

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.	7/27/26	Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.	Request: 7/27/26 8/7/26	9/2/26 8:00 a.m.	9/17/26 As Amended.	



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

September 10, 2026

The Honorable Frank Blas Jr., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Hagåtña, Guåhan
Chalan Santo Papa

VIA: **The Honorable V. Anthony Ada, Vice Speaker** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: **Committee Report on Bill No. 343-38 (LS) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.** - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

Håfa Adai Speaker Blas,

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Bill No. 343-38 (LS) As amended by the **Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.**- Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

Committee votes are as follows:

_____ TO DO PASS
_____ TO NOT PASS
6 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
_____ TO ABSTAIN
_____ TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Sincerely,

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane 

Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs



COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

September 10, 2026 12:06 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo
Revisions Received:
September 16, 2026 5:03 p.m.



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 343-38 (LS) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

September 9, 2026

To: **ALL MEMBERS**
Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

From: **Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane**
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: Committee Report on [Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.- Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on [Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) - As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

- Copy of Referral
- Notice of Hearing
- Hearing Agenda
- Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Testimonies and Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Bill No. 343-38 (LS)
- Bill No. 343-38 (LS) as amended
- Bill No. 343-38 (LS) markup
- Fiscal Note

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Sincerely,

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane 
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan
38th Guam Legislature

July 27, 2026

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Darleen E.H. Phillips
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Bill No. 343-38 (LS)**

Håfa Adai,

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 343-38 (LS)** - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs chaired by Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane. I also request that the same be copied to the Prime Sponsor of the subject bill and to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the bill is available on our legislative website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.





Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

August 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

[Guam Memorial Hospital Authority](#) – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

[Bill No. 255-38 \(COR\)](#) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM'S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

[Bill No. 327-38 \(LS\)](#) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

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[Resolution 204-38 \(LS\)](#)- Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. – “Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer “Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7” Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed.”

How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing. Please confirm



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | **38th Guam Legislature**
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane via email at Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov or via voice call at (671) 989-2572.

Special Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact Annie San Nicolas, at the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane.

Watch Live/Record: The hearing will be broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and streamed online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. After the hearing, a hearing recording will also be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube.



Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Rescind and Replace: First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M

2 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 2:26 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, Giovanni Naz <mis@guamlegislature.gov>, 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.gov>

Bcc: Ann San Nicolas <ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov>, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, Sergio Salas <sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov>, john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov

August 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

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Bill No. 327-38 (LS) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM’S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

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Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed."

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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
• office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov
• 671-989-2572

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 **PH 8.25 First Notice 2026.09.02 Rescind and Replace.pdf**
440K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>

Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 2:35 PM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa adai and updated the calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

• 1-671-969-3514

• sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov

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8/27/26, 10:22 AM

Guam Legislature Mail - Rescind and Replace: First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M

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First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

 PRINT

First Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 08/25/2026 01:15 PM

 **Posted by:** Annie San Nicolas, Administrative Office/Committee Director

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/02/2026 08:00 AM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE (/notices?division_id=295)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**



Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-26-2661.pdf) – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM'S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

Bill No. 327-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20(LS).pdf)) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20(LS).pdf)) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND § 67101(d), (e), AND (f) OF CHAPTER 67

**ANNOTATED, AND SECTIONS (E), AND (G) OF CHAPTER 97,
TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DEFINING
SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL
VETERANS' BENEFITS."**

Resolution 204-38 (LS)-

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20(LS).pdf)) **Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. - "Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer "Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7" Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed."**

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**GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Office Submitting Request: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Date of Request: August 25, 2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Annie San Nicolas

Contact #:

Email: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: Public Hearing ☒ Informational Briefing ☐ Roundtable

Discussion ☐ **Oversight Hearing** ☐ **Committee Meeting** ☐ **Other:** _____

Notice Title / Bill(s) 255-38 , 327-38, 343-38 **Resolution(s) / Appointment:**

Date of Event: Tuesday September 2, 2026 **Start Time:** 8:00AM

Run Dates: August 25, 2026 to September 2, 2026

Location: Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

Delivery Method: ☒ Email ☐ USB Drive ☐ Cloud Link ☐ Other: _____

CERTIFIED BY:

Name:

Zachary Quinorta

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Notice of Public Hearing

Wednesday September 2, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building.

The purpose of this Hearing is to hear on the following:



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

August 31, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

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Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

How to Participate: Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane at the Guam Congress Building, 163 *Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled hearing. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane via email at Office.SenatorBri@guamlegislature.gov or via voice call at (671) 989-2572.

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Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

1 message

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Mon, Aug 31, 2026 at 8:00 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.gov, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.gov>, Giovanni Naz <mis@guamlegislature.gov>, 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.gov>

Bcc: Ann San Nicolas <ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov>, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov, Sergio Salas <sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov>

August 31, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

Subject: Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

Håfa Adai!

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

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Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

📧 office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

☎ 671-989-2572

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Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

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Second Notice of Public Hearing: Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

 **Posted on:** 08/31/2026 07:54 AM

 **Posted by:** Annie San Nicolas

 **Public Hearing Date:** 09/02/2026 08:00 AM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE (/notices?
division_id=295)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

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The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following:

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

(https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Mess_Comms_38th/Doc.%20No.%2038GL-26-2661.pdf) - **New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.**

Bill No. 255-38 (COR)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20\(COR\)%20Referred%20Version.pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20255-38%20(COR)%20Referred%20Version.pdf)) - **V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”**

Bill No. 327-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20327-38%20(LS).pdf)) - **William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM'S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”**

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/Bills_Introduced_38th/Bill%20No.%20343-38%20(LS).pdf)) - **Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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**

**ST. JOSE AND LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR CERTAIN LOCAL
VETERANS' BENEFITS."**

Resolution 204-38 (LS)-

([https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20\(LS\).pdf](https://guamlegislature.gov/38th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_38th/Res.%20No.%20204-38%20(LS).pdf)) **Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. - "Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer "Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7" Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans' Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed."**

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**GUAM LEGISLATURE
AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Office Submitting Request: Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Date of Request: August 25, 2026

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Annie San Nicolas

Contact #:

Email: ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov

PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS

Notice Type: Public Hearing ☒ Informational Briefing ☐ Roundtable

Discussion ☐ **Oversight Hearing** ☐ **Committee Meeting** ☐ **Other:** _____

Notice Title / Bill(s) 255-38 , 327-38, 343-38 **Resolution(s) / Appointment:**

Date of Event: Tuesday September 2, 2026 **Start Time:** 8:00AM

Run Dates: August 25, 2026 to September 2, 2026

Location: Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room

MEDIA HANDLING

Recording Format: ☒ MP4 ☐ MP3 ☐ Other: _____

Delivery Method: ☒ Email ☐ USB Drive ☐ Cloud Link ☐ Other: _____

CERTIFIED BY:

Name: Zachary Quinorta

Signature: _____

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Notice of Public Hearing

Wednesday September 2, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, beginning at 8:00 A.M., in the Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building.

The purpose of this Hearing is to hear on the following:



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

August 25, 2026

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL:

Dr. Joleen Aguon
Director, GMHA
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AG Douglas Moylan
Attorney General
dbmoylan@oagguam.org

Norman Miller Jr.
nmillerjr@oagguam.org

Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

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Should you have any questions or concerns, you may contact my office at 671-989-2572 or email office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov.

