

I Mina'trentai Sietta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
211-37 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Education, Public Safety and the Arts; and further amended on the Floor	Amanda L. Shelton Roy A. B. Quinata Jesse A. Lujan William A. Parkinson Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Joe S. San Agustin Christopher M. Dueñas Thomas J. Fisher	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.	12/6/23 10:29 a.m.	12/7/23	Committee on Education, Public Safety and the Arts	Request: 12/7/23 Waiver: 12/14/23	2/14/24 9:00 a.m.	4/8/24 1:49 p.m.	As amended by the Committee on Education, Public Safety and the Arts
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES	
4/19/24	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL AND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL SENIORS.	4/26/24	4/26/24	5/8/24	37-93	5/8/24	Received: 5/8/24 Messages and Communications Doc. No. 37GL-24-2061		

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Transmitted via email to: speaker@guamlegislature.org

May 8, 2024

The Hon. Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Doc Type: 37GL-24-2061
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE

MAY 08 2024

Time: 5:02 pm
Received: [Signature]

Re: Bill No. 211-37 (COR) - AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL AND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL SENIORS

Håfa Adai Madam Speaker,

Bill No. 211-37 (COR) requires Guam high school seniors to complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) to receive a high school diploma, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The bill further requires that schools provide support to students and their families to complete the FAFSA upon request, and ensures the privacy of financial information shared with individuals assisting the families by imposing criminal penalties on the disclosure of the information to third parties. Additionally, though the bill highlights possible benefits to filing a FAFSA, parents or guardians may choose not to file without affecting the conferral of their child’s diploma.

This measure helps raise awareness among our graduating seniors of resources available to them as they plan their futures. To ensure the success of this measure, I urge the Guam Education Board to adopt rules implementing Bill 211 that reflect several key considerations

First, other jurisdictions with similar measures report that utilizing creative and positive campaigns to encourage and assist in submission of the FAFSAs and ensuring the availability of meaningful counseling with students and families to interpret the results and help in evaluating options have yielded strong response from the affected community. The new FAFSA requirement should not be treated as a standalone but should be integrated into a broader, continuing effort to counsel Guam students and families as they build their futures.



To: Therese M. Terlaje, Speaker
Fr: Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam
Date: May 8, 2024
Re: Bill No. 211-37 (COR)

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Second, it is important to note that the FAFSA is increasingly prepared and submitted only online. Many Guam families lack ready access to a computer or the internet. I encourage the Guam Education Board to adopt measures to resolve issues of access for these families as they prepare the FAFSA submission.

Finally, many affected parents or guardians primarily speak languages other than English. The Guam Education Board should seek to ensure that resources are made available to assist these families to minimize potential language barriers in the completion and submission of the FAFSA, and the broader financial aid process.

For these reasons, and with the considerations in mind, I sign Bill No. 211-37 (COR) into law as ***Public Law No. 37-93.***

Senseramente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Maga'hågan Guåhan

Governor of Guam

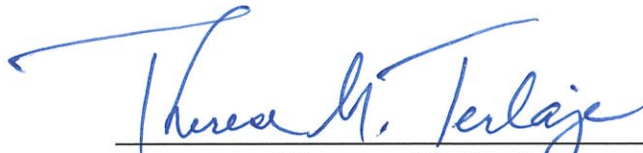
Enclosure(s): Bill No. 211-37 (COR) nka P.L. 37-93

cc via email: The *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

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

This is to certify that **Bill No. 211-37 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL AND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL SENIORS," was on the 26th day of April 2024, duly and regularly passed.



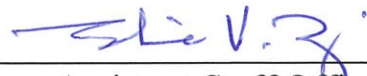
Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

Attested:



Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 26th day of April,
2024, at 4:28 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

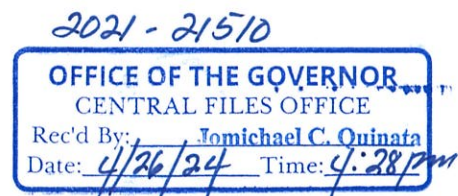
APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 5/8/2024

Public Law No. 37-93



I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 211-37 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on
Education, Public Safety and the Arts;
and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton
Roy A. B. Quinata
Jesse A. Lujan
William A. Parkinson
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Joe S. San Agustin
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne M. Brown
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 3223 TO ARTICLE 2 OF
CHAPTER 3, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,
RELATIVE TO PRIORITIZING ACCESS TO FEDERAL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
COMPLETION OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) BY GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL AND
ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL SENIORS.**

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that a post-secondary education provides individuals with opportunities to develop

1 or enhance professional skills which are essential to their career of choice. The value
2 of a post-secondary education goes beyond the higher financial earnings potential, it
3 prepares individuals to develop the leadership and temperament to successfully
4 contribute to society as a member of their respective organization.

