

MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 103 (LS)

Introduced by:

L.A. Leon Guerrero *HP*
M. Cruz *MC*

AN ACT TO MANDATE FIREFIGHTERS TO EARN AN
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CERTIFICATION,
MORE SPECIFICALLY, AN EMT-BASIC OR AN EMT-
PARAMEDIC.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Intent and Findings.** *I Liheslaturan Guahan*
3 finds that the Guam Fire Department ("GFD") is not only tasked with
4 prevention, controlling and extinguishing of fires, but also, it is tasked
5 with maintaining and administering an emergency medical and rescue
6 services system. Consequently, some of GFD's firefighters go through
7 training to earn their Emergency Medical Technician-Basic ("EMT-
8 Basic") certification, and for those wishing the most advanced level of
9 training, they go through the Paramedic certification program.

10 Because of the importance of having a firefighter respond to fires
11 and other emergencies, while simultaneously aiding those injured and
12 sick, many of our nation's fire departments now require their firefighters
13 to have an EMT certification. Accordingly, it is the intent of *I*
14 *Liheslaturan Guahan*, to follow the growing trend of our nation's fire
15 departments by mandating our island's firefighters to earn an
16 emergency medical services certification, more specifically, an EMT-
17 Basic or an EMT-Paramedic.

1 In addition, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* to fund for the
2 EMT certification of firefighters who currently do not have an EMT-
3 Basic or an EMT-Paramedic certification. While this may cost the
4 government of Guam money, the ability of our island's firefighters to
5 save lives cannot be outweighed by any dollar figure.

6 **Section 2.** Section 72101 of Chapter 72 of Division 3 of Title 10,
7 Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

8 **"§72101. Powers and Duties.** The Guam Fire Department
9 shall have the power and duty to control and extinguish
10 injurious or dangerous fires and to remove that which is liable
11 to cause such fires, and to enforce all laws relating to the
12 preventing or spreading of fires and all laws pertaining to fire
13 control and fire hazards within the Territory. The Guam Fire
14 Department shall also have the power and duty of maintaining
15 an emergency medical and rescue services system."

16 **Section 3.** Section 72105 of Chapter 72 of Division 3 of Title 10,
17 Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

18 **"§72105. Emergency Medical Services.** ~~The Fire~~
19 ~~Department shall have the power and the responsibility of~~
20 ~~maintaining an emergency medical and rescue services system.~~
21 The Guam Fire Department shall employ emergency medical
22 services personnel who have been certified to provide such
23 services under the provisions of Chapter 84, 10 GCA. The Fire
24 Department shall maintain and operate equipment necessary to
25 convey on land and sea an individual who is acutely ill,
26 injured, incapacitated or helpless and requires emergency care.
27 The Fire Department personnel shall provide emergency
28 medical assistance on the scene and enroute to designated

1 emergency medical services facilities to the full extent of their
2 certification by the Emergency Medical Services Commission."

3 **Section 4.** A new Section 72105.1 is hereby *added* to Chapter 72 of
4 Division 3 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

5 "§72105.1. **Emergency Medical Technicians.** Each Guam
6 Fire Department firefighter, at a minimum, shall be certified as
7 an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-Basic).
8 Thereafter, each firefighter EMT-Basic may undergo advanced
9 training to earn an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic
10 (EMT-Paramedic) certification."

11 **Section 6.** A new Section 72105.2 is hereby *added* to Chapter 72
12 of Division 3 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

13 "§72105.2. Immediately after the Civil Service
14 Commission ("Commission") makes its recommendations
15 pursuant to 4 GCA §6231, the Guam Fire Department shall
16 provide in its budget funding for the salary adjustments as
17 recommended by the Commission."

18 **Section 7.** A new Section 6231 is hereby *added* to Article 2 of
19 Chapter 6 of Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

20 "§6231. The Civil Service Commission shall review and
21 reevaluate the Guam Fire Department's firefighter positions
22 and make necessary salary upgrades based on their added
23 duty, responsibility and qualification, pursuant to 10 GCA
24 §72105.1, as a certified EMT-Basic or an EMT-Paramedic. The
25 salary schedules shall be competitive with the National
26 average. Thereafter, the salary schedules shall be reviewed by
27 the Commission every three (3) years, and upgraded as
28 needed."

1 **Section 8.** Section 6223 of Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 4,
2 Guam Code Annotated, is hereby deleted in its entirety.

3 **Section 9.** The Guam Fire Department shall request from *I*
4 *Liheslatura* a one-time appropriation from the Safe Street, Safe Homes
5 Fund, for the purpose of funding Emergency Medical Services
6 certifications and re-certifications of the Guam Fire Department's
7 firefighters. Thereafter, the Guam Fire Department shall provide in its
8 budget funding for any subsequent Emergency Medical Services
9 certifications and/or re-certifications of its firefighters.

10 **Section 10.** Within thirty (30) days upon the enactment of this Act,
11 the Civil Service Commission shall immediately review the salaries of
12 Guam Fire Department firefighters who are also an Emergency Medical
13 Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) certified, and shall make salary
14 adjustments as appropriate.

15 **Section 11. Effective Date of 10 GCA §72105.1.** Section 72105.1 of
16 Chapter 72 of Division 3 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, shall be
17 effective one (1) year from the enactment of this Act.

18 **Section 12. Severability.** If any of the provisions of this Act or the
19 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such
20 invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this Act
21 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,
22 and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.