EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor Of Guam

OCT 17 2018

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
34GL-18-2467
OCT 23 2018
Time: 10:37am
Received by:

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje
Acting Speaker
I Mina'trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

2018 OCT 23 PM 12:29

Dear Madam Speaker:

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. 127-34 (COR), **"AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 12207(g) TO ARTICLE 2 OF PART 1, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY LIMITED VOLUNTEER MEDICAL LICENSE FOR PHYSICIANS LICENSED WITH THE GUAM-BASED MILITARY CREDENTIALING OFFICE TO ENABLE THEM TO VOLUNTEER IN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY,"** which was signed on October 17, 2018, as **Public Law 34-126.**

Senseramente,

EDDIE BAZA CALVO

2467

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2018 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'LÅHEN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 127-34 (COR), "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 12207(g) TO ARTICLE 2 OF PART 1, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY LIMITED VOLUNTEER MEDICAL LICENSE FOR PHYSICIANS LICENSED WITH THE GUAM-BASED MILITARY CREDENTIALING OFFICE TO ENABLE THEM TO VOLUNTEER IN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY,"** was on the 4th day of October 2018, duly and regularly passed.

Therese M. Terlaje
Acting Speaker

Attested:

Régine Biscoe Lee
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'låhen Guåhan* this 5th day of OCTOBER, 2018, at 1:09 o'clock P.M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'låhi's Office

APPROVED:

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
I Maga'låhen Guåhan

Date: OCT 17 2018

Public Law No. 34-126

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 127-34 (COR)
As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by: Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Joe S. San Agustin
Fernando Barcinas Esteves
Tommy Morrison
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.
William M. Castro
Telena Cruz Nelson
Louise B. Muña
Thomas C. Ada
James V. Espaldon
Régine Biscoe Lee
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Therese M. Terlaje
Mary Camacho Torres

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 12207(g) TO ARTICLE 2 OF PART 1, CHAPTER 12, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY LIMITED VOLUNTEER MEDICAL LICENSE FOR PHYSICIANS LICENSED WITH THE GUAM-BASED MILITARY CREDENTIALING OFFICE TO ENABLE THEM TO VOLUNTEER IN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* acknowledges that the military medical community has a long and proud continuing history on Guam beginning in August of 1899 with the arrival of the Medical Officer

of the USS Yosemite, Surgeon Philip Leach, and Assistant Surgeons Mark V. Stone and Alfred G. Grunwell. When these Naval Medical Officers arrived on Guam our residents had no modern western medicines or doctors, and there were many people on the island who were sick with serious illnesses such as tuberculosis, leprosy, typhoid, and whooping cough. This one hundred eighteen (118) year legacy of military medical personnel working in the Guam community is marked with many significant events that built the camaraderie we experience today.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further acknowledges that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) deems Guam as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). In a March 24, 2017 memorandum, the Director of the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services shared that in 2017, the Community Health Centers (CHCs) experience delays in the recruitment of providers due to the shortage of health professionals; the difficulty in recruiting providers given Guam's remote island setting, small scale, and territorial status (i.e. not linked to any larger state entity); the physician salary not being comparable to the U.S. rate; and the high cost of malpractice insurance on Guam. Additionally, the CHCs have been aggressively recruiting physicians and mid-level providers, but delays in the Department of Administration's processing of contracts after they have been signed by *I Magå'lahi* (the Governor) has hampered the CHCs' operations in that these providers cannot promptly begin employment at the CHCs.

The shortage of primary care providers causes chronic delays in patients seeking medical care. Oftentimes, this delay causes minor concerns to become greater concerns due to the lack of timely attention and thus results in greater anguish and cost for the patient. The early identification of medical issues has been proven time and again to effect the greatest possible outcome.

It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, in recognizing the invaluable contributions made by our military health care system and the recognized

need to increase our primary care provider base, to establish an expedited Military Limited Volunteer Medical License within the Guam Board of Medical Examiners. This license will be available, at no cost, to a physician who is authorized as a physician to treat personnel enlisted in a branch of the United States armed forces or veterans, and is limited to the practice of medicine for no compensation in clinics and outreach events that serve indigent populations.

Section 2. A new § 12207(g) is *added* to Article 2 of Part 1, Chapter 12, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

"(g) Military Limited Volunteer Medical License. A physician who practices medicine on Guam under a license issued pursuant to this Subsection may only practice at the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, the Community Health Centers, or a clinic or outreach event that primarily provides services for indigent populations, and the physician *shall not* receive direct or indirect compensation or payment of anything of monetary value in exchange for the medical services rendered by the physician to the indigent patients. The Board is authorized to issue a Military Limited Volunteer Medical License to an applicant who:

(1) is licensed and in good standing as a physician in another state;

(2) maintains credentials within the military credentialing system and authorizes the Guam-based Military Credentialing Office to provide to the Guam Board of Medical Examiners the required verification documents and military commander's approval; and

(3) agrees to be subject to Board rules and regulations, including those regarding disciplinary action, license registration and

renewal, and continuing medical education, throughout the duration of the Military Limited Volunteer Medical licensure.

A Military Limited Volunteer Medical License *shall* be issued at no charge to the applicant, be valid for a period of two (2) years, and may be renewed and maintained according to registration requirements as prescribed by the Board. The license *shall* be in effect upon receipt of the application packet by the Guam Board of Medical Examiners subject to final review. This presumptive eligibility for licensure is contingent upon the appropriate military commander's authorization allowing the physician to practice in the community, and the appropriate collaborative sharing of information between the Military Credentialing Office and the Guam Board of Medical Examiners."

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.