I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
41-36 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture; and substituted and further amended on the Floor.	Therese M. Terlaje Joanne Brown Telo T. Taitague Sabina Flores Perez Tina Rose Muña Barnes V. Anthony Ada Frank Blas Jr. Christopher M. Dueñas James C. Moylan Telena Cruz Nelson Clynton E. Ridgell Joe S. San Agustin Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedo" Terlaje Mary Camacho Torres	AN ACT TO *AMEND* §4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES AND REPORTS FOR ADOPTIONS.	1/25/21 4:28 p.m.	1/27/21	Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture	10/8/21 9:00 a.m.	10/20/21 3:21 p.m. As amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture	Request: 1/29/21 2/10/21	

SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES
3/25/22	AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES FOR ADOPTIONS.	4/1/22	4/1/22	4/13/22	36- 93	4/11/22	Received: 4/12/2022 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 36GL-22--1907

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

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

Doc Type: 36GL-22-1907
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE
04-12 2022
Time: 11:31a.m.
Received:

April 11, 2022

HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE, *Speaker*
I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
36th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: SUBSTITUTE BILL NO. 41-36 (COR) – AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES FOR ADOPTIONS

Hafa Adai Madame Speaker,

On January 21, 2021, I issued Executive Order No. 2021-02, designating the Department of Youth Affairs as a temporary administrative custodian for the Child Protective Services ("CPS") agency, recognizing that CPS required an infusion of support and resources to help address a backlog of crisis referrals, and to accomplish its statutory mandate. This emergency declaration facilitated the detail of additional social workers and recruitment of volunteer bureau retirees to achieve swift progress in stabilizing CPS operations and services, which are critical to the safety of our island's children and families. While we continue in our endeavor to mitigate these issues, we applaud the efforts of the employees and volunteers who have shown up to do this important work.

Substitute Bill No. 41-36 empowers the Administrator of the Division of Children's Wellness to engage personnel from other agencies, Division retirees, or private contractors to conduct social studies necessary in court adoption proceedings. This measure promises to alleviate the strain on bureau social workers, and allows them to address other equally important tasks, without compromising the expedient placement of our adoptees in loving homes. By performing timely social studies and associated reports, we hope to ease the impact this transition can already have on some of our adoptive children, and pave the way for a safer and more stable future for them and their new families. I sign Substitute Bill No. 41-36 into law as ***Public Law No. 36-93***.

Senseremente,

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:
April 13, 2022
9:46 A.M.

Enclosure: Substitute Bill No. 41-36 (COR) *nka P.L. No. 36-93*

cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*
Compiler of Laws

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session

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

This is to certify that **Substitute Bill No. 41-36 (COR), "AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES FOR ADOPTIONS,"** was on the 1st day of April 2022, duly and regularly passed.

Therese M. Terlaje

Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker

Attested:

Amanda L. Shelton

Amanda L. Shelton
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 1 day of April, 2022, at 9:39 o'clock P .M.

POS C C Chong

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 4/11/2022

Public Law No. 36-93

RCVD AT CENTRAL FILES
APR 4 '22 AM8:58
2022-16192
Evelyn Fejeran

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 41-36 (COR)
As amended by the Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture; and substituted and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by: Therese M. Terlaje
Joanne Brown
Telo T. Taitague
Sabina Flores Perez
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
V. Anthony Ada
Frank Blas Jr.
Christopher M. Dueñas
James C. Moylan
Telena Cruz Nelson
Clynton E. Ridgell
Joe S. San Agustin
Amanda L. Shelton
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
Mary Camacho Torres

AN ACT TO *AMEND* § 4210 OF ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 19, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO EXPEDITING SOCIAL STUDIES FOR ADOPTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. § 4210 of Article 2, Chapter 4, Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read:

"**§ 4210. Social Study.**

(a) Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall direct that a social study be conducted by the Division and that a report in writing of such study be submitted to

the court prior to the hearing, except that where the child's guardian or the person whose consent to adoption is required is an officer of the Division, it shall file with the court prior to the hearing a report of its social study. The court may order additional social studies if it deems necessary. Social studies may also be made at the discretion of the Administrator of the Division of Children's Wellness prior to the filing of a petition on the request of birth parents, potential adoptive parents, or Child Protective Services. The social study shall include the social history, the present condition of the child, the child's placement in the home of the petitioners and his adjustment therein, the suitability of such home and such other information as may be pertinent to the adoption proceeding, and the report submitted shall include such information, a recommendation, and the reasons therefore as to whether or not the petition for adoption should be granted and shall be accompanied by a verified transcript of the child's birth certificate. The purpose of the social study and report is to aid the court in making disposition of the petition and shall be considered by the court prior thereto.

(b) In order to ensure timely social studies are conducted and submitted to the court, the Administrator of the Division of Children's Wellness may authorize personnel from other divisions or agencies, or may procure services from private contractors or retired personnel of the Division or other divisions or agencies of the government of Guam, to conduct social studies; provided, that such social studies shall be submitted to the Division for review and approval prior to submission to the court. When a Guam resident files a petition for adoption in another jurisdiction, the Division may charge the Guam resident(s) a fee for social studies conducted under this Section.

(c) Minimum Qualifications. Private contractors, personnel from other divisions or agencies, and retired personnel of the Division or other

divisions or agencies of the government of Guam conducting social studies under this Section shall first be approved by and have minimum qualifications as determined by the Administrator of the Division of Children's Wellness.

(d) Prior to the procurement of services for any social study conducted by private contractors, personnel from other divisions or agencies, and retired personnel of the Division, or other divisions or agencies of the government of Guam, the Administrator of the Division of Children's Wellness shall immediately submit a report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* containing the minimum qualifications required of such individuals or entities."

Section 2. The Compiler of Laws is authorized to amend all references to the "Division of Social Services" in Chapter 4 of Title 19, Guam Code Annotated, to refer to the "Division of Children's Wellness."

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.