


**I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2014 (SECOND) REGULAR SESSION**

Bill No. 306-92 (COR)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON, JR. 

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE OFFICE
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUAM VETERANS
REGISTRY AS MANDATED IN PUBLIC LAW 32-101.**

2014 APR - 7 AM 11:34 

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.

I Liheslaturan Guahan finds that Public Law 32-101 recognizes the Office of Veterans Affairs as the official local agency for establishing and maintaining the Guam Veterans Registry(Registry); which *shall be* updated no less than semiannually. The information obtained from the registry will help to strengthen our application as we work to secure future funding from the federal government for our island veterans. Additionally, the registry would be used to provide current information on health care, on home-based care, the very best programs, benefits and services possible.

Our veterans are approaching us with more specific needs than the past: increasing personnel, ensuring access to resources by building on existing programs, establishing and maintaining a Guam Veterans Registry is the right thing to do to provide the highest level of care. Additionally, in order to continue providing claim forms preparation as a free service to our local veterans through the Veterans Affairs Office, representatives are required to be an accredited claims

1 agent. Accreditation means the authority granted by VA to representatives, agents,
2 and attorneys to assist claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution
3 of claims for VA benefits. 38 C.F.R. § 14.627(a). Without accreditation, an
4 individual may not independently assist claimants in the preparation, presentation,
5 and prosecution of claims for VA benefits. *I Liheslatura* clearly understands this
6 and has appropriated within FY 2014 Budget \$619,000 to the Office of Veterans
7 Affairs, a significant increase from the FY 2013 Budget of \$322,000.

8 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that based on *I Maga'lahi Guåhan's*
9 transmittal letter to the Honorable Speaker on December 16, 2013, regarding the
10 need for sufficient appropriations to comply with Public Law 32-101; *I Maga'lahi*
11 *Guåhan* requested of the *I Liheslatura* to follow-up by providing the Office of
12 Veterans Affairs with the means necessary to carry out the obligations imposed
13 upon it by this new law.

14 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the total estimated windfall of new
15 withholding taxes for retroactive and prospective law enforcement salary
16 adjustments is Three Million Nine Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$3,940,000).
17 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to provide additional funding to the
18 Office of Veterans Affairs from the estimated windfall of new withholding taxes
19 from retroactive and prospective law enforcement salary adjustment revenues for
20 the purpose stated herein.

21 **Section 2. Implementation of the Guam Veterans Registry.**

22 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sum of Fifty Thousand
23 Dollars (\$50,000) is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Veterans
24 Affairs for the implementation of the Guam Veterans Registry as mandated in
25 Public Law 32-101; and *shall* include but not limited to the following:

- 26 1) To hire Two (2) additional personnel under the following position title
27 and salaries in accordance with Department of Administration:

- 1 (A) Clerk I
2 (B) Clerk Typist I; and
3 2) To purchase materials, supplies and office equipment to implement
4 and sustain the Guam Veterans Registry; and
5 3) Implementation within Ninety (90) days of enactment.

6 Said funds *shall not* be subject to any transfer authority of *I Maga 'lahen Guahan*.
7 Said funds *shall* continue to be available until fully expended for the purpose stated
8 herein.

9 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application
10 thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not
11 affect any other provision or application of this Act which can be given effect
12 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
13 Act are severable.