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
38th Guam Legislature

Cc:



Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

6 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Aguon, Joleen, MD" <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>, Jose San Agustin <jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov>, "Theresa=C. Arriola" <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>, baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>, "johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov" <johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov>, "nmillerjr@oagguam.org" <nmillerjr@oagguam.org>,

August 25, 2026,

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL:

Dr. Joleen Aguon

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Johanna Bamba

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Norman Miller Jr.

nmillerjr@oagguam.org

Roy Gamboa



Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

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Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
38th Guam Legislature

--



Office of Legislative Secretary

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

☎ office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

📞 671-989-2572

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Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM



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550-5.1.1 unnecessary spaces. For more information, go to

550 5.1.1 <https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser> 6a1803df08f44-90cc62d5dfdsor8082086d6.1 - gsmt

Last-Attempt-Date: Tue, 25 Aug 2026 15:00:30 -0700 (PDT)



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To: office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM



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Invitation PH 2026.09.02.pdf

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Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To

Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at

12:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane** <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>=

Date: Wed, Aug 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Subject: Invitation to Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

To: Aguon, Joleen, MD <joleen.aguon@gmha.guam.gov>, Jose San Agustin <jose.sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov>=
Theresa C. Arriola <theresa.c.arriola@dphss.guam.gov>, Breanna Sablan <breanna.sablan@dphss.guam.gov>,
<baltazar.hattori@dphss.guam.gov>, Attorney General Douglas Moylan <dbmoylan@oagguam.org>,
johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov <johanna.bamba@ocme.guam.gov>, nmillerjr@oagguam.org
<nmillerjr@oagguam.org>,

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Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

PUBLIC HEARING

September 2, 2026, 8:00AM
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

Agenda

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority – New Fee Package dated June 24, 2026.

Bill No. 255-38 (COR) - V. Anthony Ada, Christopher M. Dueñas, Vincent A.V. Borja. – “AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE *GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS* (GOVA) WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING SERVICES, IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY, ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN STATUTE, AND ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR GUAM’S VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS.”

Bill No. 327-38 (LS) - William A. Parkinson. – “AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS (e) AND (f) OF § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADD NEW SUBSECTIONS (k), (l), AND (m) TO § 3216 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO MODERNIZING GUAM’S DEATH REGISTRATION LAW BY EXTENDING THE MEDICAL ATTENTION WINDOW FOR NATURAL DEATH CERTIFICATION AND ALIGNING DEATH REGISTRATION WITH THE POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ACT.”

Bill No. 343-38 (LS) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

Resolution 204-38 (LS)- Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez. – “Relative to Requesting the United States Government to Transfer “Lot Apra Harbor Reservation B-7” Consisting of Approximately Fifteen (15) Acres to the Government of Guam to be Preserved in Perpetuity for the Future Expansion of the Guam Veterans’ Cemetery and the Masso Reservoir Conservation Area and Watershed.”

This Public Hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via I Liheslaturan Guahan’s live feed.



The Office of the Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday September 2, 2026, 8:00 AM
Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building

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Check all that apply. Please provide staff with written testimony for photocopying.

Name (Please Print)	Agency /Organization	Contact Information	Bill No./Doc No. Appointment	Participation	Stance
Chris Flores	Veteran		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
Vincent Santiago	Veteran Combs 190		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☒ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
Joe McEnas	VA Liaison G.O.		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
Joe San Agustin	GOVA		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
Frank Dumanal	GUSAF VA		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☒ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
Yveta Hecchano	COMHA		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support
Sylvie Taurachan	COMHA		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) ✓ 343-38 (COR) 327-38 (LS) 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support



The Office of the Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SA R NA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na LiheSlaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

PUBLIC HEARING

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Check all that apply. Please provide staff with written testimony for photocopying.

Name (Please Print)	Agency /Organization	Contact Information	Bill No./Doc No. Appointment	Participation	Stance
Catherine Angiao	DPHSS		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☒ Written ☐ Verbal	☒ In Support ☐ Not In Support
SANDRA Cruz	DPHSS		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☒ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
Brian Merenda	VF Post 29		2: 5-3 C 343- 8 (COR) 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☒ Verbal	☐ In Support ☒ Not In Support
DENNIS P. J.	VET CO		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) <u>343-38 (COR)</u> 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
Tom Ada	CLF		GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
			GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support
			GMHA FEES 255-38 (COR) 343-38 (COR) 327-38 LS 204-38	☐ Observing ☐ Written ☐ Verbal	☐ In Support ☐ Not In Support

TESTIMONY

BILL 343-38

BY: Thomas Ada

September 2, 2026

Senator Salas-Matanane and members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Bill 343-38. My name is Thomas Ada, and I am fully supportive of Bill 343-38.

I want to begin my testimony by emphasizing that the proposed amendments to Chapters 4, 64, and 67 of 10 GCA, regarding the amended *definitions of Spouse, Surviving Spouse, and Legal Guardian, and the duration of their eligibility*, are necessary to bring greater clarity and fairness to the affected individuals. These amendments pertain only to eligibility requirements for benefits provided by the Government of Guam, and do not affect eligibility for VA benefits provided by the U.S. government.

The Government of Guam provides benefits to Guam residents who are U.S. military veterans for the sacrifices they made during active military service. Under 4 GCA Chapter 4, §4B101, these benefits are also extended as “derived benefits” to their spouses, surviving spouses, and Legal Guardians. These benefits include:

- a. Waiver of Driver’s License Fee (16 GCA, Ch 3),
- b. Waiver of Annual Veh. License and Registration Fees (16 GCA, Ch 7),
- c. Job selection Preferences (4 GCA, Ch 4)
- d. Real property tax for veterans with 100% VA disability rating (11 GCA Chapter 24).

Current Guam law defines a **Spouse** by a timeline criterion, i.e., the marriage must have occurred while the veteran was on active duty and, if applicable, before the veteran was rated 100% disabled. Bill 343-38 proposes to define a Spouse as a union between two people considered legal under the law of the place where the parties resided at the time of the marriage. This amendment is consistent with the definition found in 38 CFR §3.1, which governs the definition of a Spouse for purposes of eligibility for VA benefits.

The amendment to the definition of a **Surviving Spouse** is welcomed and consistent with the definition found in 38 CFR §3.50. The amendment to extend eligibility until the surviving spouse passes away is justifiable and welcomed. However, I respectfully request that the following language be added:

“[The surviving spouse] has not remarried since the death of the individual, or has lived with another person and held himself or herself out openly to the public as the spouse of that person”.

In Section 6 of the bill regarding Legal Guardian, the proposed amendment adds situations, such as legal separation, and removes the requirement that the veteran have no children. The veteran may have children who do not live on Guam.

The changes proposed by Bill 343-38 are welcomed and will serve the veteran community well. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized cursive letters that appear to read "H. Ad".



Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 343-38 (LS) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE AND DATE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane Chairperson	E-VOTE 9.10.26 <i>Smat</i>			X		
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Vice Chair, Committee on Health	E-VOTE 9.10.26			X		
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja Vice Chair, Committee on Veterans Affairs						
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. Member	E-VOTE 9.10.26			X		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan Member	E-VOTE 9.10.26			X		
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Member						
Senator Christopher M. Duenas Member	E-VOTE 9.10.26			X		
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Member	E-VOTE 9.9.26			X		
Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes Member						



Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Request for E-Vote-Committee Report for Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

7 messages

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

 Wed, Sep 9, 2026 at
4:51 PM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>
Bcc: Ann San Nicolas <ann.sn@guamlegislature.gov>, senator.sabrina@guamlegislature.gov, john.mafnas@guamlegislature.gov, Sergio Salas <sergio.salas@guamlegislature.gov>

Hafa Adai Committee Members:

Please see the attached Committee Report relative to **Bill No. 343-38 (LS)** - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

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Please submit your response **ASAP**. Your responses will be logged into the vote sheet which will be submitted as part of the final Committee Report to the Committee on Rules.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

--

Annie San Nicolas

Administrative Officer/Committee Director


Office of Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

163 W. Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

☎ office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov

☎ 671-989-2572

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**Committee Report 343-38 (LS) (2).pdf**

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Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Sep 9, 2026 at 5:18 PM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only

Office of Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Guam National Guard

38th Guam Legislature

[120 Father Duenas Avenue](#) Capitol Plaza Building, Suite 103, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

(671) 647-1409/1411

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Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 at 8:29 AM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator

Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja

<contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only.

