

**I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2022 (SECOND) Regular Session**  
**VOTING RECORD**

NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator V. Anthony Ada	✓					
Senator Frank Blas Jr.					✓	✓
Senator Joanne Brown		✓				
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator James C. Moylan	✓					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓					
Senator Telena Cruz Nelson					✓	✓
Senator Sabina Flores Perez					✓	✓
Senator Clynton E. Ridgell	✓					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓					
Senator Amanda L. Shelton	✓					
Senator Telo T. Taitague		✓				
Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje	✓					
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje	✓					
Senator Mary Camacho Torres	✓					

**TOTAL**

10  
Aye

2  
Nay

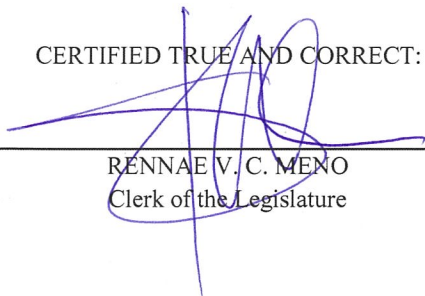
Not  
Voting/  
Abstained

Out  
During  
Roll Call

3  
Absent

3  
Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



RENNAE V. C. MENO  
Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall  
Guam Congress Building  
February 25, 2022

***I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2021 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 227-36 (COR)**

As amended by the Committee on General Government Operations,  
Appropriations, and Housing; and further amended  
in the Committee of the Whole.

\*

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton  
Telena Cruz Nelson  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Jose “Pedo” Terlaje  
James C. Moylan  
V. Anthony Ada  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 67, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS TO HELP VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE THROUGH VARIOUS LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS; TO APPROPRIATE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE 2021 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT REIMBURSEMENT OR THE 2021 GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED REVENUES TO THE GUAM OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE “*SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED (SERVE) ACT.*”**

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

2       **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
3 acknowledges the sacrifices that our men and women have made during their  
4 military service to protect the nation and U.S. territories; however, when government

1 services for veterans are available, they are not widely known throughout the  
2 *Guåhan* community. Furthermore, the landscape of veterans services is ambiguous  
3 and difficult for stakeholders to navigate.

4 *I Liheslatura* further finds that the men and women who dutifully served in  
5 the armed services are entitled to local and federal benefits as veterans; however,  
6 the assistance received in accessing government programs is unreasonably delayed  
7 and rigorous.

8 *I Liheslatura* further finds that veterans’ rights and benefits must be acted on  
9 in a timely manner by the government agencies who facilitate and administer these  
10 programs.

11 Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to establish a Veterans Bill  
12 of Rights to advance the livelihoods of veterans and increase their access to critical  
13 services for housing, employment, education, and healthcare.

14 **Section 2.** A new Article 2 is hereby *added* to Chapter 67 of Title 10, Guam  
15 Coded Annotated, to read:

16 **“ARTICLE 2**

17 **SECURING AND ENSURING THE RIGHTS VETERANS EARNED**

18 **(SERVE) ACT**

19 § 67200. Short Title.

20 § 67201. Guam Office of Veterans Affairs as Lead Agency.

21 § 67202. Veterans Bill of Rights.

22 **§ 67200. Short Title.**

23 This Act shall be cited as the “Securing and Ensuring the Rights Veterans  
24 Earned (SERVE) Act.”

25 **§ 67201. Guam Office of Veterans Affairs as Lead Agency.**

26 All references to “Office” in this Act shall mean the Guam Office of Veterans  
27 Affairs established under this Chapter, which shall be the agency responsible for

1 implementing the provisions of the Veterans Bill of Rights and this Act. In the  
2 development of programs and services under this Act, the Office shall consider the  
3 input of the Guam Veterans Commission.

4 The Office may apply for, receive, and administer grants or subgrants, or enter  
5 into intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements to provide services to  
6 veterans, as defined pursuant to local or federal laws, regulations, or guidelines. The  
7 Office is authorized to comply with the requirements of federal grants, subgrants,  
8 and intra-governmental and inter-governmental agreements, to include the provision  
9 of services to individuals who may qualify for such services pursuant to the terms of  
10 federal grants, subgrants, and intra-governmental and inter-governmental  
11 agreements.

12 **§ 67202. Veterans Bill of Rights.**

13 (a) Housing Assistance.

14 (1) Increase veterans' access to housing assistance by streamlining  
15 processes through inter-governmental and intra-governmental partnerships.

16 (A) The Office shall target housing programs and streamline  
17 federal and local processes to expedite and reward applicants through  
18 interagency Memoranda of Understanding or Memoranda of  
19 Agreement.

20 (b) Employment Support.

21 (1) Increase veterans' access to jobs by applying data to direct  
22 veterans to in-demand fields.

23 (A) The Office shall create and produce electronic reports of  
24 workforce need projections, by industry, job type, geography, and  
25 needed credentials; including a comparison of workforce needs with  
26 existing and projected workforce and credential availability; and  
27 highlight top in-demand industries, job types, and credentials.

1 (B) The Office shall include in its report(s) a pathway where  
2 in-demand job titles and credentials would leverage skills, experience,  
3 and credentials held by veterans; and forward the underlying data  
4 report(s) and additional information monthly to appropriate military  
5 outplacement offices, education centers, non-profit programs, and  
6 government agencies working to connect veterans with jobs.

7 (c) Higher Learning Opportunities.

8 (1) Award college credit from military training and experiences.

