



*Office of Senator James C. Moylan*

I MINA' TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SENATOR MOYLAN INTRODUCES ACT TO EMPOWER DOA, EXPEDITE DOC HIRING**

**November 14, 2019 (Hagåtña, Guam)** — Senator James C. Moylan introduced Bill 245-35 yesterday, known as the *Swift Appointment Modernization Act of 2019*. This Act seeks to authorize the director of the Department of Administration (DOA) to implement changes in policy and possibly their adjoining Personnel Rules, in order to expedite the process of hiring qualified candidates for public safety positions in the Department of Corrections (DOC), Guam Police Department (GPD), Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA), and certain agencies who employ Category 1 Peace Officers. Bill 245-35 is sought to modernize the way DOA administers some of its processes in public safety recruitment.

*“Director Birn’s staff puts in a great deal of work and attention to detail throughout the rating and recruitment process for public safety personnel, and I want to empower DOA by giving the director the authority to allow certain accommodations to be made in this process so that we can address the community’s concerns with personnel shortages in public safety.”* said Sen. Moylan. He further added, *“I thank DOA for its continued commitment towards upholding the integrity of the Merit System and for its dedication to providing quality human resources services to the government despite its own personnel shortages.”*

Applicants will still be subject to the government of Guam’s Merit System – meaning the successful recruitment of every applicant seeking employment in the service of the government of Guam will still be based on merit and free from political or personal consideration. In addition to evaluation under the Merit System, DOA still maintains the responsibility to administer written and physical tests to all potential public safety recruits.

If passed into law, Bill 245-35 will authorize the DOA director to implement policy and/or amend Personnel Rules to:

- Allow public safety agencies to request for Certification Lists with up to at least 15 eligible applicants, instead of five.
- Shorten the time allowed for public safety applicants to appeal evaluation ratings from ten business days to five business days.
- Allow recruiting public safety agencies to continue conducting interviews from the last interviewed eligible applicant in rank without requesting for a new Certification List.

The legislation also mandates the DOA director to implement these policies and make applicable amendments to Personnel Rules within 60 days of enactment. Additionally, Bill 245-35 stipulates that recruiting public safety agencies must make written requests to the DOA director

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for consideration of these authorizations. The legislation intends to be effective upon enactment through the end of fiscal year 2022.

*“In July, Gov Guam held a public safety job fair to address personnel shortages, and it was reported that hundreds turned out for employment opportunities in our local public safety agencies,”* said Sen. Moylan. *“Yet, here we are today still talking about the same personnel shortages in the media and oversight hearings, shortages that are grossly affecting the performance, safety, security and the morale of these brave women and men at departments like DOC,”* Moylan further stated.

**END OF RELEASE**

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