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**Office of Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada**

38th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Phone: (671) 989-0855**Email:** vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov

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Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 at 9:12 AM

To: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>,

Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

To report out only



Office of Majority Leader Jesse A. Lujan

Chairman, Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities and Federal & Foreign Affairs

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 969-6525

[Quoted text hidden]

Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 at 9:13 AM

To: Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada" <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>, "Speaker Frank Blas Jr."

<speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes <senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo <officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja <contact@senatorvinceborja.com>

To Report Out Only



Office of Senator Christopher M. Dueñas

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Government Operations

259 Martyr St., Hagatna, Guam 96910

senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov

(671) 989-9554

[Quoted text hidden]

Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 at 10:22 AM

<office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, Vice Speaker Tony Ada

<vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator

Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja

<contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only.

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Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 at 11:28 AM

To: Office of Legislative Secretary Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Vice Speaker Tony Ada <vicespeakertonyada@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes

<senator.munabarnes@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Shelly Calvo

<officeofsenatorshellycalvo@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator Chris Duenas <senator.duenas@guamlegislature.gov>, Senator

Shawn Gumataotao <office.senatorshawn@guamlegislature.gov>, Office of Senator Borja

<contact@senatorvinceborja.com>, Senator Jesse Lujan <senator.lujan@guamlegislature.gov>

To Report Out Only.



Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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The Office of the Legislative Secretary
SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 38th Guam Legislature
Chairwoman, Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW:

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs conducted a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 2, 2026, scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM., in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.

Among other items, on the agenda for discussion was [Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

Public Notice Requirements

In accordance with Open Government Law, the public notice for this public hearing was disseminated via email to all senators and main media broadcasting outlets on August 25, 2026, and August 31, 2026. This public notice was also posted on the Guam Legislature website and the Public Notice Portal.

Senators Present

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane, Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs
Senator Therese Terlaje
Senator Telo Taitague
Senator Shawn Gumataotao
Senator William Parkinson
Vice Speaker Tony Ada

Appearing before the Committee:

Jose San Agustin
Tom Ada

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION:

This Public Hearing was called to order at 8:00 AM.

TOM ADA - GOOD MORNING. GOOD MORNING SENATOR SALAS MATANANE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TESTIMONY ON BILL 343-38. MY NAME IS THOMAS ADA. I AM A VETERAN AND I AM FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF BILL 343-38. I WANT TO BEGIN MY TESTIMONY BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTERS 4, 64, AND 67 OF 10 GCA REGARDING THE DEFINITIONS OF SPOUSE, SURVIVING SPOUSE, AND LEGAL GUARDIAN AND THE DURATION OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY ARE NECESSARY TO BRING GREATER CLARITY AND FAIRNESS TO THE AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS. THESE

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AMENDMENTS PERTAIN ONLY TO ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM AND DO NOT AFFECT ELIGIBILITY FOR VA BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE US GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM PROVIDES BENEFITS TO GUAM RESIDENTS WHO ARE US MILITARY VETERANS FOR THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE DURING ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE. UNDER 4GCA CHAPTER 4 SECTION 4B101, THESE BENEFITS ARE ALSO EXTENDED AS DERIVED BENEFITS TO THEIR SPOUSES, SURVIVING SPOUSES AND LEGAL GUARDIANS. THESE BENEFITS INCLUDE WAIVER OF DRIVER'S LICENSE FEES AS OUTLINED IN 16 GCA CHAPTER 3, THE WAIVER OF ANNUAL VEHICLE LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FEES AS OUTLINED IN 16 GCA CHAPTER 7, JOB SELECTION PREFERENCES AS OUTLINED IN 4GCA CHAPTER 4, AND REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS WITH 100% VA DISABILITY. ILITY RATINGS AS DESCRIBED IN 11 GCA CHAPTER 24. CURRENT GUAM LAW DEFINES A SPOUSE BY A TIMELINE CRITERION, I.E. THE MARRIAGE MUST HAVE OCCURRED WHILE THE VETERAN WAS ON ACTIVE DUTY AND IF APPLICABLE BEFORE THE VETERAN WAS RATED 100% DISABLED. BILL 343-38 PROPOSES TO DEFINE A SPOUSE AS A UNION BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE CONSIDERED LEGAL UNDER THE LAW OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PARTIES RESIDED AT THE TIME OF THE MARRIAGE. SO THEY COULD HAVE BEEN IN A LOCATION WHERE COMMON LAW MARRIAGE AS WE THINK WE UNDERSTAND IT TO BE IS LEGAL AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME. BUT THAT SAME THING DOES NOT APPLY HERE TO GUAM. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THEY WERE IN A LOCATION WHERE THAT UNION WAS FORMED IS LEGAL IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS BEING LEGAL WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS BEING LEGAL FOR PURPOSES OF THESE CHAPTER THE DEFINITION OF A SPOUSE. THE AMENDMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DEFINITION THAT IS THAT IS WITH THE DEFINITION FOUND IN 38 CFR SECTION 3.1 WHICH GOVERNS THE DEFINITION OF A SPOUSE FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY OF VA BENEFITS. THE AMENDMENT TO THE DEFINITION OF A SURVIVING SPOUSE IS WELCOMED AND CONSISTENT WITH THE DEFINITION FOUND IN 38 CFR SECTION 3.5. THE AMENDMENT TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY UNTIL THE SURVIVING SPOUSE PASSES AWAY IS JUSTIFIABLE AND WELCOMED. I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THOUGH THAT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE ALSO BE ADDED. THAT THE SURVIVING SPOUSE HAS NOT REMARRIED SINCE THE DEATH OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR HAS LIVED WITH ANOTHER PERSON AND HELD HIMSELF OR HERSELF OUT OPENLY TO THE PUBLIC AS THE SPOUSE OF THAT PERSON. IN SECTION SIX OF THE BILL REGARDING LEGAL GUARDIANS, THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ADDS SITUATIONS SUCH AS LEGAL SEPARATION IN THE CASE WHERE THE VETERAN IS DISABLED AND NEEDS A LEGAL GUARDIAN TO TAKE CARE OF HIM. THE WIFE DECIDES TO GET A LEGAL SEPARATION, TAKE THE KIDS

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ELSEWHERE TO RAISE THEM AND CONTINUE ON WITH THEIR LIVES. SO IT ADDS FOR THAT SITUATION. IN ADDITION, THE CURRENT LAW REQUIRES THAT THE VETERAN MUST NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THAT LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP. AND AGAIN, WE HAVE CASES WHERE THE KIDS GROW UP, THEY MOVE OFF, THEY LIVE OFF ISLAND, AND THE VETERAN IS HERE BY HIMSELF, THUS REQUIRING LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP. THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY BILL 343-38 ARE WELCOMED AND WILL SERVE THE VETERAN COMMUNITY WELL. THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU, SENATOR ADA. WE WILL NOW MOVE ON TO QUESTIONS FROM MY COLLEAGUES.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE- SI YUUS MAASE FOR ALL OF YOUR TESTIMONY THIS MORNING. I GREATLY APPRECIATE IT AND ESPECIALLY SENATOR I APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN IN POINTING OUT THIS WAS A TOPIC BROUGHT UP BY ONE OF THE SPOUSES AND I WAS NOT AWARE THAT THIS LAW EVEN EXISTED BECAUSE I THINK THE VETERANS HAVE BEEN THE SPOUSES HAVE BEEN BEING BURIED DESPITE THE 10-YEAR LIMITATION IN LAW. SO I WAS VERY GLAD AND THEN YOU ALSO DISCUSSED WITH US THAT YOU HAD PROPOSED THIS ALREADY. SO I WAS VERY HAPPY TO TAKE THIS UP AND MOVE IT FORWARD AND I SEE THAT YOUR ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS I AM LOOKING AT ALSO THE 38 CFR 3.5 AND IT DOES LOOK CONSISTENT WITH THAT. SO, I'LL JUST MAKE SURE WE HAVE IT ACCURATE. AND OTHERWISE, I'M VERY GRATEFUL AND AGAIN TO ALL THE SPOUSES OUT THERE, THIS HAD NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED. IS THAT CORRECT, MR. DIRECTOR? THEY HAD NOT IMPLEMENTED A 10-YEAR LIMIT YET. YOU HAVE YOU HAVE NOT. YEAH. CAN YOU TURN THIS ON?

