



I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 275-31 (com)

Introduced by:

 V. Anthony Ada
R.J. Respicio
C.M. Dueñas 

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**AN TO ADD A NEW ITEM 15 TO §58104 OF CHAPTER 58
TITLE 12 RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING
OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES AS AN INCENTIVE TO
ATTRACT PHYSICIANS/CLINICS PRACTICING IN
SPECIALTIES WHERE GUAM PATIENTS ARE REQUIRED
TO SEEK TREATMENT OUTSIDE OF GUAM.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that every year Guam sends tens of millions of dollars in the form of health insurance/MIP/Medicaid claims for medical services not available on Guam. Guam residents similarly spend tens of millions of dollars for transportation, lodging, miscellaneous expenses and lost earnings to care for family members that are convalescing in off-island medical facilities.

In recent years, some Guam residents have been the beneficiaries of limited cardiac surgical procedures such as coronary bypass surgery and cardiac implants. These procedures are only offered on a scheduled basis and are not available year-round.

Most recently, Guam has seen the creation of a radiological cancer treatment center. This venture involved the investment of millions of dollars. Prior to its creation, cancer patients requiring this form of treatment usually spent 12 to 14 weeks off-island to obtain treatment. In many instances, the drain of insurance dollars from Guam's economy for these cases were huge and the drain on families' finances have been catastrophic.

1 The ability for Guam to keep its insurance dollars and patients' expense dollars
2 on Guam would far outweigh the cost of any tax incentives available under the
3 Qualifying Certificate program. Off-island health care facilities and related off-island
4 businesses that cater to Guam patients do not pay any taxes on Guam. Money spent for
5 off-island healthcare and additional living expenses does not circulate in Guam's
6 economy. Therefore, providing Qualifying Certificate benefits to bring medical
7 treatment to Guam will result in no reduction of the present tax base.

8 *I Liheslatura* further finds that, realistically, Guam does not have the population-
9 base to provide 100% of medically necessary treatments on island. There are, however,
10 certain specialties where sufficient patient numbers do exist where tax incentives may
11 make it feasible for these specialty physicians/clinics to relocate to Guam.

12 It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to provide incentives for physicians/clinics
13 practicing in medically necessary specialties that are only available outside of Guam to
14 relocate to and establish such practices on Guam.

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16 **Section 2.** A new Item 15 is *added* Section 58104 of 12GCA to read:

17 15. Licensed Physicians or clinics practicing in the following specialties:

18 (a) Cardiovascular surgery including but not limited to coronary
19 angioplasty, coronary bypass, heart valve procedures, ablation, cardiac implant
20 devices,

21 (b) Pulmonary surgery,

22 (c) spinal surgery including spinal neurology,

23 (d) Rheumatology,

24 (e) Radiological oncology,

25 (f) Organ transplantation,

26 (g) Refractive eye surgery,

27 (h) Dermatology, or

1 (i) any specialty, of medical necessity, not available on Guam as of the date
2 of enactment of this section.