast
12 Guard. Should a Veteran Service Organization have *more than* one (1) Chapter,
13 each Chapter may recommend a representative to serve as a member of the
14 Commission, of which said appointment may be authorized to serve as provided
15 herein.

16 (4) Ex-Officio Members. With the recommendation of the Guam
17 Veterans Commission, I Maga'lahaen Guahan may appoint as an ex-officio, non-
18 voting member a veteran of a foreign country who has fought alongside U. S.
19 armed forces members as allies in combat, who is representative of an established
20 veterans organization on Guam, and who has resided on Guam for a minimum of
21 three years immediately preceding the appointment. Said veteran shall serve for a
22 term of three (3) years, from date of appointment.

23 **B.) Commission Membership Terms and Conduct of Business.**

24 1.) Veteran Organization Appointments.

25 The Commander *or* designee of Veteran Service Organizations

1 shall present in writing to the Chairman of the Commission the name of the
2 individual who shall represent their organization to serve on the Commission,
3 which shall be subject to the aforementioned provisions above.

4 2.) Terms of Commission Members.

5 Every member of the Commission *shall* serve for a term of
6 three (3) years, to commence on the date of appointment. Should the
7 representative terminate his/her term prior to the conclusion of the three (3) years,
8 the Veteran Service Organization *shall* appoint a successor to serve for a new three
9 (3) year term, which shall commence upon the date of appointment. Said
10 appointment shall be in writing and presented to the Chairman of the Guam
11 Veterans Commission, with a copy to be furnished to the Veterans Affairs Officer
12 of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

13 3.) Quorum Requirements.

14 For purposes of a quorum and for the official conduct of
15 business, a minimum of five (5) voting members on the Commission *shall*
16 constitute a quorum. For the official conduct of business, a majority of the
17 members present, following the constituting of a quorum, shall be required to
18 conduct official business.

19 4.) Scheduled Meetings.

20 The Commission *shall* meet monthly and *shall* advise the
21 Veterans Affairs Officer regarding matters affecting veterans and related issues.
22 Said meeting times, place and dates shall be decided to allow the greatest level of
23 participation and attendance by Commission members.

24 5.) Veteran Community Participation.

25 The Commission *shall* provide veterans and their families with

1 the opportunity to air grievances for the purpose of effecting corrective action *or*
2 change to existing policies that affect delivery of benefits and services to the Guam
3 veteran population.

4 6.) *Sengsong Beteranun Guahån - Guam Veterans Village.*

5 The Commission shall be tasked with the planning and
6 development of the *Sengsong Beteranun Guahån-Guam Veterans Village* facility,
7 which shall be utilized as the permanent home for the Office of Veterans Affairs
8 and as a one-stop center for veterans to acquire services or information on veterans
9 benefits, programs and activities; and further serve for use by the Guam Veterans
10 Commission and veteran organizations for the conduct of their meetings and
11 activities. The Office of Veterans Affairs shall be responsible, upon its completion,
12 for the maintenance, administration and operation of the *Sengsong Beteranun*
13 *Guahån-Guam Veterans Village facility.*

14 The Commission is hereby authorized, with the support of the Office of
15 Veterans Affairs, to pursue private, federal or local funds for the purposes of
16 addressing the provision contained herein. Any and all funds generated through
17 the application of this provision and in support of the *Sengsong Beteranun*
18 *Guahån-Guam Veterans Village* shall be reported on an annual basis to I
19 Maga'lahaen Guahan and I Liheslaturan Guahan, no later than the 30th day of
20 January each year. Such pursuit of external funding sources, wherever applicable,
21 shall be conducted in accordance with established laws and regulations.

22 7.) *Administrative Support.*

23 The Office of Veterans Affairs, through the direction of the
24 Veterans Affairs Officer, shall provide administrative support to the Guam
25 Veterans Commission in the conduct of its meetings.

26 8.) *Commission Activities.*

1 Upon official written request by the Chairman of the
2 Commission for information or action by the Veterans Affairs Officer (VAO) on
3 issues affecting the Commission or Veterans, the Veterans Affairs Officer shall
4 provide a written response to the Commission within four (4) weeks from the date
5 of receipt of such communication. Should the Veterans Affairs Officer require
6 additional time to provide a sufficient response to the matter, the VAO shall
7 request in writing a time extension, not to exceed an additional four (4) weeks, and
8 further provide justification for the need for such time extension in said written
9 communication. Such request shall be granted upon receipt by the Chairman of the
10 Commission.

11 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

12 The provisions contained herein shall be effective upon enactment of
13 this Act.