JOE SAN AGUSTIN-I'M SORRY. IT HASN'T BEEN IMPLEMENTED, SENATOR. YEAH.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE-SO, IT WAS ON THE BOOKS AND A POTENTIAL YOU KNOW THEY WERE THEY WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT WAS NOT EVER GOING TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY SOME OTHER DIRECTOR. SO, THIS IS GREAT. I THINK THAT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT. EVERYBODY CAN REST AT EASE AND THAT AND WE DO, AS YOU SAID, RECOGNIZE THE FAMILIES OF THESE VETERANS AND HONOR THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. AND AGAIN, THIS IS JUST AN EXTENSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM'S BENEFITS THAT SUPPLEMENT THE FEDERAL BENEFITS THAT ARE THE BETTER VETERANS ARE ALREADY ENTITLED TO. SO, SI YUUS MAASE AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU, SENATOR TERLAJE, SENATOR ADA.

VICE SPEAKER TONY ADA-THANK YOU, DIRECTOR SAN AGUSTIN, AND SENATOR ADA FOR YOUR TESTIMONIES THIS MORNING. I THINK THAT U YOU KNOW WE’LL JUST CONTINUE TO MOVE AND SEE HOW WE ADAPT THOSE AMENDMENTS THAT YOU’RE REQUESTING INTO THE BILLS BEFORE WE PUT IT ONTO THE SESSION FLOOR. THANK YOU.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU, SENATOR ADA. SENATOR GUMATAOTAO.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-YES. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. AND THANK YOU TO THE PANEL. BECAUSE BBMR WROTE IN THE BILL’S FISCAL NOTE THAT IT IS UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE APPROXIMATE FISCAL IMPACT ABSENT DETAILED INFORMATION FROM GOA RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF SPOUSES, GUARDIANS, AND SURVIVING SPOUSES. I’M NOT SURE IF YOU CAN MR. DIRECTOR, CAN YOU PROVIDE ANY EXAMPLES, IF ANY, OF THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE DURING AT LEAST THE LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS TO INFORM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF THIS PARTICULAR POLICY?

JOSE SAN AGUSTIN - SENATOR, CAN YOU REPEAT THE QUESTION?

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-OVER THE LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS, HAVE YOU I MEAN THIS IS NOT A NEW LAW OR A HAVE YOU GUYS MADE ANY EFFORT TO TELL SPOUSES OR SURVIVING SPOUSES, GUARDIANS THAT THIS IS AVAILABLE TO THEM. AND IT’S OKAY TO SAY NO.

JOSE SAN AGUSTIN-LET ME LET ME GET BACK WITH YOU ON THAT BECAUSE AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE WE HAVE A RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE THAT WE HAVE STOOD UP AND WE’RE DOING A LOT OF REVIEW OF RECORDS JUST TO TRY TO GET DATA TOGETHER TO REALLY IDENTIFY WHAT THE TRUE NUMBERS ARE AND YOU KNOW WHO IS STILL ALIVE AND WHO THE SPOUSE THE REAL SPOUSES ARE. OKAY. SO I HOPE THAT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION

SENATOR SHAWN GUAMTAOTAO-SOMEWHAT. IT DOES AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR INPUT. AND SENATOR ADA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT TODAY. I AND THIS IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE MORE OF A TO YOU IF I CAN, BUT IT’S MORE OF A THROWBACK. RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WAS A CONCERN RAISED DURING THE 2012 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE UNDERLYING MEASURE THAT THIS BILL IS SEEKING TO AMEND REGARDING THE ABILITY OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

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TO CERTIFY SPOUSE AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND JUST MAYBE YOUR INTERACTION WITH THEM. IN YOUR ROLE. I KNOW YOU'RE, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE KIND OF HELPING THE COMMISSION IN A IN A IN A WAY, BUT CAN ANYONE YOURSELF OR THE DIRECTOR CONFIRM IF THE IF THERE'S BEEN ANY DOCUMENTED SPECIFIC STAFFING OR RESOURCE CHALLENGES IN COMPLETING THE CERTIFICATION REQUESTS AT ANY TIME OVER THE LAST 14 YEARS TO MAKE THIS POLICY WORK?

TOM ADA-I DON'T THINK THERE'S BEEN ANY RESOURCE CHALLENGES. NOW FIRST OF ALL TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT ARE THE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES EVEN AWARE OF MANY OF THESE BENEFITS AND I THINK THAT'S THAT WE COULD I THINK COULD BE IMPROVED ON YOU KNOW I I COME ACROSS VETERANS WHO ARE NOT EVEN AWARE THAT AS A RESULT OF THE RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION THAT THEY CAN REGISTER THEIR VEHICLES FREE OF CHARGE UNLIKE IN THE PAST THE RECENT LEGISLATION ALLOWS ALL VETERANS OF A CERTAIN ERA TO BE ABLE TO AVAIL OF THAT BENEFIT. I THINK MAYBE WE COULD DO A LITTLE BIT MORE PROMOTION AND THAT WORD WOULD GET OUT. BUT I I DO KNOW THAT THERE IS A NUMBER OF VETERANS WHO ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THESE. THE REAL CONCERN HERE IS THAT IF SOMEBODY REALLY DECIDES TO BE REALLY CONSERVATIVE ABOUT HOW THIS LAW IS INTERPRETED, THERE ARE MANY VETERANS OUT THERE WHO GOT MARRIED AFTER THEY GOT OUT OF SERVICE. AND SO, YOU KNOW, A GOOD EXAMPLE IS THAT HOST OF THE TALK SHOW, JOHNNY ATULAI, THEY GOT MARRIED AFTER ACTIVE DUTY. AND ACCORDING TO THE LAW, AS IT IS WRITTEN RIGHT NOW, HIS SPOUSE WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO BE BURIED NEXT TO HIM DOWN AT THE VETERAN CEMETERY. , LUCKILY WE'VE HAD, YOU KNOW, THE DIRECTORS OF THE PAST HAVE PRETTY MUCH LOOKED THE OTHER WAY AND, YOU KNOW, AS FAR AS THEY'RE CONCERNED, THEY ARE LEGALLY MARRIED, , BUT NOT ACCORDING TO THE TIMELINE. SO I THINK THAT BRINGS A BIT OF URGENCY TO THIS BILL. AND I WOULD I WOULD JUST ASK THE COMMITTEE THAT YOU KNOW BE REPORTED OUT IN TIME TO BE PUT ON THE NEXT SESSION BECAUSE AGAIN YOU KNOW IT'S I DON'T THINK ANYBODY EXPECTS TO BE THAT THAT A SPOUSE WILL BE TURNED AWAY FROM BEING BURIED AT THE CEMETERY. BUT I'VE ALSO SEEN MANY CRAZY THINGS HAPPEN. OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS HERE. SO I RATHER, YOU KNOW, MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE 100% CERTAIN THAT A SPOUSE IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO BE BURIED IN THAT CEMETERY. AND IN SO FAR AS THE DURATION IS CONCERNED THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THAT SPOUSE HAS BEEN A PART OF THAT FAMILY STRUCTURE AND THEY HAVE ADAPTED TO THAT ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK WHERE THEY HAVE THESE BENEFITS TO HELP THEM ALSO WITH

