

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
97-36 (LS) As amended by the Committee on Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, and the Advancement of Women, Youth and Senior Citizens.	Committee on Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, and the Advancement of Women, Youth, and Senior Citizens by request of <i>I Kongressun Manhaben Guåhan</i> , the Guam Youth Congress, in accordance with 2 GCA § 7102.	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 6121 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE AND REGULARLY STOCK MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN ALL GUAM PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AND THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE " <i>PERIOD POVERTY ACT OF 2021</i> ."	3/25/21 3:11 p.m.	3/26/21	Committee on Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education and the Advancement of Women, Youth, and Senior Citizens		11/9/21 4:30 p.m. As amended by the Committee on Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, and the Advancement of Women, Youth and Senior Citizens	Request: 3/29/21 4/19/21	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES	
	12/6/21	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 6122 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE AND REGULARLY STOCK MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN ALL GUAM PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AND THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO DO THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE " <i>PERIOD POVERTY ACT OF 2021</i> ."	12/15/21	12/15/21	12/27/21	36-66	12/23/21	Received: 12/27/21 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 36GL-21-1448	

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

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

Doc Type: 36GL-21-1448
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE

December 23, 2021

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE, Speaker
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
36th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

12-23-2021

Time: 4:47pm

Received: He

Re: BILL NO. 97-36 (LS) – An Act to *Add* a New § 6122 to Article 1 of Chapter 6, Title 17, Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Requiring Guam Department of Education and Guam Charter Schools to Provide and Regularly Stock Menstrual Hygiene Products in all Guam Public and Charter Schools; to Require the University of Guam and the Guam Community College to do the same; and to Cite this Act as the “*Period Poverty Act of 2021*”

Dear Madame Speaker,

Today, I sign into law as **Public Law No. 36-66**, an act improving access to free menstrual hygiene products in Guam’s public schools, charter schools, community college, and university.

On our island, several pockets of low-income students suffer from “period poverty,” which is generally defined as limited access to menstrual hygiene products and education. Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent rising cost of goods and expenses, the inability to access menstrual products has become increasingly prevalent and visible within our community. Very often, this issue disproportionately impacts adolescents and young people. These items are medical necessities, not luxuries, and access to such products should not be a financial burden. These products should be affordable and easily accessible for all menstruating persons, particularly our students.

Accordingly, it is in the public interest to tackle period poverty by providing free menstrual products at educational institutions. Free access to menstrual products at education institutions encourages menstruating persons to come to school, improves regular attendance and sports participation. Beyond stigma, access to menstrual products would improve self-esteem and alleviate feelings of anxiety, depression, or shame. As such, this act would steer our community away from sources of shame by paving a promising path towards gender equality, women empowerment, and a more inclusive society.

Senseremente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hāgan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
December 27, 2021
9:54 A.M.

Enclosure: Bill No. 97-36 (LS) *nka* P.L. No. 36-66
cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'lāhen Guåhan*
Compiler of Laws

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


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

This is to certify that **Bill No. 97-36 (LS)**, "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 6122 TO ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GUAM CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE AND REGULARLY STOCK MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN ALL GUAM PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AND THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO DO THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "*PERIOD POVERTY ACT OF 2021*," was on the 15th day of December 2021, duly and regularly passed.



Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

Attested:




Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 15th day of December
2021, at 6:50 o'clock P.M.

PO1 D. Cruz

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 12/23/2021

Public Law No. 36-66

2021-15254
RCVD AT CENTRAL FILES
DEC 16 '21 AM9:27
Elaine Tajalle

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

Bill No. 97-36 (LS)

As amended by the Committee on Air Transportation,
Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, and the
Advancement of Women, Youth and Senior Citizens.

Introduced by:

Committee on Air Transportation, Parks,
Tourism, Higher Education, and the
Advancement of Women, Youth and
Senior Citizens

by request of *I Kongressun Manhoben*
Guåhan, the Guam Youth Congress, in
accordance with 2 GCA § 7102.

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 6122 TO ARTICLE 1 OF
CHAPTER 6, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,
RELATIVE TO REQUIRING GUAM DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND GUAM CHARTER SCHOOLS TO
PROVIDE AND REGULARLY STOCK MENSTRUAL
HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN ALL GUAM PUBLIC AND
CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE UNIVERSITY
OF GUAM AND THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TO DO THE SAME; AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE
“*PERIOD POVERTY ACT OF 2021.*”**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that period poverty is a systemic global problem that impacts millions of women
4 around the world. The lack of access to basic menstrual hygiene products such as
5 tampons and sanitary napkins for individuals during their monthly menstrual cycle

1 hampers their ability to participate in basic activities, including regular attendance
2 in school and participation in sports. According to a survey done by the Bureau of
3 Women’s Affairs in May 2019, thirty-three (33) responses indicated that women
4 used baby diapers as substitutes for traditional period products. In addition, the
5 survey found that out of the two hundred eighty-eight (288) participants, one
6 hundred one (101) responded that they missed school due to the lack of access to
7 period products.

8 *I Liheslatura* further finds that several states, including New York and
9 California, require public school facilities that serve female students in the sixth (6th)
10 through twelfth (12th) grades to regularly provide and stock menstruation products
11 in the female restroom facilities; and, the products are readily available to the
12 menstruating students without any fees or charges.

13 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to address period poverty
14 on Guam and to require Guam public and charter schools that serve students in the
15 fifth (5th) through twelfth (12th) grades to provide and regularly stock menstrual
16 hygiene products in the school nurse’s office. It is, further, the intent of *I*
17 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* to require that the products be provided to menstruating
18 students without any fees or charges.

19 **Section 2. Menstrual Hygiene Products in Guam Public and Charter**
20 **Schools.** A new § 6122 is hereby *added* to Article 1 of Chapter 6, Title 17, Guam
21 Code Annotated, to read:

22 **“§ 6122. Menstrual Hygiene Products in Guam Public and**
23 **Charter Schools.**

24 All public and charter schools on Guam that serve students in grades
25 five (5) through twelve (12) shall provide menstrual hygiene products, such
26 as tampons and sanitary pads, in the nursing or counselor’s offices of such

1 schools; and, such products shall be provided to students at no charge to
2 students.”

3 **Section 3. Menstrual Hygiene Products at the University of Guam and**
4 **the Guam Community College.** The University of Guam and the Guam
5 Community College shall provide menstrual hygiene products, such as tampons and
6 sanitary pads, in their health services centers; and, such products shall be provided
7 to students at no charge to students.

8 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

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