

Bill No. 688

Introduced by _____

R. J. Bordallo
J. M. Acfalle
F. T. Ramirez

AN ACT TO ADD CHAPTER 5A TO TITLE XII OF THE
GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.

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

2 Section 1. Chapter 5A is hereby added to Title XII of the
3 Government Code of Guam to read as follows:

4 "CHAPTER 5A

5 School for the Deaf and the Blind

6 Section 11450. Statement of Legislative Findings.

7 The Legislature finds that there are within the territory
8 a number of deaf ~~or~~ blind children who are mentally and
9 physically capable of attending the schools of Guam except
10 for their deafness and blindness; that there are no suitable
11 facilities within the Department of Education to educate
12 these handicapped children and that they are thereby dis-
13 criminated against, through no fault of their own or of
14 their parents; and that providing a school for such deaf
15 and blind children will not only directly benefit them but
16 will benefit the territory by enabling such deaf and blind
17 students to obtain the academic or vocational background
18 necessary for permanent employment, thereby relieving the
19 territorial government of the necessity of providing for
20 them.

21 Section 11451. Creation of School. There is within the
22 Department of Education a school for the deaf and the blind,
23 to which school any parent, guardian, or other person hav-
24 ing control or charge of any deaf or blind child between
25 the ages of 5 and 16 years, not exempted under the provi-
26 sion of Chapter 5 of the Title, shall send such child for
27 the full time of which it is in session.

1 Section 11452. Regulations. It shall be the duty of
2 the Board to adopt and place into effect for the school of
3 deaf and blind standards and standard practices regarding
4 its hours of commencement and otherwise regulating its
5 operation. Such standards and regulations shall be adopted
6 in accordance with sound educational practices with due
7 regard for the health, growth and general welfare of the
8 deaf and blind pupils.

9 Section 11453. Powers and duties of the Board. In
10 carrying out the provisions of this Chapter, the Board shall
11 (1) take such action as it deems appropriate to carry out
12 the purposes of this Chapter, and adopt and promulgate
13 rules and regulations in conformity with such purposes;
14 (2) determine and define the degree of deafness and blindness
15 required to make a deaf or blind pupil eligible for atten-
16 dance at the school for the deaf and the blind; (3) cooperate
17 with other departments, agencies and institutions, both
18 public and private, in providing for the rehabilitation and
19 education of deaf and blind children, in studying the prob-
20 lems involved therein, and in establishing, developing
21 and providing, in conformity with the purposes of this
22 Chapter, such other programs, facilities and services as
23 may be necessary or desirable."

24 Section 2. This Act is an urgency measure.