UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HÅGA • GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SIGUNDO MAGA'LÅHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

HAND DELIVERED

September 4, 2019

35GL-19-0978
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
SEP 04 2019
Time 4:17 ( )AM PM
Received By: Matt

HONORABLE TINA MUNA BARNES
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

2019 SEP -4 PM 4:44

Re: **Bill No. 126-35 (COR)** – ***An Act To Add A New § 57107 To Chapter 57 Of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, Relative To Requiring The Department of Revenue And Taxation To Establish An Exceptions Process For Homeless Individuals And Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Obtaining A Guam Identification Card; And To Further Citing This Act As The "Homeless Youth And Families Identification Act".***

Dear Madame Speaker:

Photo identification is a necessity in daily life on Guam. For most of us, having identification is taken for granted and rarely poses a problem when we forget to carry it with us. However, photo identification problems are particularly acute for persons facing homelessness. Homeless people are often in desperate need of shelter, food, clothing, and other services. Without identification, they cannot obtain lawful employment or receive basic social and needed medical services. Often, they are denied access to certain public benefits and assistance that are designed to help move the homeless out of poverty.

Since taking office in January, Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio has been active in trying to alleviate the issues affecting Guam's homeless population. Bill No. 126-35, which I have signed into law as **Public Law 35-32**, helps his plan to provide the homeless a path towards self-sufficiency.

0978

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It will come as a cost to the Department of Revenue and Taxation. The law does not provide additional funding to plan or implement a prepared program within the 180 days as mandated. Even so, it is a worthwhile investment if it allows our brothers and sisters and their children access to a safer way of living. While the law cannot overcome all the recent federal mandates surrounding photo identification, it does give the homeless population a source of documentation.

I hope the Legislature will continue to work with the Lieutenant Governor to advance his initiative to reduce the number of homeless members of our community. **Public Law 35-32** is certainly a good start toward this goal.

Senseremente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 126-35 nka Public Law 35-32

cc via email: *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*
Compiler of Laws

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

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

This is to certify that **Bill No. 126-35 (LS), "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 57107 TO CHAPTER 57 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO ESTABLISH AN EXCEPTIONS PROCESS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH OBTAINING A GUAM IDENTIFICATION CARD; AND TO FURTHER CITING THIS ACT AS THE "*HOMELESS YOUTH AND FAMILIES IDENTIFICATION ACT*,"** was on the 22nd day of August 2019, duly and regularly passed.

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker

Attested:

Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 23 day of August, 2019, at 9:21 o'clock A .M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 9/4/2019

Public Law No. 35-32

2019.5285
RCVD AT CENTRAL FILES
AUG 23 '19 AM9:21
Lillian Kosaka

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 126-35 (LS)
As amended by the Committee on Environment,
Revenue and Taxation, and Procurement;
and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by: Mary Camacho Torres
Therese M. Terlaje
Régine Biscoe Lee
Amanda L. Shelton
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD
William M. Castro
James C. Moylan
Joe S. San Agustin
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Louise B. Muña
Telena Cruz Nelson
Sabina Flores Perez
Clynton E. Ridgell
Telo T. Taitague
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje

AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 57107 TO CHAPTER 57 OF TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION TO ESTABLISH AN EXCEPTIONS PROCESS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH OBTAINING A GUAM IDENTIFICATION CARD; AND TO FURTHER CITING THIS ACT AS THE "*HOMELESS YOUTH AND FAMILIES IDENTIFICATION ACT*."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that it is a legitimate government interest to address the island's growing homeless

population. According to preliminary data from the Guam Homeless Coalition's (GHC) 2019 Point-in-Time Count, the number of homeless households on Guam grew from 13.2% to 16% and the number of people whose primary nighttime residence is not designed to accommodate regular sleeping increased from seven hundred twenty-seven (727) in 2018 to seven hundred sixty-five (765) in 2019.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that individuals who are homeless are often without personal identification documents as the transient and unstable nature of homelessness increases the likelihood of such documents getting stolen or lost. Based on the GHC's most recent Point-in-Time Count Report, the number of responses citing "no identification as a barrier to employment" doubled between 2017 and 2018. While identification is necessary for obtaining employment or certain public benefits, fees for acquiring or replacing personal identification documents are often prohibitive to a homeless individual.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan therefore finds that removing barriers that prevent homeless individuals from obtaining identification documents may enable these individuals to achieve greater financial stability and a permanent home.

Section 2. A new § 57107 is hereby *added* to Chapter 57 of Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

"**§ 57107. Guam Identification Card for Homeless Individuals and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth.**

The Department of Revenue and Taxation *shall* establish an exceptions process for a person who is homeless or is an unaccompanied homeless youth to apply for a Guam Identification Card and to waive any fees associated with obtaining the identification card; provided further, that said process *shall* allow for a person who is homeless or is an unaccompanied homeless youth to submit proof of residency by providing documentation satisfactory to the Department of Revenue and Taxation from a homeless, social service, or other

public assistance provider on Guam. For the purposes of this Section, the term *homeless*, *shall* mean a person as defined by the *Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987*, § 103(a), 42 U.S.C. § 11302(a), as amended from time to time, and the term *unaccompanied homeless youth*, *shall* mean a person twenty-four (24) years of age or younger who is not in the physical custody or care of a parent or legal guardian and who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

Section 3. The exceptions process *shall* be established within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of enactment.