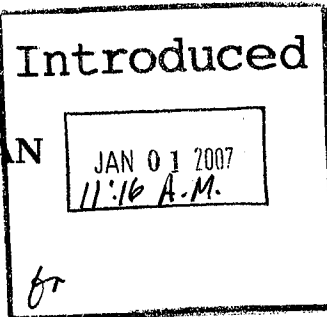


I MINA' BENTE NUEBE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session



Bill No. 7 (LS)

Introduced by:

J. A. Lujan ✓

**AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (a) OF §15A301 OF CHAPTER  
15 OF 17 GCA RELATIVE TO EXPANDING THE PROVISIONS OF  
THE MERIT AWARD PROGRAM.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Intent.** The laws governing the Merit Award Program  
3 do not recognize high school class credit schedules that allow students to meet  
4 all academic requirements for graduation in less than four years. For example,  
5 Southern High School currently offers a "four-by-four block" quarterly schedule  
6 rather than two semesters annually. The requisite 24 hours of high school class  
7 credits for graduation can be completed in three years. Accelerated track  
8 program students have been ineligible for Merit Awards, however, since  
9 eligibility has been limited to those attending high school for a full four years.  
10 This Act will allow all students who earn class credits in Guam high schools and  
11 meet graduation requirements in 2007 and beyond to be eligible for Merit Award  
12 Program college financial assistance.

13 **Section 2.** Subsection (a) of §15A301 of Chapter 15 of 17 GCA is hereby  
14 *amended* to read as follows:

1           “(a) There are established annual Merit Awards for high school  
2 students in the graduating classes of a public and private high school  
3 licensed to do business on Guam now or hereafter established. The  
4 students entitled to these awards shall be the students having the highest  
5 scholastic standing in the graduating classes of each such public and non-  
6 public high school on Guam. The awards shall be determined as follows:

7           (1) One for every fifty (50) graduates or fraction thereof of a  
8 school's graduating class. If as a result of the equal scholastic  
9 standing of two (2) or more graduates, there is a tie for the awards  
10 granted pursuant to this Chapter, the University of Guam shall  
11 provide a mechanism to break the tie. Awardees are entitled to four  
12 (4) years of education at the University of Guam. However, if the  
13 awardee is the top-ranked student academically of that person's  
14 graduating class, and such awardee's major is unavailable at the  
15 University of Guam, the awardee may attend any accredited college  
16 or university in the United States, or one recognized by the Council  
17 for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or its successors, where  
18 such declared major is available. The benefits are according to the  
19 amounts provided in §15A302 of this Article, plus the cost of airfare  
20 for one-way, economy airline ticket to the school of attendance and  
21 one-way ticket to return to Guam upon completion of studies.

22           (2) Of the students receiving awards in Subsection (1), supra,  
23 who attend and graduate from the University of Guam, the top two  
24 (2) awardees per graduating class shall be entitled to an additional

1 two (2) years of study for a Master's Degree at the University of  
2 Guam after completion of the bachelor's program awarded under  
3 the provisions of Subsection (1). In the event that, as a result of  
4 graduating class size, only one student is entitled to an award under  
5 Subsection (1), supra, then only one student shall be eligible for an  
6 award under this Subsection. The benefits are according to the  
7 amounts provided in §15A302 of this Article.

8 All awards shall be subject to the following limitations:

9 A recipient must be a:

10 (i) United States citizen, or a permanent resident alien, who has  
11 completed ~~four (4) academic years~~ all academic credit requirements for  
12 graduation during attendance in a high school on Guam; and

13 (ii) a resident of Guam for a continuous period of not less than five  
14 (5) years immediately preceding June 15th of the year the award is to be  
15 awarded."