


I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 4 (LS)

Introduced by:

Ray Tenorio 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 14 TO TITLE 2 GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO REFINING THE MEANS
OF PROVIDING TRANSPARANCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE
PROCESS BY REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN INFORMATION
BE PLACED ON THE LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. A new Chapter 14 is hereby added to 2GCA to read:

Chapter 14

Legislative Website

§14101. Legislative Findings and Intent.

§14102. Information not limited to the requirements of this Chapter.

§14103. Information to be posted on the Legislature's website.

§14104. Timeframe for posting items.

§14105. Format of documents and recordings.

§14106. Severability

§14101. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds* that the internet offers the simplest means for government officials, the local press and the

1 public in general to obtain information on their government and the work of their
2 elected public representatives.

3 *I Liheslatura* further finds that advances in technology coupled with the falling
4 prices of hardware, software and internet related services has made it affordable and
5 easy for the Legislature make information on nearly all its activities available to the
6 public. As of July 2008, there are dozens of web hosting companies that provide
7 suitable services for less than \$20 per month. Several companies provide as much as
8 5,000GB of or unlimited hosting space, 3,000 email addresses and 4,000GB of monthly
9 transfer volume for less than \$20 month. Software is available free of charge or at very
10 low prices that would allow audio of sessions and public hearings to be encoded as
11 downloadable MP3 files. For less than \$500, hardware & software can be procured to
12 capture video of sessions and hearings for internet streaming or as downloadable avi,
13 wmv or mpeg video files. All of this can be done with most inexpensive office
14 computers and require little, if any, formal instruction for most personnel to perform.

15 It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to make such audio and video available to the
16 public via its website along with other legislative information such as (1) notices of
17 public hearings, (2) committee reports with testimony on bills and substantive
18 resolutions, (3) all versions of the bill from introduction to passage including substitute
19 versions (4) and all floor amendments as proposed and voted on whether or not the
20 amendment passed or not. It is also the intent of *I Liheslatura* to ensure that such
21 information is available on a timely basis. It is not the intent of *I Liheslatura* in the
22 adoption of this Chapter to create a legislative website or to specify the form,
23 appearance or organization of the website, but to require that certain information as
24 specified herein shall be included on the website.

1 **§14102. Information not limited to the requirements of this Chapter.**

2 Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as to limit or prevent *I Liheslatura* from
3 posting information *not* expressly required by this Chapter on its website.
4

5 **§14103. Information to be posted on the Legislature’s website.**

6 The following items shall be posted on the legislative website:

7 (1) all Bills as introduced;

8 (2) all Resolutions as introduced;

9 (3) all Bills as amended or substituted;

10 (4) all Resolutions as amended or substituted;

11 (5) all substantive floor amendments, inclusive of authorship (does not include
12 technical corrections);

13 (6) all audio and video recordings of Public Hearings, roundtable meetings of the
14 Committee of the Whole and legislative sessions;

15 (7) all notices of Public Hearings and Roundtable meeting; and

16 (8) all information otherwise required by Public Law
17

18 **§14104. Timeframe for posting items.** All bills, resolutions and floor
19 amendments required to be posted on the legislative website shall be posted within
20 thirty (30) days following receipt of the document by the Clerk of the Legislature. All
21 audio and video recordings required to be posted on the legislative website shall be
22 posted within thirty (30) days following the event.

23 **§14105. Format of documents and recordings.** The Speaker shall
24 determine the appropriate format of all documents, audio recordings and video
25 recordings required to be posted on the legislative website. All such items must,
26 however, be in a format that is downloadable from the website (able to be saved to the
27 user’s computer).

1
2 **§14106. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Law or its application to any
3 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
4 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given effect
5 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Law
6 are severable.