

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
324-38 (LS) As amended by the Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement; and further amended on the Floor.	Telo T. Taitague Shelly V. Calvo Therese M. Terlaje Tina Rose Muña-Barnes V. Anthony Ada Chris Barnett Joe S. San Agustin Frank F. Blas, Jr. Jesse A. Lujan Sabrina Salas Matanane	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 161.90 (a) OF CHAPTER 161, TITLE 8, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER LATE APPLICATIONS UPON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE.	5/20/26 1:29 p.m.	5/28/26	Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology, Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement.	Request: 5/28/26 Waiver: 6/4/26	6/18/26 9:00 a.m.	7/17/26 As Amended.	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES	
	8/17/26	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 161.90(a) OF CHAPTER 161, TITLE 8, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER LATE APPLICATIONS UPON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE.	8/19/26	8/20/26	9/1/26	38-141	9/1/26	Received: 9/1/26 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 38GL-26-2829	

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

38GL-26-2829
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.

September 1, 2026

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

SEP 01 2026
Time: 2:20 PM
Received: Mej

Re: Bill No. 324-38 (LS), "AN ACT TO AMEND § 161.90(a) OF CHAPTER 161, TITLE 8, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER LATE APPLICATIONS UPON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission (CICC) exists to help victims navigate the overwhelming financial burdens of crime, assisting with lost wages, medical costs, property damage, and funeral costs. Yet historically, nearly 50% of applications denied by the CICC were rejected solely on the basis that they were filed outside of the time period established by law.

Bill No. 324-38 (LS) rectifies this, allowing the CICC to consider applications filed after the 18-month deadline upon a showing of good cause. Trauma, grief, and recovery do not operate on a statutory timetable. As highlighted in testimony from Dr. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez of the Bureau of Women's Affairs, the same obstacles that hinder crime reporting—such as fear of retaliation, psychological trauma, and fear of stigmatization—are the exact barriers that prevent survivors from applying for financial assistance in time.

Signing this bill into law is a positive step forward in ensuring the survivors of crimes on Guam are treated with compassion and dignity. Therefore, I sign Bill No. 324-38 (LS) into law as **Public Law No. 38-141**.

Senseramente,

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Åkto Maga'låhen Guåhan
Acting Governor of Guam



38GL-26-2829
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
September 1, 2026

3:33 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 324-38 (LS) nka P.L. 38-141
cc via email: *Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

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

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that **Bill No. 324-38 (LS)**, "AN ACT TO AMEND § 161.90(a) OF CHAPTER 161, TITLE 8, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER LATE APPLICATIONS UPON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE," was on the 19th day of August 2026, duly and regularly passed.



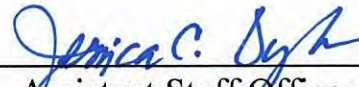
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 20th day of August, 2026, at 1:00 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

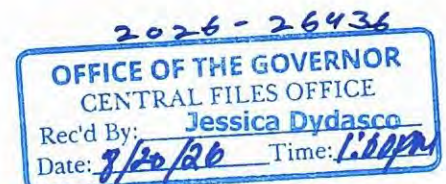
APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 9/1/2026

Public Law No. 38-141



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

Bill No. 324-38 (LS)

As amended by the Committee on Economic Investment,
Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Technology,
Regulatory Affairs, Justice, Elections, and Retirement; and
further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague
Shelly V. Calvo
Therese M. Terlaje
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
V. Anthony Ada
Chris Barnett
Joe S. San Agustin
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Jesse A. Lujan
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Vincent A.V. Borja
Christopher M. Dueñas
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
William A. Parkinson
Sabina Flores Perez

**AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 161.90(a) OF CHAPTER 161,
TITLE 8, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
AUTHORIZING THE CRIMINAL INJURIES
COMPENSATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER LATE
APPLICATIONS UPON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslatuan Guåhan* finds
3 the nation's commitment to supporting victims of crime includes the Victims of
4 Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) [28 CFR Chapter 1 Department of Justice, Subpart B,

1 §94.115]. The core intent of VOCA is to provide limited financial support for
2 victims of violent crime, and to ensure they are treated with dignity and fairness.

3 *I Liheslatuan Guåhan* further finds that our commitment to supporting victims
4 of crime includes the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission (CICC), created
5 by 8 GCA Ch. 161. The CICC is directed to review applications from victims of
6 violent crimes (8 GCA Ch. §161.55) and award compensation based on statutory
7 parameters. *I Liheslatura* finds in the immediate aftermath of a violent crime, victims
8 and survivors may not know about compensation or may not have the emotional
9 capacity to go through an arduous application process. The process of applying for
10 compensation can be exhausting, retraumatizing, and an emotional hardship for
11 victims and survivors. Guam’s compensation statute of limitation requires that an
12 application to be filed within 18 months of injury or death. It was copied from
13 Hawaii’s compensation statute of 1967. Hawaii amended its statute of limitation to
14 allow for a good cause exception with these words “provided that upon a showing
15 of good cause, the commission may consider applications filed beyond this time
16 period.” The majority of states provide for similar good cause exceptions to the
17 rigidity of statute of limitations. A “good cause” exception allows a state or
18 territory’s criminal injuries compensation program to consider applications with
19 equity and fairness. *I Liheslatuan Guåhan* seeks to accomplish such intent.

20 **Section 2.** § 161.90(a) of Chapter 161, Title 8, Guam Code Annotated, is
21 *amended* to read:

22 “(a) No order for the payment of compensation shall be made under
23 this Chapter unless the application has been made within eighteen (18) months
24 after the date of injury, death or property damage, provided that upon a
25 showing of good cause, the commission may consider applications filed
26 beyond this time period. Good cause may include, but is not limited to,
27 physical or mental incapacity, trauma resulting from the offense, fear of

1 retaliation, hospitalization, inability to obtain necessary documentation, or
2 other extraordinary circumstances beyond the applicant's control.”

3 **Section 3.** This enactment shall apply and benefit pending victim
4 applications.