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YOU KNOW WITH THEIR OTHER ENDEAVORS AND TO JUST SAY WELL YOUR 10 YEARS IS UP YOU KNOW TAKE ANOTHER BUS I THINK IS UNFAIR AND THAT SPOUSE HAS BEEN ALONGSIDE THAT VETERAN THROUGHOUT ALL THIS PERIODS. I THINK SHE SHOULD HE OR SHE SHOULD STAY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO AVAIL THOSE BENEFITS UNTIL SHE PASSES HE OR SHE PASSES.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO- YES. AND THANK YOU FOR THAT. AND KIND OF A KIND OF A GOOD SEGWAY SENATOR, THERE WAS A WIFE OF A VETERAN WHO TESTIFIED DURING THE 2012 PUBLIC HEARING. SHE ASKED SENATORS AT THE TIME TO ALLOW SPOUSES OF VETERANS NOT RATED AT 100% DISABILITY TO ACCESS THE FEE WAIVER FOR A GUAM DRIVER'S LICENSE. THE INDIVIDUAL AT THE TIME EXPLAINED THAT IN THE EVENT THAT A VETERAN IS INCAPACITATED AND IS NO LONGER ABLE TO DRIVE, HIS OR HER SPOUSE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BY DRIVING THAT VETERAN AROUND. SHE STATED THAT WHILE SPOUSES ARE NOT MILITARY MEMBERS, THEY HAVE SERVED ALONGSIDE VETERANS, CARING FOR THEM AND THEIR CHILDREN WHILE THEY SERVED THEIR COUNTRY. SHE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT SPOUSES WERE NOT ASKING FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT BUT RATHER AS YOU JUST SAID SENATOR FAIR TREATMENT. SO IF I CAN ASK AND MY LAST QUESTION IS CAN THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR OR MAYBE YOU SENATOR IF YOU CAN SPEAK TO ANY RENEWED EFFORT BY DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS THAT SEEK TO HAVE THE CURRENT DISABILITY RATING REQUIREMENT ACCOMMODATE LOWER VA COMPENSATION TYPE OF RATINGS.

TOM ADA- I DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT I THINK WE'RE STARTING TO RECOGNIZE AT LEAST AS EVIDENCED BY THE MOST RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION, WHICH NOW REMOVES THAT 100% DISABILITY REQUIREMENT TO GET THE FEE WAIVER ON VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS. THAT 100% DISABILITY CRITERIA STILL REMAINS WITH THE REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS. I THAT'S THE ONLY OTHER LEGISLATION THAT I AM AWARE OF WHERE THAT THAT REQUIREMENT REMAINS. , BUT AGAIN, LIKE I SAID, [SIGHS AND GASPS] , IT'S JUST A MATTER OF REALLY GOING REACHING OUT TO THE VETERANS COMMUNITY TO MAKING THEM BE AWARE THAT THESE BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM. , AND BUT OTHERWISE, I THINK WE WE'RE PRETTY MUCH GOOD TO GO ON EVERYTHING ELSE. AND THE BENEFITS BEING PROVIDED BY GV GUAM ARE VERY MUCH SIMILAR TO THE BENEFITS BEING PROVIDED TO VETERANS IN OTHER STATES.

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO- OKAY. AND I MEAN BUT THAT JUST GOES MY QUESTION WAS WHEN WE THINK OF IT MAYBE OF THE FEDERAL RULE IS THERE

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ANY EFFORT THAT YOU GUYS KNOW OF WHERE THEY'RE TRYING TO MAYBE LOWER THAT RATES TO ALLOW SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR. THAT THAT WAS WHAT MY QUESTION WAS.

TOM ADA-NO, I'M NOT AWARE. NO, NO

SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-THAT'S FAIR. THANK YOU SO MUCH. DIRECTOR, ANYTHING?

JOSE SAN AGUSTIN-SENATORS, I JUST WANT TO BECAUSE THE GOOD OLD SENATOR ADA MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT TURNING THE OTHER WAY. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT IT'S UNDERSTOOD THAT THAT'S NOT THE PRACTICE. SO WE ARE ENSURING BECAUSE EACH INDIVIDUAL AS THEY COME IN THERE'S MANY CASES THAT ARE SIMILAR BUT THERE'S MANY CASES THAT ARE INDIVIDUAL CASES THAT THERE THERE'S SOME ISSUES THAT COME ABOUT. SO BEFORE WE MAKE THAT FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE TO THAT INDIVIDUAL I.E. SPOUSE OR THE VETERAN, WE MAKE SURE THAT WE REVIEW AGAIN AT THE UNIQUE SITUATION THAT THEY'RE IN BASED ON THE FEDERAL LAW AND THE LOCAL LAW BEFORE WE ACTUALLY SAID YES, IT IT'S GOOD TO GO. SO, MIGHT BE THAT THERE'S SOME UNETHICAL THINGS THAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED AS TO WHAT THE GREAT OLD SENATOR MIGHT HAVE MENTIONED WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL MIGHT HAVE BEEN BURIED DOWN THERE. IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THE LAW WAS MIS MISINTERPRETED, BUT FOR A PRACTICE WHERE WE'RE JUST GOING TO TURN AND SAY GO AHEAD. IT'S NOT A NORMAL PRACTICE AND IT SHOULDN'T BE A PRACTICE AND THAT HAD OCCURRED DURING MY TIME SEVERAL TIMES AND WE HAD TO AGAIN REVISIT AND THEN EXPLAIN TO THE FAMILY WHY THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CERTAIN REASON OTHERWISE WE COMPLY WITH WHAT THE FEDERAL LAW GUIDANCE PROVIDES US AND WHAT THE LOCAL LAW PROVIDES US AS WELL. OKAY. AND YOU KNOW I JUST REALLY APPRECIATE THAT THIS CONVERSATION IS COMING ABOUT BECAUSE WE GOT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE TRANSPARENT AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING ON ALL ENDS. SO IF THEY ARE ENTITLED TO THIS BENEFITS THEN BY ALL MEANS WE GIVE IT TO THEM. IF THEY'RE NOT, THEN WE WILL EXPLAIN AND PROVIDE THEM A PHOTO OF THE LAW AS TO WHY NOT AND THOSE ARE VERY YOU KNOW THERE ARE TIMES WHERE THAT HAD TO HAPPEN AND IT BREAKS OUR HEART, RIGHT? BUT WE GO ALL OUT AND TRY TO ASSIST IN WHATEVER FASHION WE MAY. OKAY. I HOPE THAT SURE. OKAY. THANK YOU.

