

I Mina'trentai Ocho 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
343-38 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND § 67101(d), (e), AND (g) OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL VETERANS' BENEFITS.	7/22/26 4:00 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*
Sabina F. Perez *SFP*

**AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B,
CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND
§ 67101(d), (e), AND (g) OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING SPOUSE
AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL VETERANS'
BENEFITS.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that legislation defining a spouse, surviving spouse, and legal guardian, as well as the expiration of benefits granted to spouses and guardians, was initially enacted by Public Law 31-240 in 2012. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the definitions are unnecessarily restrictive and limiting.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the benefits assigned to surviving spouses and guardians are set to expire ten (10) years after the veteran's passing, despite the fact that the important roles they perform do not necessarily lessen with the veteran's death or the passage of time. Therefore, these benefits should continue until they too have passed away or, in the case of a surviving spouse, remarries.

Section 2. § 4B104 of Article 1B, Chapter 4, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 Benefits extended to a Surviving Spouse eligible under this Article, shall
2 continue ~~for a period of ten (10) years from the date of death of service~~ until the
3 Surviving Spouse remarries or becomes deceased.

4 **Section 3.** § 4B105 of Article 1B, Chapter 4, Title 4 Guam Code Annotated
5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 Benefits extended to a Legal Guardian eligible under this Article, shall
7 continue for the periods as follows:

8 (a) until minor children for which the guardian is legally responsible for, reach
9 the age of eighteen (18) or until the age of twenty-three (23), if enrolled as a full-
10 time student in an accredited degree or certification program; or

11 (b) ~~service member for whom the legal guardian is responsible becomes~~
12 deceased, provided the legal guardian had been taking care of the service
13 member for a period longer than ten (10) years.

14 **Section 4.** § 67101(d) of Chapter 67, Title 10 Guam Code Annotated is
15 hereby amended to read as follows:

16 (d) “Spouse” means a person who is legally married under the law of the place
17 where the marriage was officiated to the Veteran ~~at the time that Veteran was on~~
18 ~~active duty, or active duty for training, or inactive duty for training and prior to the~~
19 ~~date when the service connected injuries occurred, and subsequently rated by the~~
20 ~~U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being one hundred percent (100%) Disabled~~
21 ~~due to service connected reasons or is rated as being Individually Unemployable by~~
22 ~~the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.~~

23 **Section 5.** § 67101(e) of Chapter 67, Title 10 Guam Code Annotated is hereby
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (e) “Surviving Spouse” means a person who:

1 (1) was married to a service member or veteran at the time of their
2 death and lived with them continuously until that point (with certain
3 exceptions for separations caused by the service member's or veteran's
4 misconduct). ~~the service member who died from service-connected~~
5 ~~injuries while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty~~
6 ~~training, and is not currently remarried; or~~

7 (2) ~~was married to the Veteran, for at least one (1) year immediately~~
8 ~~prior to death of a Veteran who is rated by the U.S. Veterans~~
9 ~~Administration as being one hundred percent (100%) Disabled or~~
10 ~~Individually Unemployable, and is not currently remarried.~~

11 **Section 6.** § 67101(g) of Chapter 67, Title 10 Guam Code Annotated is
12 hereby amended to read as follows:

13 (g) Legal Guardian for Disabled Service Member is a person lawfully vested
14 with the power, and charged with the obligation, of taking care of and managing the
15 property and rights of a person who because of service-connected disabling injuries
16 is in need of care, and provided that the service member is divorced or legally
17 separated from his spouse, never married, or widowed, ~~or has no children.~~

18 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.