

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

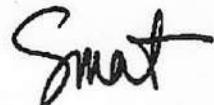
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 199-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 27027 TO CHAPTER 27, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ADDING A LIFETIME TEACHING CERTIFICATE FOR EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS ON GUAM,"** was on the 5th day of December 2025, duly and regularly passed.



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 9th day of Dec,
2025, at 6:26 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 20 Dec 2025

Public Law No. 38-91

2025 - 24986

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CENTRAL FILES OFFICE

Rec'd By: Jomichael C. Quinata
Date: 12-10-25 Time: 8:43 AM

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATORAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session***

Bill No. 199-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting; and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Vincent A.V. Borja
Shelly V. Calvo
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
V. Anthony Ada
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Christopher M. Dueñas
Chris Barnett
Telo T. Taitague
Sabina Flores Perez
Therese M. Terlaje
Jesse A. Lujan
William A. Parkinson
Joe S. San Agustin

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 27027 TO CHAPTER 27, TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ADDING A LIFETIME TEACHING CERTIFICATE FOR EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS ON GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

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

3 that the dedication and long-term service of educators are crucial to the development
4 and strength of Guam's education system. Recognizing the contributions of teachers
5 with extensive experience promotes professional excellence, retains seasoned

1 educators, and encourages ongoing commitment to teaching. Many states and
2 jurisdictions have adopted lifetime or permanent certification options to honor
3 veteran educators who have demonstrated sustained dedication and expertise.

4 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that in Guam, some teachers retire and
5 then let their certification lapse after 40 years of service, which can discourage them
6 from returning to the profession. The process of re-certification can be complex and
7 burdensome, deterring many experienced educators from rejoining the workforce
8 even if they are interested.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT)
10 President Tim Fedenko's testimony on April 21, 2025, highlighted that efforts to
11 bring teachers back require strategies that recognize their service and make re-entry
12 easier. One effective approach used by other states is reinstating a lifetime certificate
13 for teachers who have achieved, for example, 25 years of dedicated service. This not
14 only honors long-standing educators but also provides a pathway for those close to
15 retirement or interested in continued service to remain or return to the classroom.

16 Therefore, it is the purpose of this legislation to establish a lifetime
17 certification for qualified teachers, serving as a token of appreciation, reducing
18 administrative barriers, and helping to retain experienced educators within Guam's
19 schools.

20 **Section 2.** A new § 27027 is *added* to Chapter 27, Title 17, Guam Code
21 Annotated, to read as follows:

22 **§ 27027. Lifetime Teacher Certification Requirements**

23 (a) Minimum Qualifications. An individual shall be eligible for a
24 Lifetime Teacher Certification upon meeting the following requirements:

25 (1) Accumulation of at least twenty-five (25) years of verified,
26 and satisfactory teaching experience in a recognized educational
27 institution in Guam;

(2) Possession of a valid and current certification in the relevant subject area or grade level; and

(3) Completion of any required professional development or activities as prescribed by the Guam Commission for Educator Certification (GCEC) prior to issuance.

(b) Issuance of Lifetime Certificate.

(1) Upon verification of eligibility, the Guam Commission for Educator Certification (GCEC) shall issue a Lifetime Teacher Certification to the qualified educator. The certification shall:

(A) Be valid for the educator's lifetime and shall not require renewal; and

(B) Be subject to the following conditions:

(i) Lifetime Certificate holders shall report to the GCEC every five (5) years to declare their intent to continue teaching and disclose any background check issues that may disqualify them from holding a valid license; and

(ii) Submission of a satisfactory evaluation every five (5) years; and

(iii) Required to participate in their school or district professional development; and

(iv) Active participation in the Guam Teacher Evaluation Program (GTEP), including completion of all Guam Department of Education requirements for maintaining professional standards, such as annual evaluations, training sessions, professional growth planning, and fulfillment of student outcome assessments.

(2) The Lifetime Teacher Certification shall be revoked if the holder is found to have violated the professional code of conduct or code of ethics, or if character assessments indicate disqualifying violations.

(c) Lifetime Certification Eligibility for Recently Retired Individuals.

Individuals who have retired in good standing within the last ten (10) years and whose certification has since lapsed may be eligible to apply for a lifetime certification within six months of the passage of this legislation.

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

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