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TOM ADA-IF I MAY, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A DEBATE WITH BUT I JUST I CERTAINLY HAD NO INTENTION TO SUGGEST THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING UNETHICAL OR YOU KNOW THAT'S BEING DONE AT GOVA. I'M JUST SAYING THE LAW SAYS AND IF SOMEBODY REALLY WANTED TO PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL ON THAT HOW THE LAW IS WRITTEN, THAT'S THE CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD OCCUR. SENATOR SHAWN GUMATAOTAO-NO, I UNDERSTAND. THANK YOU SO MUCH, SENATOR. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU, SENATOR GUMATAOTAO. SENATOR TAITAGUE.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE-THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN. SENATOR ADA, ALWAYS A PLEASURE SEEING YOU THIS TWICE IN ONE WEEK. YOU KNOW, , SENATOR ADA, , I KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN AN ADVOCATE FOR THIS, ESPECIALLY FOR THE VETERANS, FOR MANY YEARS, EVEN AS YOUR TIME SERVED AS A SENATOR. AND I APPRECIATE YOU CONTINUING TO PROVIDE YOUR EXPERTISE AND SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GUAM BY BEING HERE TODAY. IT REALLY MEANS A LOT TO ESPECIALLY THE VETERANS THEMSELVES, YOU KNOW, STILL SUPPORTING THEM. I DO HAVE A QUESTION WITH REGARDS TO GUARDIANSHIP AND HOW IS WRITTEN IN IN THE LAW HERE. IF YOU CAN PULL TO PAGE TWO ON SECTION THREE WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT LEGAL GUARDIAN. AND WHERE IT CHANGES THAT OKAY THE LEGAL GUARDIAN BECOMES DECEASED PROVIDED THE LEGAL GUARDIAN HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE SERVICE MEMBER FOR A PERIOD LONGER THAN 10 YEARS. WHAT EXACTLY WILL THIS DO FOR LEGAL GUARDIAN INDIVIDUALS? WHAT BENEFITS DO LEGAL GUARDIANS GET? AND HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE INDIVIDUAL VETERAN FOR 10 YEARS? WHO OVERSEES TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING THAT JOB?

TOM ADA-FIRST OF ALL TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION WHAT BENEFITS DO THE LEGAL GUARDIANS GET IN THE ROLE THAT THEY PLAY RIGHT AND AGAIN IF WE GO BACK TO FORGE CHAPTER 4 SECTION 4B101 IT READS THAT THE BENEFITS THAT ARE GIVEN TO VETERANS ARE ALSO EXTENDED AS DERIVED BENEFITS TO THEIR SPOUSES SURVIVING SPOUSES AND LEGAL GUARDIANS. SO I HAD LISTED YOU KNOW THE WAIVER OF LICENSE FEES, REGISTRATION FEES, JOB SELECTION PREFERENCES AND REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WITH 100% DISABILITY. SO FIRST OF ALL THAT ANSWERS THE QUESTION OF WHAT BENEFITS DO THEY GET? THE QUESTION ABOUT THE DURATION OF THE OF THESE BENEFITS THAT ARE GIVEN TO THE LEGAL GUARDIAN BEING FOR A PERIOD NO LONGER THAN 10 YEARS. SENATOR, I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT 10 YEARS. YOU KNOW

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WHERE I GOT THAT FROM? SO THERE'S YOU KNOW I MEAN THAT CAN BE CHANGED TO READ UNTIL THAT LEGAL GUARDIAN HAS PASSED IN THE SAME WAY THAT THAT IT READS FOR A SURVIVING SPOUSE OR A SPOUSE.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE-SO, SO BASICALLY THEY HAVE TO HAVE AT LEAST 10 YEARS, RIGHT?

TOM ADA-WELL, I MEAN THE WAY UP TO 10 YEARS PROVIDED THE LEGAL GUARDIAN HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE SERVICE MEMBER FOR A PERIOD LONGER THAN 10 YEARS, THEN THEN YOU KNOW YOU EXTEND OUT THE DURATION AS OPPOSED TO THE LEGAL GUARDIAN THAT CAME ON BOARD MAYBE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AND THE AND THE VETERANS. AGAIN, IT'S THERE WAS THAT THAT PART PROBABLY WAS I WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT WAS PROBABLY SUBJECTIVE. BUT IF YOU LOOK INTO 38 CFR, THEY ALSO PROVIDE TIMELINES AS TO HOW LONG YOU MUST HAVE BEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH OR ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL. SO IT IT'S NOT AS ARBITRARY AS IT MAY SEEM. I THINK IF ONE GOES THROUGH THE 38 CFR, YOU'LL FIND THAT THERE IS THERE IS BASIS FOR HOW LONG THAT LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST HAVE BEEN PROVIDING THIS SERVICE.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE-WOULD YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO LOWERING THAT 10 YEARS TO AT LEAST FIVE YEARS? BECAUSE YOU KNOW ANY AMOUNT OF TIME I MEAN ESPECIALLY WHEN A VETERAN IS IN WITHIN THEIR LAST FEW YEARS OF THEIR LIFE THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME OF THEIR LIFE IS HAVING SOMEBODY THERE BESIDE THEM TAKING CARE OF ESPECIALLY CANCER. WE'VE SEEN THESE VETERANS WITH CANCER AND I COULD TELL YOU THEY CAN BE WITH SOMEBODY FOR 10 YEARS, BUT IT'S THAT LAST TWO YEARS OF THAT PERSON BEING THERE DURING THE HARDEST TIME OF THEIR LIFE.

TOM ADA-AND SENATOR, IN MY EXPERIENCE, I FOUND THAT THE CORRECT ANSWER IS EIGHT. EIGHT VOTES. I'M SORRY. EIGHT VOTES. EIGHT VOTES. WE'LL GIVE YOU THE CORRECT [LAUGHTER] ANSWER.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE-OKAY. WELL, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, YOU KNOW, WHAT WOULD WHAT WOULD YOU VOTE ON IF IT WAS FIVE YEARS INSTEAD OF 10? GIVE IT TO THEM. GIVE IT TO THEM. IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID? I HOPE.

TOM ADA-YES. YES, MA'AM.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE-THANK YOU SO MUCH BECAUSE I REALLY THINK IT'S IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW, THAT WE RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO TAKE CARE OF OUR VETS. SURE. YOU KNOW, I'M AND I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION,

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EVEN THOUGH, YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN VERY LENIENT. , AT THE VETERAN CEMETERY, , MY BEST FRIEND WHO LOST HER HUSBAND IN 2023, , SHE MARRIED HIM BEFORE, I MEAN, AFTER HE HAD HAD TO SERVICE IN TIME, IN FACT, , HE'S A VETERAN AND, , DIDN'T MARRY , HER UNTIL LIKE 10 YEARS AFTER OR SO. AND I SEE HER GO DOWN TO THE VETERAN CEMETERY TO VISIT HIM EVERY DAY SINCE 2023 ALMOST. YOU KNOW, EVERY TIME SHE'S HERE ON ISLAND, SHE'S A FLIGHT ATTENDANT, SO SHE FLIES BACK AND FORTH TO MAINTAIN HER JOB. BUT WHEN SHE'S HERE, SHE'S AT THAT VETERAN CEMETERY. EVERY SINGLE TIME SHE'S HERE, YOU KNOW, AT HIS GRAVE AND CARING FOR HIM. AND YOU KNOW JUST THE MERE THOUGHT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO BE BURIED WITH HIM WHICH IS HER SHE SAID TO ME THAT WELL IF THIS WAS THE CASE THEN YOU KNOW I'LL EX E HIS BODY YOU KNOW SHE HAS A RIGHT AS THE WIFE TO EX E HIS BODY AND TOGETHER THEY WILL BE TOGETHER SOMEWHERE ELSE YOU KNOW BURIED TOGETHER. BUT I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THAT NEEDS TO BE PUT IN WRITING JUST SO THERE'S NO MISUNDERSTANDING AND MOST ESPECIALLY THAT THE PEOPLE OF GUAM RECOGNIZE THAT THIS BILL SHOULD BE IN LAW AND THAT IT IS FOLLOWED SO THERE IS SOME COMFORT KNOWING THAT YOU KNOW THERE'S LAW TO IT YOU KNOW THERE'S TEA TO IT. SO, I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS LEGISLATION. AND LAST QUESTION THOUGH, DIRECTOR, REALLY WHEN IT COMES TO VERIFYING YOU KNOW, GUARDIANS, VERIFYING IF THEY HAVE BEEN MARRIED OR THEY WERE LEGALLY SEPARATED, H WHAT DOES THE VETERAN'S OFFICE DO TO VERIFY, YOU KNOW, THE PERSON TAKING CARE OF THE VET OR WHETHER THEY'RE STILL MARRIED OR WHERE THEY'RE SEPARATED OR LEGALLY SEPARATED? HOW DO YOU VERIFY THAT?

