

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

**Bill No. 214-38 (COR)**

An official copy of this bill may be  
obtained through the Legislative  
Clerks Office.

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao  
Joe S. San Agustin

**AN ACT TO AMEND ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 15,  
TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO  
STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE AND  
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GUAM ETHICS  
COMMISSION.**

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

**Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the Guam Ethics Commission (Commission) is comprised of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor of Guam who are subject to confirmation by *I Liheslatura*. Recognizing the Commission's responsibility to adjudicate complaints alleging Standard of Conduct violations by government officials and employees, *I Liheslatura* proposes to modify the Commission's membership to include eligible residents appointed by community organizations and the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Government of Guam. Accordingly, this Act intends to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the Guam Ethics Commission by amending Article 3 of Chapter 15, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, modifying the Commission's membership and prioritizing representation of our broader community.

**Section 2.** Article 3 of Chapter 15, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, is amended, to read:

1 "ARTICLE 3

2 GUAM ETHICS COMMISSION

3  
4 "§ 15301. Guam Ethics Commission Established; Composition.

5 (a) There shall be within the ~~g~~Government of Guam, an autonomous and  
6 independent commission to be known as the 'Guam Ethics Commission.' The Guam  
7 Ethics Commission (Commission) shall consist of the following seven (7) members  
8 ~~to be appointed by I Maga'håga.:~~

9 (1) a member appointed by I Maga'hågan Guåhan;

10 (2) a member appointed by the Speaker of the Guam Legislature;

11 (3) a member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam;

12 (4) a member appointed by a majority of members of the Guam Chamber of  
13 Commerce;

14 (5) a member appointed by a majority of members of the Guam Women's  
15 Chamber of Commerce, provided the individual shall not concurrently serve as the  
16 appointed member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce to the Guam Ethics  
17 Commission;

18 (6) a member appointed by a majority of members of the Mayor's Council of  
19 Guam; and

20 (7) a member appointed by a majority of members of the Association of  
21 Government Accountants (AGA) Guam Chapter.

22 Each appointee shall be a United States citizen and a bona fide resident of  
23 Guam. No person who has ever been convicted of a felony shall be eligible to serve  
24 on the Guam Ethics Commission. Members of the Guam Ethics Commission shall  
25 not be an employee, as defined herein, or have any member of their immediate  
26 family employed by the ~~g~~Government of Guam. ~~All appointments to the Guam~~  
27 ~~Ethics Commission shall be confirmed by I Liheslatura.~~

1 (b) The Chairperson of the Guam Ethics Commission shall be elected by the  
2 majority of the Commission. The term of office of each member shall be for four (4)  
3 years, ~~provided that of the original members, two (2) shall hold office for two (2)~~  
4 ~~years, two (2) shall hold office for three (3) years, and one (1) shall hold office for~~  
5 ~~four (4) years. The determination of these members' length of office shall be by lot~~  
6 ~~drawn by the members at their initial meeting.~~ No person shall hold any elected  
7 office or be a candidate for elected office during his or her tenure on the Guam Ethics  
8 Commission, nor shall they be appointed consecutively to more than two (2) terms  
9 as a member of the Commission.

10 (c) Members shall serve without compensation. A quorum for the conduct of  
11 official business by the Commission is established when at least five (5) members  
12 are physically present or participating remotely via videoconference or similar  
13 technological means permitted by the Commission's rules and regulations. An action  
14 of the Commission is valid if approved by at least five (5) members, ~~except that~~  
15 ~~they shall receive a stipend of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per meeting not to exceed four~~  
16 ~~(4) meetings per calendar month, and shall be compensated for all normal expenses~~  
17 ~~of travel, and for the cost of meals while in session.~~

18 (d) Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the  
19 same manner as the original appointments. ~~I Maga'håga may remove or suspend~~  
20 ~~a~~ Any member of the Commission may be removed for cause, upon the filing by at  
21 least five (5) members of the Commission of a written finding with the Commission  
22 and upon service of a copy of the written findings on the member removed ~~or~~  
23 ~~suspended.~~

24 (e) The Commission's rules and regulations shall protect its operations against  
25 political influence and other external interference.

26 (f) The Commission shall develop and maintain a public-facing website to  
27 provide information on its processes, findings, and educational resources regarding

1 ethics in government. Except as provided by this Chapter, all proceedings including  
2 hearings of the Commission shall be open to the public, and records shall be  
3 available for public review, pursuant to provisions of the Open Government Law, 5  
4 GCA Chapter 8.”

5 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon  
6 enactment.