

I Mina'trentai Ocho 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
280-38 (COR)	Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> § 52.10 OF CHAPTER 52 OF TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD A NEW § 52.70 TO CHAPTER 52 OF TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING INTERFERING WITH A JUDICIAL OFFICER; AND TO ADD A NEW § 55.70 TO CHAPTER 55 OF TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING INTERFERING WITH A PEACE OFFICER, IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY.	2/23/26 1:28 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 280 -38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes 

AN ACT TO AMEND § 52.10 OF CHAPTER 52 OF TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, TO ADD A NEW § 52.70 TO CHAPTER 52 OF TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING INTERFERING WITH A JUDICIAL OFFICER; AND TO ADD A NEW § 55.70 TO CHAPTER 55 OF TITLE 9, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING INTERFERING WITH A PEACE OFFICER, IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds**
3 **that judicial officers and peace officers are entrusted with responsibilities essential**
4 **to the administration of justice and the maintenance of public safety. In the lawful**
5 **performance of their duties, these public servants make decisions and take actions**
6 **that carry serious consequences for individuals, families, and the broader**
7 **community.**

8 ***I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that, because of the nature of their work,**
9 **these officers are uniquely vulnerable to threats, harassment, intimidation, and acts**
10 **of violence directed not only at them, but also at members of their families. Such**
11 **conduct undermines the rule of law, endangers public servants, and threatens the**
12 **integrity of the justice system itself.**

1 ***I Liheslaturan Guåhan*** further finds that individuals who are dissatisfied with
2 judicial rulings, enforcement actions, or other lawful exercises of authority may
3 resort to intimidation, harassment, or the dissemination of personal information in
4 an effort to influence, punish, or deter judicial officers and peace officers from
5 carrying out their official duties. These tactics pose a direct threat to the impartial
6 administration of justice and to public confidence in governmental institutions.

7 ***I Liheslaturan Guåhan*** notes with grave concern the increasing number of
8 targeted attacks against members of the judiciary and judicial officers nationwide.
9 In 2020, a former litigant before a federal judge in New Jersey carried out an attack
10 that resulted in the death of the judge’s twenty-year-old son and serious injuries to
11 her husband. On October 19, 2023, a judge born in Guam was killed at his home in
12 Washington County, Maryland, following a ruling in a child custody matter.
13 Following that incident, the National Center for State Courts warned that sustained
14 attacks on the rule of law, public institutions, and the courts are increasingly
15 manifesting in real-world violence, and that normalizing such attacks threatens
16 public safety and democratic governance.

17 ***I Liheslaturan Guåhan*** further finds that Guam remains without a specific
18 statutory offense addressing the harassment, intimidation, or dissemination of
19 personal information of judicial officers or peace officers, despite the clear risks such
20 conduct poses to individual safety, institutional integrity, and the fair administration
21 of justice.

22 ***I Liheslaturan Guåhan*** declares that no public servant should be forced to
23 choose between performing official duties and placing themselves or their families
24 at risk of harm. It is therefore the intent of ***I Liheslatura*** to deter and address conduct
25 that threatens judicial independence, interferes with lawful enforcement and
26 supervision functions, and undermines public trust in the justice system.

1 Accordingly, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends through this Act to establish
2 appropriate protections for judicial officers and peace officers, so they may carry out
3 their duties free from intimidation, harassment, retaliation, or coercion, and to
4 preserve the fundamental principles of justice, fairness, and public safety upon
5 which Guam's legal system depends.

6 **Section 2.** § 52.10 of Chapter 52 of Title 9 Guam Code Annotated is hereby
7 *amended* to read:

8 **“§ 52.10. Definitions.**

9 As used in this Chapter:

10 (a) “bodily injury” has the same meaning as defined in 9 GCA §
11 16.10(b)official function and public servant have the meanings provided for those
12 terms by § 49.10.

13 (b) “judicial officer” means a Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, a Judge
14 of the Superior Court of Guam, a magistrate appointed by the Chief Justice of the
15 Judiciary of Guam, a Judge or Justice *pro tempore* appointed by the Chief Justice of
16 the Judiciary of Guam, a referee at the Judiciary of Guam, or a hearings officer at
17 the Judiciary of Guam~~material statement means a statement which affected or could~~
18 ~~have affected the course or outcome of a proceeding, regardless of its admissibility~~
19 ~~under rules of evidence.~~

20 (c) “judicial officer's family” means a judicial officer's spouse, son, daughter,
21 son in-law, daughter-in-law, sibling, parent, or any other relative who lives in the
22 judicial officer's household~~Official proceeding means a proceeding before any~~
23 ~~court, body, agency, public servant or other person authorized by law to conduct~~
24 ~~such proceeding and to administer an oath or cause it to be administered, including~~
25 ~~any referee, hearing officer, commissioner, notary or other person taking testimony~~
26 ~~or deposition in connection with any such proceeding.~~

