EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

FEB 0 9 2016

3316-1354
Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D

Date: 02-11-16
Time: 9:45 AM
Received By:

2016 FEB 11 AM 10:59

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Madame Speaker:

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. 211-33 (COR) **"AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 122317 AND 122318 OF ARTICLE 23, CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE TIMELINE FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE UPON THE PROMULGATION AND ENACTMENT OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS"** which was signed into law on February 3, 2016, as **Public Law 33-119.**

Senseramente,

RAY TENORIO
I Maga'låhen Guåhan, para pa'go
Acting Governor of Guam

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1354

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2016 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'LÅHEN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 211-33 (COR), "AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 122317 AND 122318 OF ARTICLE 23, CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE TIMELINE FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE UPON THE PROMULGATION AND ENACTMENT OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS,"** was on the 20th day of January 2016, duly and regularly passed.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker

Attested:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'låhen Guåhan* this 22nd day of January, 2016, at 5:17 o'clock p.M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'låhi's Office

APPROVED:

RAYMOND S. TENORIO
Acting Governor of Guam

Date: FEB 03 2016

Public Law NO. 33-119

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL FILES
RECEIVED BY
TIME 5:17 pm DATE 1/22/16

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2015 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 211-33 (COR)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
B. J.F. Cruz
James V. Espaldon
Brant T. McCreadie
Tommy Morrison
T. R. Muña Barnes
R. J. Respicio
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Mary Camacho Torres
N. B. Underwood, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 122317 AND 122318 OF ARTICLE 23, CHAPTER 12, PART 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE TIMELINE FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE UPON THE PROMULGATION AND ENACTMENT OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the members of the Guam Board of Social Work continue to require additional time to promulgate the requisite rules and regulations, pursuant to § 122312 of the

Guam Social Work Practice Act, as enacted on December 10, 2012, and amended on June 24, 2014 (Public Law 32-167).

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the statutory timelines by which existing, currently practicing, social workers may obtain either exemptions or exceptions necessary for the renewal of their licenses will expire on December 10, 2015. This will effectively result in the inability of over two hundred (200) social workers to continue in their practice in the allied healthcare workforce. It will likewise negatively impact the thousands of clients requiring their services.

It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to once again accommodate the Guam Board of Social Work by extending the date by which current social workers may obtain exemptions or exceptions for the renewal of their licenses, and to provide time during which they may promulgate their rules and regulations, as well as develop the requisite applications and forms required to conduct the business of the program.

Section 2. The first paragraph of § 122317 of Article 23, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended* to read:

"**§ 122317. Exemptions.**

Exemptions may be granted to non-social work degree holders who are employed with the job title "social worker" or any derivative thereof. Those granted a Certificate of Exemption by the Board would be allowed to remain in their social work positions without a social work license. Persons may apply for a Certificate of Exemption upon the promulgation and enactment of the rules and regulations. No person shall be granted a Certificate of Exemption after eighteen (18) months after the enactment of this Act. The Certificate of Exemption *shall* be effective indefinitely throughout the course of the person's professional career."

Section 3. § 122318 of Article 23, Chapter 12, Part 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is *amended* to read:

"**§ 122318. Exceptions.**

An exception is granted to any person meeting the following conditions:

(a) a person who is employed or has retired with the job title "social worker" or any derivative thereof and possesses a Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D. degree in the field of social work from an accredited or unaccredited social work degree program as of the date of passage of this law. Those granted exceptions must obtain a social work license upon the promulgation and enactment of the rules and regulations, or within eighteen (18) months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later;

(b) a person who self-identifies as a social worker and possesses a Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D. degree in the field of social work from an accredited or unaccredited social work degree program upon enactment of this Act. Those granted exceptions must obtain a social work license upon the promulgation of the rules and regulations, or within eighteen (18) months of the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later; and

(c) a person who possesses a non-social work degree, but possesses a degree in a related social science, to include degrees such as psychology, sociology, counseling, human relations and human services, political science, criminal justice, and any other degrees as approved by the Board; and who self-identifies as a social worker may apply for an exception to obtain social work licensure meeting the following requirements:

(1) provide a written request for exception from licensure requirements to the Board;

(2) provide a written declaration that they are individuals in good standing based on satisfactory employment performance evaluations and with no ethical complaints in the course of their employment with the job title "social worker";

(3) sign a declaration statement that they will abide by the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics;

(4) submit three (3) letters of verification; one (1) from their current employer acknowledging that he/she is an individual in good standing, and is highly recommended for employment with the job title, "social worker"; and

(5) obtain fifty (50) continuing education units (CEU) or certified training contact hours approved by the Social Work Board in the field of social work to include the following: the application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or bio-psychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and training in the social work Generalist Practice Model that includes assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, case management, information and referral, counseling, supervision, consultation, education, advocacy, community organization, and the development, implementation, and administration of policies, programs, and activities. The fifty (50) CEUs or certified training contact hours shall have no time or date limitations.

(d) All persons qualified for exceptions do not need to take the appropriate licensure examination, but must conform to all other requirements consistent with the appropriate level of licensure as prescribed in the law. Exceptions may only be granted by the Board up until the promulgation and enactment of the rules and regulations as provided pursuant to this Article."

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

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.