

Office of the Governor of Guahan

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Felix P. Camacho Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D. Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Speaker *Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan* 155 Hessler Street Hagåtña, GU 96910

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. 288-30 (COR) "AN ACT TO AMEND §8154 OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 8, TITLE 4 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING INVESTMENTS IN FIXED INCOME SECURITIES COVERED IN THE U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX" which I signed into law on April 1, 2010 as **Public Law 30-120.**

Sinseru yan Magåhet,

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'låhen Guahan
Governor of Guahan

Attachment: copy of Bill

30-10-0314

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

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

This is to certify that Bill No. 288-30 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND §8154 OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 8, TITLE 4 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING INVESTMENTS IN FIXED INCOME SECURITIES COVERED IN THE U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX," was on the 19th day of March, 2010, duly and regularly passed.

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	Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D. Speaker
Tina Rose Muña Barnes Legislative Secretary	
This Act was received by I Maga'lahen Guåhan t	
	Jonas Charo
	Assistant Staff Officer
	/ Maga'lahi's Office
APPROVED: FELIX P. CAMACHO	
I Maga'lahen Guåhan	
· ·	
_ APR 0 <u>1</u> 2010	

Date:

Public Law No. **P.L. 30–120**

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 288-30 (COR)

As amended.

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Introduced by:

T. C. Ada
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
F. F. Blas, Jr.
E. J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
J. V. Espaldon
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

v. c. pangelinan

R. J. Respicio Telo Taitague Ray Tenorio Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

AN ACT TO AMEND §8154 OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 8, TITLE 4 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING INVESTMENTS IN FIXED INCOME SECURITIES COVERED IN THE U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the statutory restrictions governing the investment of funds held in trust for the benefit of the Defined Benefit Plan members and beneficiaries effectively limit investments in fixed income securities, as the statute currently *does not* permit investments in the full range of fixed income securities covered by the Barclays

Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (the "Index", created in 1986, and formerly known as the Lehman Aggregate Bond Index). The Index provides a benchmark debt index for U.S. investment-grade fixed income securities. It covers the U.S. dollar-denominated, investment-grade, taxable bond market for securities registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Index covers bonds from the Treasury, Government-Related, and fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities (agency fixed-rate and hybrid adjustable rate mortgage pass-through). government related bonds eligible to be listed on the Index include, corporate bonds and derivative bonds such as mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the permitted fixed income investments in domestic (U.S.) Government Bonds (under §§8150, 8152, and 8153 of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4 of the Guam Code Annotated), comprise roughly half of the fixed income investments currently covered by the Index. For example, §8150 permits investments in bonds issued by the United States of America, its agencies and instrumentalities. §8152 permits investments in bonds issues by States or Territories of the United States. §8153 permits investments in bonds which are payable from revenues or earnings specifically pledged by a public utility, state, municipality, or territory.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that of the other half of fixed income investments covered by the Index (the non-government bonds), only a small portion is permitted under the Defined Benefit Plan statute. For example, §8154(a) permits investments in certain corporate bonds issued by domestic (U.S.) corporations, but *does not* permit investments in other non-governmental domestic (U.S.) fixed income investments covered by the Index.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that legislative action is needed to allow the Board of Trustees of the Defined Benefit Plan to invest in additional non-

government bonds that could reasonably be expected to produce, on average over time, additional returns net of fees, without increasing investment risk.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that the quality standards governing the rules for inclusion in the Index are consistent with the investment risks required under the existing Defined Benefit Plan statute applicable to fixed income investments.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the limitation on maximum percentage investments in §8154(c) is appropriate for domestic (U.S.) and foreign corporate bonds, but *not* for other types of non-governmental bonds that may be covered by the Index.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan, therefore, intends to permit investments of Defined Benefit Plan assets in the fixed income securities that are covered by the Index. This amendment to §8154 would permit the Board of Trustees to invest not only in domestic (U.S.) governmental bonds under §8150, 8152, and 8153, and in corporate domestic (U.S.) bonds under §8154(a), but also in the type of U.S. dollar denominated, investment-grade, fixed rate, taxable bond market of SEC-registered securities covered by the Index. I Liheslaturan Guåhan further intends that the limitation on maximum percentage investments in §8154(c) will only apply to corporate bonds described in §§ 8154(a) and 8154(b).

Section 2. §8154 of Article 1, Chapter 8, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

"§8154. Same: Bonds of Domestic and Foreign Corporations; Index-Eligible Securities.

(a) Bonds of Domestic Corporations. Bonds, debentures, notes and other evidences of indebtedness of any corporation *or* corporations created *or* existing under the laws of the United States, *or* of any of the states *or* territories of the United States *or* the District of Columbia which are *not* in

default either as to principal *or* interest, provided that:

- (1) Such bonds *or* other evidence of indebtedness are rated within the four (4) highest categories of two (2) nationally recognized and published rating services which have been approved by the Board and the Investment Agent; or
- (2) In case such bonds *or* other evidence of indebtedness are not so rated by two (2) such services, the net earnings available for fixed charges over a prior period of five (5) fiscal years next preceding the date of investment have averaged per year and during either of the last two (2) years have been, after depreciation and after taxes, *not less than*:
 - (A) two (2) times its average annual fixed charges over the same period, in the case of any public utility company;
 - (B) one and one-half (1-1/2) times its average annual fixed charges over the same period, in the case of any finance company; *or*
 - (C) three (3) times its average annual fixed charges over the same period, in the case of any other company.
- (3) No more than two percent (2%) of the Fund at cost shall be invested in the obligations of any one (1) domestic corporation or other single domestic issuing entity described in this Subsection.
- (b) Bonds of Foreign Corporations. Bonds, debentures, notes and other evidences of indebtedness of any corporation or corporations created *or* existing under the laws of nations other than the United States which are *not* in default either as to principal *or* interest, provided that the Investment Agent in its informed opinion, determines that such an investment would be employed by a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such

matters would use in the investment of a fund of like character and with like aims. *No more than* one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of the Fund at cost *shall* be invested in the obligations of any one (1) foreign corporation *or* other single issuing foreign entity described in this Subsection.

- (c) No investment shall be made in any one (1) issue described in Subsections (a) and (b) of this Section in an amount in excess of ten percent (10%) of such issues.
- (d) Other Securities in the U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. Bonds, debentures, notes and other evidences of indebtedness which are denominated in U.S. Dollars, investment-grade, fixed-rate and of the quality of fixed income securities covered by the U.S. Aggregate Bond Index."
- Section 3. Effective Date. This Act shall become effective upon enactment.
- **Section 4. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall *not* affect any other provision or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.