1 (d) official function and public servant have the same meanings as defined by
2 9 GCA § 49.10~~public record means any record, document, thing belonging to, or~~
3 ~~received or kept by the Government of Guam or any governmental instrumentality~~
4 ~~within the Territory.~~

5 (e) material statement means a statement which affected or could have
6 affected the course or outcome of a proceeding, regardless of its admissibility under
7 rules of evidence~~statement means any non-trivial representation, but a representation~~
8 ~~of opinion, belief or other state of mind is a statement only if it clearly relates to a~~
9 ~~state of mind apart from or in addition to the facts which it otherwise represents.~~

10 (f) official proceeding means a proceeding before any court, body, agency,
11 public servant or other person authorized by law to conduct such proceeding and to
12 administer an oath or cause it to be administered, including any referee, hearing
13 officer, commissioner, notary or other person taking testimony or deposition in
14 connection with any such proceeding.~~statement under oath means~~

15 ~~(1) a statement made pursuant to a swearing, an affirmation, or any other mode~~
16 ~~authorized by law of attesting to the truth of that which is stated; and~~

17 ~~(2) a statement made on a form bearing notice, authorized by law, to the effect~~
18 ~~that false statements made therein are punishable.~~

19 ~~(3) testimony means oral or written statements, documents or any other~~
20 ~~material which may be offered by a witness in an official proceeding.~~

21 (g) public record means any record, document, thing belonging to, or received
22 or kept by the Government of Guam or any governmental instrumentality within the
23 Territory.

24 (h) statement means any non-trivial representation, but a representation of
25 opinion, belief or other state of mind is a statement only if it clearly relates to a state
26 of mind apart from or in addition to the facts which it otherwise represents.

27 (i) statement under oath means:

1 (1) a statement made pursuant to a swearing, an affirmation, or any
2 other mode authorized by law of attesting to the truth of that which is stated;
3 and

4 (2) a statement made on a form bearing notice, authorized by law, to
5 the effect that false statements made therein are punishable.

6 (3) testimony means oral or written statements, documents or any other
7 material which may be offered by a witness in an official proceeding.”

8 **Section 3.** A new § 52.70 is hereby *added* to Chapter 52 of Title 9 Guam
9 Code Annotated to read:

10 **“§ 52.70. Interfering with a Judicial Officer; Defined & Punished.**

11 (a) A person commits the offense of interfering with a judicial officer if,
12 with the purpose to harass, intimidate, or influence a judicial officer in the
13 performance of such officer’s official duties, such person:

14 (1) Threatens or causes harm to such judicial officer or members of
15 such judicial officer’s family;

16 (2) Uses force, threats, or deception against or toward such judicial
17 officer or members of such judicial officer’s family;

18 (3) Offers, conveys, or agrees to convey any benefit direct or indirect
19 upon such judicial officer or such judicial officer’s family;

20 (4) Engages in conduct reasonably calculated to harass or alarm such
21 judicial officer or such judicial officer’s family, including stalking pursuant
22 to 9 GCA §19.70; or

23 (5) Disseminates through any means, including by posting on the
24 internet, the judicial officer’s or the judicial officer’s family’s personal
25 information. For purposes of this section, “personal information” includes a
26 home address, home or mobile telephone number, personal email address,
27 Social Security number, tax identification number, checking or savings

1 account number, marital status, or identity of a child under eighteen (18) years
2 of age.

3 (b) The offense of interfering with a judicial officer is a felony of the third
4 degree.

5 (c) If a violation of this section results in death or bodily injury to a judicial
6 officer or a member of the judicial officer's family, the offense is a felony of the first
7 degree."

8 **Section 4.** A new § 55.70 is hereby *added* to Chapter 55 of Title 9 Guam Code
9 Annotated to read:

10 **“§ 55.70. Interfering with a Peace Officer; Defined & Punished.**

11 (a) A person commits the offense of interfering with a peace officer if, with
12 the purpose to harass, intimidate, or influence a peace officer in the performance of
13 such officer's official duties, such person:

14 (1) Threatens or causes harm to such officer;

15 (2) Uses force, threats, or deception against or toward such officer;

16 (3) Offers, conveys, or agrees to convey any benefit direct or indirect
17 upon such officer;

18 (4) Engages in conduct reasonably calculated to harass or alarm such
19 officer, including stalking pursuant to 9 GCA §19.70; or

20 (5) Disseminates through any means, including by posting on the
21 internet, the officer's personal information. For purposes of this section,
22 “personal information” includes a home address, home or mobile telephone
23 number, personal email address, Social Security number, tax identification
24 number, checking or savings account number, marital status, or identity of a
25 child under eighteen (18) years of age.

26 (b) For purposes of this section, “peace officer” has the same meaning as
27 defined in 8 GCA § 5.55.

1 (c) The offense of interfering with a peace officer is a felony of the third
2 degree.

3 (d) If a violation of this section results in death or bodily injury to a peace
4 officer, the offense is a felony of the first degree.”

5 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.