

I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Received
Bill Log Sheet

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES
317-33 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Brant T. McCreddie T. R. Muña Barnes R. J. Respicio	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE UP TO SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR GUAM'S MEMBERSHIP INTO THE WESTERN INSTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) RELATIVE TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE TUITION RATES FOR GUAM'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT OVER 150 INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE PART OF THE WICHE NETWORK.	05/13/16 1:06 p.m.	05/13/16	Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication			



COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan • The 33rd Guam Legislature

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May 13, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Therese M. Terlaje
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Rory J. Respicio** 
Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Subject: Referral of Bill No. 317-33(COR)

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of **Bill No. 317-33(COR)**.

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred, in my name, to the respective committee, as shown on the attachment. I also request that the same be forwarded to all members of *I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

Attachment





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MINA' TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2016 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 517 ^(cor) -33

Introduced by:

D.G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. 
B.T. MCCREADIE 
T.R. MUÑA-BARNES 
R.J. RESPICIO 

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE UP TO SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$72,500) FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR GUAM'S MEMBERSHIP INTO THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) RELATIVE TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE TUITION RATES FOR GUAM'S UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT OVER 150 INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE PART OF THE WICHE NETWORK.

2016 MAY 13 PM 1:06 

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds

3 that for six decades the Western Interstate for Higher Education (WICHE) is a

4 regional non-profit organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact

5 to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of western states

6 and to increase accessibility of educational opportunities for students living in

7 WICHE member states and territories. Guam has the opportunity to join New

8 Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska,

9 Washington, California, Nevada, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota and the

10 CNMI, most of whom have been members since the 1950s, to further these

11 endeavors. Under the Compact, each state commits to support WICHE's operation

12 through annual dues established by the Commission. Member states will be able to

13 benefit by providing undergraduate student residents access to the Western

1 Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program. The WUE Program provides a reduced
2 tuition at no more than 150% of the resident tuition rate at over 150 participating two
3 and four year public institutions to all residents of member states. The normal tuition
4 rates for out of state residents of these institutions are at least double or more the
5 resident tuition rates. Graduate students are eligible for resident tuition for numerous
6 educational programs through the WICHE consortium. As a member, our
7 community will have access to following Student Exchange Programs: the Western
8 Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP),
9 the Professional Student Exchange (PSEP) and WICHE Internet Course Exchange
10 (WICHE ICE).

11 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that WICHE has already undergone the
12 process for approval and has approved membership for the Pacific Island Territories
13 and the Freely Associated State governments. The Commonwealth of the Northern
14 Marianas (CNMI) government is the only island government to join under the
15 Pacific Island Territories and has essentially paved the way for other territories such
16 as Guam to gain approval and membership into WICHE. The annual dues for
17 membership for all Pacific Island Territories and FSM governments is \$145,000,
18 which can be divided proportionately by governments as they join. As the only
19 government to join as a Pacific Island Territory, the CNMI pays an annual due of
20 \$145,000. In its first year, the CNMI savings for 19 students was \$165,000. With
21 Guam's potential membership into WICHE, the annual dues will be split with the
22 CNMI, thereby requiring the government of Guam to annually commit no more than
23 \$72,500.00. It is estimated that Guam will potentially have more than the 19 students
24 the CNMI has enrolled and therefore the savings to Guam students will outweigh
25 the investment of Guam's annual dues. Moreover, for an additional of \$15,000 per
26 member (split proportionally), Guam will be eligible to the benefits under the

1 WICHE Mental Health Program whose mission is 1) to assist members in improving
2 systems of care for mental health consumers and their families, and 2) to advance
3 the preparation of a qualified mental health workforce in the West. Guam has
4 benefitted from WICHE training to support objectives for federal system
5 improvement grants and training in suicide prevention and Mental Health First Aid
6 as well as consultation on accreditation options for inpatient/residential treatment in
7 the past. Membership will permit our community to access WICHE's technical
8 assistance and consultation services under its Mental Health Program.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the 32nd Guam Legislature passed on
10 February 1, 2014 Resolution 234-32 (COR) relative to supporting Guam's
11 application for membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher
12 Education. The unanimously adopted Resolution 234-32 (COR) resolved the people
13 of Guam's support to become active members of WICHE and further urged the
14 government of Guam to work with WICHE to cement Guam's status as a WICHE
15 member.

16 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to enter Guam into the Western
17 Interstate Commission for Higher Education, beginning in school year 2016 - 2017
18 in order to provide the opportunity for Guam's students to enroll in two and four
19 year programs by paying no more than 150% of resident tuition rates at participating
20 WICHE institutions, providing resident rate tuition for multiple graduate programs
21 and providing access under all of the Student Exchange Programs (WUE, WRGP,
22 PSEP and WICHE ICE) provided to members under WICHE.

23 It is further the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to join with the CNMI
24 government in order to split the approximately \$145,000 annual dues and to
25 welcome other Pacific Island Territories and Freely Associated State governments
26 to participate in subsequent school years.

1 **Section 2. Guam's Membership into WICHE.** The Director of the
2 Department of Administration *shall* submit necessary documents, no later than June
3 15, 2016 Guam's to join the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
4 for beginning school year 2016-2017 as a co-member with the government of the
5 Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island. Guam's membership shall
6 continue on an annual basis and its proportionate share be adjusted downward with
7 the eventual inclusion of other government's from the Pacific Island Territories and
8 the Freely Associated States.

9 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The sum not to exceed Seventy Two Thousand
10 Five Hundred Dollars (\$72,500) is hereby appropriated from the Fiscal Year 2017
11 General Fund revenues to the Department of Administration to fund Guam's
12 proportionate share of its annual dues to the Western Interstate Commission for
13 Higher Education for school year 2016-2017. Payment to WICHE *shall* be made no
14 later than December 31, 2016 for Guam's first year membership. The Department
15 of Administration shall, beginning in Fiscal Year 2018 submit as a separate line item
16 on its annual budget request the funds necessary to continue Guam's membership
17 into WICHE.

18 **Section 4. Statistics Report.** The Director of the Department of
19 Administration *shall* formulate a report that provides statistics on the number of
20 Guam students who have enrolled in participating WICHE institutions and the
21 amount of savings each student has saved as a result of the reduced tuition rate. The
22 Statistics Report shall be transmitted to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on an
23 annual basis.

24 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
25 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
26 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without

- 1 the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
- 2 severable.