FIFTEENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1979 (FIRST) Regular Session

# CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 38, "An Act to add Subchapter E to Chapter II, Title X of the Government Code relative to the Food Stamp Program", was on the 11th day of May 1979, duly and regularly passed.

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KATHERINE (B.) AGUON Vice-Speaker

ATTESTED: JAMES H. UNDERWOOD Legislative Secretary day of This Act was received by the Governor this 1979 at <u>2:10</u> o'clock .M. may C

FRANCIS CO SHERRA Assistant Staff Officer Governor's Staff

APPROVED:

OSEPH F. Acting Governor of Guam 979 DATED: 12 ML.

#### FIFTEENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1979 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 38 (As Substituted by the Committee on Health, Welfare and Ecology)

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_\_ E. M. Espaldon

AN ACT TO ADD SUBCHAPTER E TO CHAPTER II, TITLE X OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE RELATIVE TO THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM: Section 1. A new Subchapter E is added to Chapter II, Title X of the Government Code of Guam to read as follows:

"SUBCHAPTER E

#### Food Stamp Program

Section 9130. Definitions. For the purposes of this subchapter:

(a) 'Department' means the Department of PublicHealth and Social Services;

(b) 'food' means any food or food product for human consumption except alcoholic beverages and tobacco and shall include seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the personal consumption for the eligible household;

(c) 'food coupons' means any coupon, stamp, or type of certificate used under the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977;

(d) 'food stamp program' means the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977.

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Section 9131. Authorization. The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through the Division of Social Services, is authorized to implement the food stamp program locally in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977.

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(a) Householders determined by the Department to be eligible for assistance under the food stamp program may obtain food coupons.

(b) Food coupons shall be used to purchase food from retail food stores which have been approved for the participation in the food stamp program.

Section 9132. Duties of the Department. The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through the Division of Social Services, shall:

(a) adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the food stamp program;

(b) cooperate with the Federal Government and do all things necessary to continue territorial eligibility under the food stamp program;

(c) comply with the requirements of the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977.

Section 9133. Reporting Change of Status. A person receiving assistance under Section 9131 of this subchapter who willfully fails to report to the Department a change in his status which affects his eligibility or the amount of payment for which he is eligible, within ten (10) days of that change, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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Section 9134. Penalties. (A) A person is guilty:

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(a) of a misdemeanor if he knowingly makes a false statement for the purpose of influencing the action of the Department in connection with its responsibilities under the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, with respect to the certification of households applying for participation in the food stamp program and the issuance under such program of food stamp coupons to households;

(b) of a misdemeanor if he knowingly uses, transfers, acquires, alters, or possesses food stamp coupons or authorization-to-participate cards in any manner not authorized by the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, or the Federal or territorial regulations issued pursuant to this Act and the face value of the food stamps or the authorization-to-participate cards is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) or less;

(c) is guilty of felony if he knowingly uses, transfers, acquires, alters or possesses food stamp coupons or authorization-to-participate cards in any manner not authorized by the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977 or the Federal or territorial regulations issued pursuant to this Act and the face value of the food stamp coupons or the authorization-to-participate cards exceeds Five Hundred Dollars (\$500);

(d) of a misdemeanor if he knowingly uses, transfers, acquires, or possesses a blank authorization-toparticipate cards of the Department in a manner not authorized by the Department;

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(e) of a felony if he knowingly counterfeits, forges, or alters any authorization-to-participate cards issued by the Department in connection with its responsibilities under the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977; and

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(f) of a felony if he knowingly alters, publishes, or puts into circulation, any counterfeited, forged, or altered authorization-to-participate card ."

UL M. CALVO

GOVERNOR

Territory of Suam

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Agana, Guam 96910 U.S.A.

## JUN 12 1979

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Honorable Thomas V.C. Tanaka Speaker, Fifteenth Guam Legislature P.O. Box 373 Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to transmit herewith Public Law 15-35 (Bill No. 38 as substituted by the Committee on Health, Welfare and Ecology).

In signing this bill into law however, I do wish to take this opportunity and point out certain disparity between the Federal Act and Bill No. 38 as substituted. In case of conflict, the Federal law may prevail over the local law.

Section 15 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 and Part 271.5 of the Food Stamp Regulations clearly establishes that "Whoever knowingly uses, transfers, acquires, alters, or possesses coupons or authorization cards in any manner not authorized by this Act or the regulations issued pursuant to this Act shall, if such coupons or authorization cards are of the value of \$100.00 or more, be guilty of a felony ....." Bill No. 38 as substituted, which was originally in consonance with this particular provision, was amended establishing similar violations of up to \$500.00 only as a misdemeanor.

Thanking you, I remain.

Sincerely yours ÓSEPH F. ADA Acting 0000208

Attachments .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT	
Received By	
Time	11:48 im
Date	6-12-119

### APPENDIX I