5 *I Liheslatura* finds that post-secondary education costs are not immune to
6 inflationary impacts. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the
7 average tuition and fees were higher in academic year 2020-2021 than in academic
8 year 2010-2011 for first-time, full-time undergraduate students at public, private
9 nonprofit, and private for-profit four (4)-year institutions. At two (2)-year
10 institutions, the average tuition and fees were higher in 2020-2021 than in 2010-
11 2011 for public and private nonprofit institutions, but lower for private for-profit
12 institutions. At public four (4)-year institutions, the average tuition and fees were
13 Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$9,400) in 2020-2021, about ten percent
14 (10%) higher than they were in 2010-2011 (\$8,500). At private nonprofit four (4)-
15 year institutions, the average tuition and fees were Thirty-seven Thousand Six
16 Hundred Dollars (\$37,600) in 2020-2021, about nineteen percent (19%) higher than
17 they were in 2010-2011 (\$31,700). At private for-profit four (4)-year institutions,
18 the average tuition and fees were Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
19 (\$18,200) in 2020-2021, about one percent (1%) higher than they were in 2010-2011
20 (\$18,100). The average tuition and fees were eighteen percent (18%) higher in
21 academic year 2020-2021 than in academic year 2010-2011 at public two (2)-year
22 institutions (\$3,900 vs. \$3,300) and nine percent (9%) higher in 2020-2021 than in
23 2010-2011 at private nonprofit two (2)-year institutions (\$18,000 vs. \$16,500). In
24 contrast, the average tuition and fees were five percent (5%) lower in 2020-2021
25 than in 2010-2011 at private for-profit two (2)-year institutions (\$15,800 vs.
26 \$16,600).

1 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that additional efforts must be
2 implemented to encourage high school/academy charter school students to apply for
3 federal student financial aid. Without confirming whether they qualify for federal
4 financial assistance, students may be discouraged from pursuing a post-secondary
5 education despite the availability of federal student aid. Based on information
6 provided by the National College Attainment Network, the high school/academy
7 charter school class of 2022 left approximately \$3.6 Billion Dollars in Pell Grants
8 on the table by not completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
9 National data suggests that states that have adopted FAFSA completion
10 requirements have seen impressive results for their students completing the process.

11 Through this Act, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* therefore intends to prioritize access
12 to federal financial assistance by requiring Guam Department of Education high
13 school and academy charter school seniors to complete the Free Application for
14 Federal Student Aid; and the passage of this Act is critical to ensuring that Guam’s
15 students are in a stronger position to maximize federal student aid benefits.

16 **Section 2.** A new § 3223 is *added* to Article 2 of Chapter 3, Title 17, Guam
17 Code Annotated, to read:

- 18 “§ 3223. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid.**
- 19 (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, and in addition to any
20 other requirements established by law and the Guam Education Board, as a
21 prerequisite to receiving a high school/academy charter school diploma from
22 the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) or academy charter high school,
23 the parent or legal guardian of each student or student if the student is at least
24 eighteen (18) years of age, must complete and submit a Free Application for
25 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 26 (b) A copy of the FAFSA form receipt shall be submitted to GDOE
27 or academy charter school and the agency shall in no way require or retain

1 any copies of the FAFSA form or confidential information disclosed on the
2 application.

3 (c) Upon the request of a parent or legal guardian, GDOE or
4 academy charter school must provide the student and their parent or legal
5 guardian with any support or assistance necessary to complete the FAFSA
6 form and shall ensure none of the confidential information shared by the
7 parent or legal guardian is to be retained in any GDOE high school/academy
8 charter school student records.

9 (d) GDOE or academy charter high school must award a high
10 school/academy charter school diploma to a student who otherwise qualifies
11 for a diploma but would rather opt out of the requirements of this Section if
12 the parent or legal guardian, or student, if the student is at least eighteen (18)
13 years of age, certifies through a declaration, signed under penalty of perjury,
14 that he or she opts out of completing the FAFSA form.

15 (e) Any person who assists with the completion of the FAFSA form
16 and who discloses confidential information to anyone other than a GDOE
17 student and their parent or legal guardian, commits a misdemeanor.

18 (f) The Guam Education Board may adopt rules to implement the
19 requirements of this Section.”

20 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.

21 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
22 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
23 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
24 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
25 severable.