JOSE SAN AGUSTIN-YES. SO THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION SENATOR. SO BE ALL THE DOC ENTS THAT WE REQUEST OR THE FUNERAL HOME REQUEST IN IN THIS SCENARIO IF THE VETERAN HAD PASSED AWAY THE FUNERAL HOME WILL REQUEST FOR ALL THE INFORMATION WITH REGARDS TO THE VETERAN. WE DO HAVE A PACKAGE WE DO HAVE THE RECORD THE RECORD OF THE VETERAN AS WELL WITH ALL THE DOC ENTS IN IT. SO THERE ARE INSTANCES WHERE A FAMILY MEMBER WILL COME IN AND KIND OF CONTEST THOSE DOC ENTS AND SO WHAT WE DO IS WE REQUEST FOR THEM TO PROVIDE US THE DOC ENTS TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE STILL LEGALLY MARRIED. RIGHT? AND WE HAD A CASE SIMILAR TO THAT. ON BOTH SIDES, YOU KNOW, THE LEGAL GUARDIAN COULD BE THE SPOUSE TOO, RIGHT? SO HOW DO WE VERIFY, RIGHT? THAT ON THAT DATE, THE DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS IN OUR RECORD THAT THE SPOUSE FROM THAT DATE WAS THE LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR THAT VETERAN OR WHOEVER THE ELECTED LEGAL GUARDIAN. EITHER YOU'D BE COMING FROM THE COURT OR

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

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WHATEVER NOTARY THAT WAS DONE TO SAY THIS PERSON IS NOW THE LEGAL GUARDIAN AND IS BEING COMPENSATED BY THE VA AS SUCH RIGHT. BUT THE ONE THING I LIKE ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION NO YOU KNOW THE 10 YEAR AND THE FIVE YEAR SENATORS I THINK YOU ASKED THE WRONG GUY. I MEAN, YOU DID, BUT I WILL I WILL VENTURE TO SAY 5 YEARS IS GOOD BECAUSE TAKING CARE OF A NEIL VETERAN IS IT'S NOT THAT EASY. IT'S NOT THAT EASY. AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE ON THEIR FINAL DEATHBED, RIGHT? AND WE DON'T KNOW, NOT EVEN THE DOCTOR SOMETIMES THEY TELL THE VETERAN, YOU KNOW, WELL, YOU GOT AT LEAST TWO YEARS, RIGHT? OR 10 YEARS. WE DON'T KNOW. SO WITH REGARDS TO THE TENURE IF YOU ALL DESIRE TO MAKE IT FIVE I'M PUTTING IT IN TO SAY LET'S MAKE IT FIVE BECAUSE THAT WILL THEN ENSURE THAT WE TAKE CARE ONE YEAR TWO YEARS THAT'S A LOT OF WORK YOU KNOW TO BATHE TO TAKE CARE TO CHANGE PAMPERS AND WHATNOT ALL THE MEDICATION AND WHATNOT. SO, I'M PUTTING MY TWO CENTS IN THAT FIVE YEARS I THINK IS VERY REASONABLE BECAUSE OF THE HARDSHIP THAT THAT CARETAKER HAD TO ENDURE. AND I'LL TELL YOU, IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND A CARETAKER, ESPECIALLY IF THAT CARETAKER KNOWS WHO THE VETERAN IS. BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, VETERANS, YOU KNOW, WHILE WE WE'RE GOOD PEOPLE, THERE THERE'S JUST THINGS THAT WE DEMAND BECAUSE WE'RE HURTING. WE NEED IT AND A GOOD LEGAL GUARDIAN AND EVEN A SPOUSE THAT MEET THOSE CHALLENGES HESITATE TO BE THE CARETAKER BECAUSE OF THOSE CHALLENGES, RIGHT? BUT IF WE INITIATE THOSE IN THOSE INITIATIVES AND THINGS THAT THAT COULD REWARD THEM AT THE END, THEN THEN IT ALL MEANS WELL TO THEM. THAT'S ALL I HAVE ON THAT.

SENATOR TELO TAITAGUE-THANK YOU SO MUCH, DIRECTOR SAN AGUSTIN. AND I WOULD DEFINITELY TAKE THIS TO THE AUTHOR OF THE LEGISLATION TO CONSIDER THAT MAKING THE AMENDMENT BECAUSE YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. YOU KNOW, THE BABY BOOMERS ARE HERE. YOU KNOW, THEY'RE GOING TO BE MORE SENIORS THAN THERE ARE CHILDREN IN 2030 AND WHICH IS NOT TOO FAR AWAY AND WE'RE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HOW DO WE CARE FOR OUR MANUFACTURE AND THEY LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE AND A LOT OF TIMES THEY ASK YOU KNOW OUR PARENTS THE PARENTS WELL OKAY YOU'RE ALREADY UP THERE YOU'RE 80 I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOU COME LIVE WITH ME IN CALIFORNIA OR WASHINGTON I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU KNOW I LIVE HERE I WANT TO I WANT TO PASS AWAY HERE ON MY ISLAND. SO, I WOULD RATHER FIND SOMEONE TO CARE FOR ME AND HELP ME. SO, I APPRECIATE I GREATLY APPRECIATE THAT DIRECTOR SAN AGUSTIN FOR SUPPORTING THE FIVE-YEAR. OKAY. OTHER THAN THAT, THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

Committee Report Digest: [Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.”

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SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU, SENATOR TAITAGUE AND SENATOR ADA. I HEARD YOU ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT THIS BILL, YOU KNOW, WE ACT SWIFTLY AND QUICKLY. AND SO ONCE THE PUBLIC HEARING IS DONE AND WE RECEIVE THE MARKUPS ON THE BILL WE WILL CERTAINLY MOVE TO GET THIS ONTO THE SESSION AGENDA WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THIS THIS MONTH.

TOM ADA-THANK YOU SENATOR THAT WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. SENATOR TERLAJE, YOU MAY CLOSE.

SENATOR THERESE TERLAJE-SURE. AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TESTIMONY AND YOUR COMPASSION. I THINK AND FOR OUR ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES SUPPORT OF THIS AGAIN THAT WE ARE GOING TO LOCALLY EXTEND BENEFITS WHERE WE SEE FIT AND WHERE WE CAN TO RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICE OF THE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. AND IN THIS CASE TO EXTEND AND MAKE SURE THAT IT IS WRITTEN IN OUR CODE THESE BENEFITS OF BURIAL AT THE CEMETERY FOR SPOUSES. WITHOUT LIMIT EXCEPT THAT THEY REMAIN UNMARRIED. AND OF COURSE THAT WE CONTINUE TO EXTEND THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS SUCH AS THE LICENSE FEES WAIVER AND REGISTRATION FEE WAIVED FOR SPOUSES AND LEGAL GUARDIANS AS WELL. AND AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR INPUT TO MAKE THE BILL BETTER. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THAT TO SI YUUS MAASE MADAM CHAIR ALSO FOR HAVING THIS HEARING TODAY.

SENATOR SABRINA SALAS MATANANE-THANK YOU SENATOR TERLAJE AND THANK YOU TO THE DIRECTOR MR. SAN AGUSTIN AS WELL AS SENATOR AS WELL AS MR. SANTIAGO THE NEW CHAIR FOR THE GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION FOR APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TODAY. THANK YOU MR. FRANCISCO AND MR. MAFNAS ALSO FOR BEING HERE. AGAIN AS I MENTIONED EARLIER WE WILL MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO GET BILL 343 ONTO THE SESSION AGENDA. OUR NEXT SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THIS MONTH.

