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

Bill No. 375-31 cov

Introduced by:

M. Silva Taijeron 
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr. 
A.A. Yamashita, Ph.D. 

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 72109 TO CHAPTER 72, TITLE 10
OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO THE
CREATION OF THE POSITION OF DEPARTMENT
PSYCHOLOGIST AT THE GUAM FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
3 the demands placed on firefighters in the Guam Fire Department require that they
4 have the technical and psychological ability necessary to fight fires. Additionally,
5 firefighters must have the ability to respond to other critical situations including
6 rescue operations, first responder medical calls and natural disasters. It is crucial that
7 firefighters are clear and focused in their thinking and remain uncompromised by
8 professional and personal emotional distress, as they are expected to decisively and
9 responsibly follow through in response to such situations.

10 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that members of the Guam Fire
11 Department are not immune to the same professional and personal stress as the
12 general public. The stress they encounter, however, is more likely to be heightened by
13 the long shift hours and traumatic events they may witness from time to time.

1 Consequently, the stress resulting from work may adversely affect their home lives
2 and vice versa.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that there is currently no psychologist employed
4 by the Department. If such an individual were employed by the Department on a full-
5 time basis, they would be able to provide services that assist officers in managing any
6 issues they face professionally and personally, such as Critical Incident Stress Debrief
7 sessions. A staff psychologist would also be able to screen recruits for psychological
8 fitness to effectively fulfill the duties and responsibilities as required by law. It is
9 therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to create the classified position of
10 Department Psychologist for the Guam Fire Department.

11 **Section 2.** A new § 72109 is hereby *added* to Chapter 72, Title 10 of the Guam
12 Code Annotated to read:

13 “§ 72109. **Department Psychologist.** There is established, within
14 the Department, the position of Department Psychologist, who
15 shall be a classified employee and report directly to the Director.
16 The individual shall be a licensed mental health practitioner with
17 clinical experience. Additional qualifications shall be determined
18 by the Department of Administration and the Civil Service
19 Commission.

20 The Department Psychologist shall be responsible for
21 providing trauma debriefing, counseling and evaluation of
22 members of the Department following major incidences or during
23 times of personal crisis, and evaluate investigative personnel for
24 psychological fitness for specialized assignments.

1 The Department Psychologist shall also evaluate potential
2 candidates for employment for specific job titles within the
3 Department through the use of clinical interviewing. Additionally,
4 the Department Psychologist shall be responsible for the
5 administration and interpretation of standard group and individual
6 tests of personal development and intellectual capacity.”

7 **Section 3. Enactment.** The provisions of this Act shall become effective
8 immediately upon enactment.

9 **Section 4.** Within ninety (90) days of the enactment of this act, the Department,
10 in concert with the Department of Administration and the Bureau of Budget and
11 Management Research, shall formulate, and the Department of Administration shall
12 formally adopt, a commensurate salary for the position outlined in Section 2 of this
13 Act.

14 **Section 5. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Law or its application to any
15 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
16 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given effect
17 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this
18 Law are severable.