9 (A) Every veteran who is enrolled as a full-time or part-time  
10 student in good standing at any institution within the local university  
11 system and community college system, shall, upon application, be  
12 granted academic credits, without limitation, towards his or her degree  
13 for completion of courses that were part of such veteran's military  
14 training or service if the completed courses meet the standards of the  
15 local institution that are equivalent to or greater than the standards set  
16 by the American Council on Education for the awarding of academic  
17 credits. No fee, tuition, or other charge shall be assessed against a  
18 veteran who qualifies for such credit pursuant to this Subsection.

19 (B) The Office shall adopt procedures as necessary to fully  
20 implement the provisions in this Section.

21 (2) Increase flexibility in course registration for veterans.

22 (A) At institutions within the local university system and  
23 community college system:

24 (i) Institutions that offer an early course registration  
25 period for any segment of the student population shall have a  
26 process in place to offer early course registration to students who  
27 are veterans or National Guard members.

1 (ii) A student who is called to active duty in the U.S.  
2 Armed Forces after having regularly attended a course for  
3 thirteen (13) or more weeks or having completed eighty-five  
4 percent (85%) of the course's work for the term through  
5 acceleration may be given credit for each course in which he or  
6 she has a letter grade of "C" or better.

7 (iii) Students called to active duty may be entitled to a  
8 one hundred percent (100%) refund of tuition and fees if no  
9 accommodation(s) are provided by the educational institution.

10 (iv) Veterans with no previous college experience shall  
11 be permitted an extension of one (1) week to file applications  
12 after the end of the registration period and allowed to begin  
13 classes pending completion of their application and provision of  
14 supporting documents with the clearance of the institutions'  
15 admissions and records office.

16 (v) Upon return from active duty, veterans may register  
17 after the normal registration period ends, without late fees or  
18 other penalties.

19 (3) Leverage veterans' experiences and expand proven cost-  
20 effective training programs.

21 (A) The Office shall annually review apprentice, training, and  
22 other vocational programs focused on providing job training and  
23 placement to returning military service members and veterans. Such  
24 annual review shall evaluate the costs and results, and recommend  
25 programs for expansion with federal and/or local funding, including an  
26 estimate of future returns to Guam, of improved outcomes from  
27 program expansion.

1 (B) The Office shall provide an annual report to the Speaker  
2 of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* on January 1 of  
3 each year for five (5) years after the passage of this Act, to be used to  
4 inform annual budget decisions.

5 (d) Access to Healthcare.

6 (1) Increase veterans' access to healthcare through eligible  
7 healthcare coverage and treatment based on service.

8 (A) The Office shall develop and operate veteran health  
9 navigator services to increase veteran access to healthcare coverage and  
10 services.

11 (i) The Office shall identify, train, and deploy veteran  
12 health navigators who have direct knowledge of the veteran  
13 communities they serve.

14 (ii) Veteran health navigators shall identify all federal  
15 and other healthcare benefits, coverage, and services available to  
16 veterans and their families.

17 (iii) Veteran health navigators shall coordinate with  
18 relevant departments, healthcare providers, and health insurance  
19 programs to help veterans and their beneficiaries apply for  
20 coverage under such programs, and help veterans overcome  
21 barriers within the healthcare system to ensure enrollment in  
22 healthcare plans and effective delivery and coordination of  
23 healthcare services.

24 (2) Prevent veteran suicide and increase veterans' access to mental  
25 health services.

1 (A) Ensure veterans and their families have access to mental  
2 health treatment, including for post-traumatic stress disorder,  
3 depression, suicide, and suicidal ideation.

4 (i) Ensure that access to mental health coverage,  
5 services, and treatment is included as a holistic approach of the  
6 veteran health navigator program described in Subsection  
7 (d)(1)(A) of this Section. Based on the information about the  
8 unique needs, coverage, and treatment gaps faced by veterans  
9 and their families, the Office shall examine all existing programs  
10 designed to increase access to affordable quality healthcare and  
11 evaluate whether the needs of veterans and their families are met  
12 by such programs.

13 (ii) The Office shall execute any steps identified in  
14 Subsection (d)(2)(A)(i) of this Section and produce a report of its  
15 findings, recommendations, to include any recommended  
16 legislative or budgetary actions; and, shall transmit the report to  
17 the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I Maga'hågan*  
18 *Guåhan*, and release it to news media.

19 (iii) The Office shall prepare a report showing the  
20 impacts of Medicaid expansion on veterans and their families to  
21 date and shall include any recommendations for more inclusion  
22 or serving veterans and their families; and, shall transmit such  
23 report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and *I*  
24 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and release it to the news media.

25 (e) Burial Benefits pursuant to 10 GCA § 67105.”

26 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
27 (\$500,000) from the revenues received from the earned income tax credit



1 reimbursement for calendar year 2021 pursuant to Section 7530(b) of Chapter 77,  
2 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and Section 9625(a) of U.S. Public Law 117-2, the  
3 American Rescue Plan Act or the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Unappropriated  
4 Revenues, is hereby appropriated to the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs for its  
5 operations and the implementation of programs and services under this Act for Fiscal  
6 Year 2022. This appropriation shall be available until fully expended.

7       **Section 4. Implementation.** The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs shall  
8 have one (1) year from the effective date of this Act to implement programs and  
9 services, and any other mandates under the Veterans Bill of Rights as established by  
10 this Act.

11       **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
12 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall  
13 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
14 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
15 severable.

16       **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.