III. Findings and Recommendations

Findings: The Committee finds that Bill 343-38 provides greater clarity and fairness in extending Government of Guam benefits to veterans’ spouses, surviving spouses, and legal guardians. The testimony supports removing restrictive marriage timelines, extending

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surviving spouse benefits without an arbitrary 10-year limitation, and recognizing circumstances involving legal guardianship and family caregiving. The Committee also recognizes the importance of ensuring eligible spouses and caregivers receive the benefits and burial rights intended for them.

Recommendations: The Committee recommends advancing Bill 343-38 with consideration of the testimony and proposed amendments, including adding language addressing remarriage of surviving spouses and considering reducing the legal guardian eligibility period from 10 years to **five years**. The Committee further recommends improving outreach to veterans and their families regarding available benefits and ensuring the eligibility and certification process is clearly and consistently applied.

The Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs hereby reports- out on [Bill No. 343-38 \(LS\)](#) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs. - Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina F. Perez. – “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.” With the recommendation TO REPORT OUT ONLY.

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.

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

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

As amended by the Committee on Health
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje
Sabina F. Perez

**AN ACT TO AMEND § 4B104 AND § 4B105 OF ARTICLE 1B,
CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND
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I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the benefits assigned to surviving spouses 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.

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

3 **“§ 4B104. Eligibility Period: Surviving Spouse.**

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

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

9 **“§ 4B105. Eligibility Period: Legal Guardian.**

10 “Benefits extended to a Legal Guardian eligible under this Article, shall
11 continue for the periods as follows:

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

16 (b) the ~~service member for whom~~ legal guardianship is revoked
17 prior to the death of the service member; or the legal guardian is
18 ~~responsible for~~ becomes deceased, provided the legal guardian had
19 been taking care of the service member for a period longer than ten (10)
20 years.”

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

23 “(d) “Spouse” means a person who is legally married to the Veteran under the
24 law of the place where the marriage was officiated ~~at the time that Veteran was on~~
25 ~~active duty, or active duty for training, or inactive duty for training and prior to the~~
26 ~~date when the service connected injuries occurred, and subsequently rated by the~~

1 ~~U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being one hundred percent (100%) Disabled~~
2 ~~due to service connected reasons or is rated as being Individually Unemployable by~~
3 ~~the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.”~~

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

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

7 (1) was the spouse of married to a veteran at the time of veteran’s
8 death, who lived with the veteran continuously from the date of the
9 marriage to the date of the veteran’s death (Except when there was a
10 separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran
11 without the fault of the spouse)~~the service member who died from service-~~
12 ~~connected injuries while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive~~
13 ~~duty training, and who has is not currently remarried; or.~~

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

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

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

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

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

Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

As amended by the Committee on Health
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje
Sabina F. Perez

**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'
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I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the benefits assigned to surviving spouses 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.

1 **Section 2.** § 4B104 of Article 1B, Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated
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3 **“§ 4B104. Eligibility Period: Surviving Spouse.**

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

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

9 **“§ 4B105. Eligibility Period: Legal Guardian.**

10 “Benefits extended to a Legal Guardian eligible under this Article, shall
11 continue for the periods as follows:

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

16 (b) the ~~service member for whom~~ legal guardianship is revoked
17 prior to the death of the service member; or the legal guardian is
18 ~~responsible~~ for becomes deceased, provided the legal guardian had
19 been taking care of the service member for a period longer than ten (10)
20 years.”

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

23 “(d) “Spouse” means a person who is legally married ~~under the law of the~~
24 ~~place where the marriage was officiated~~ to the Veteran under the law of the place
25 where the marriage was officiated ~~at the time that Veteran was on active duty, or~~
26 ~~active duty for training, or inactive duty for training and prior to the date when the~~

1 ~~service connected injuries occurred, and subsequently rated by the U.S. Department~~
2 ~~of Veterans Affairs as being one hundred percent (100%) Disabled due to service~~
3 ~~connected reasons or is rated as being Individually Unemployable by the U.S.~~
4 ~~Department of Veterans Affairs.”~~

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

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

8 (1) was ~~the spouse of~~ married to a ~~service member or~~ service member or veteran at the
9 time of veteran’s ~~their~~ death, who ~~and~~ lived with the veteran continuously
10 from the date of the marriage to the date of the veteran’s death ~~them~~
11 continuously until that point (Except with certain exceptions when there
12 was a separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the
13 veteran without the fault of the spouse) for separations caused by the
14 service member’s or veteran’s misconduct). the service member who died
15 from ~~service connected injuries while on active duty, active duty for~~
16 training, or inactive duty training, and who has is not currently remarried;
17 or.

18 (2) ~~was married to the Veteran, for at least one (1) year immediately~~
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25 with the power, and charged with the obligation, of taking care of and managing the
26 property and rights of a person who because of service-connected disabling injuries

1 is in need of care, and provided that the service member is divorced or legally
2 separated from his spouse, never married, or widowed, ~~or has no children.~~”

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

4



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature

August 7, 2026

To: **Rennae V. C. Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 343-38 (LS)**

Håfa Adai!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 343-38 (LS).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly copy the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.



Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

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.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

Dept./Agency Affected: Guam Office of Veterans Affairs	Dept./Agency Head: Jose San Agustin, Director
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$1,246,443
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date:	\$0
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$1,246,443

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

	General Fund:	(Specify Special Fund):	Total:
FY 2025 Unreserved Fund Balance		\$0	\$0
FY 2026 Adopted Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2026 Appro. (P.L. 38-60)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill

	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2026 (if applicable)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
General Fund	\$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Special Fund	\$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Total	\$0	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes /X/ No
 If Yes, see attachment
2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? /X/ N/A / / Yes / / No
 If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ /X/ N/A
3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? / / Yes /X/ No
 If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? /X/ N/A / / Yes / / No
 Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? / / Yes /X/ No
4. Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? / / Yes /X/ No
5. Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept./agency? If no, indicate reason: /X/ Yes /X/ No
 / / Requested agency comments not received by due date / / Other:

Analyst: <u>Jasmine C. Tereas</u>	Date: <u>08/06/26</u>	Director: <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr.</u>	Date: <u>AUG 07 2026</u>
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Comments:

1/ See attached comments.

Bureau of Budget and Management Research
Comments on Bill No. 343-38 (LS)

According to the Findings and Intent of the legislation, in 2012, the definitions of a spouse, surviving spouse and guardian were established and set to expire ten years after the veteran's passing. The proposed legislation seeks to amend the limitation of 10 years to continue until the spouse, surviving spouse or guardian passes away, or until the surviving spouse remarries. Pursuant to § 4B101. Eligibility. of Article 1B, Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, these "derived benefits" extended to the spouse, legal guardian, or surviving spouse include the waiver of Driver's License Fees for all veterans, and the waiver of Annual Vehicle License and Registration Fees for veterans with 100% Disability or Individually Unemployable.

Per comments received from the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs, there is no fiscal impact should the proposed legislation become law. However, it is the opinion of the Bureau that there is a potential for reduced revenues collected, allocated, and deposited into the General Fund, Guam Highway Fund, and the Abandoned Vehicle and Street Light Fund in the form of Driver's License Fees, Vehicle License and Registration Fees upon the expiration of the 10-year limit. Absent detailed information from the Guam Office of Veteran's Affairs relative to the number of spouses, guardians, and surviving spouses who avail of these benefits, the Bureau is unable to determine an approximate fiscal impact at this time.