



OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMES "JIM" C. MOYLAN

I MINA TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

For Immediate Release:

October 1, 2019

LEGISLATION MANDATING DRUG TESTING FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING PUBLIC OFFICE INTRODUCED

Hagåtña - Senator James C. Moylan introduced Bill 212-35 which, if passed, would include the submittal of a drug test, for those individuals seeking to run for an elected position. Presently the law requires interested candidates to submit court and police clearances, an affidavit attesting they were not convicted of a crime, and financial disclosures. This legislation would add another requirement to that list, and just as with the other documents, the costs associated with the test would be the responsibility of the applicant.

“Bill 212 continues the efforts that our office initiated earlier this year in seeking drug tests for elected officials, however since we were informed that such a route may be considered unconstitutional, we are proceeding with another course that requires the testing take place at the candidate level,” stated Senator Moylan. ***“This measure is about rebuilding the public’s trust with elected officials and the seriousness that such individuals will take when it comes to addressing the rising drug epidemic on island,”*** he added.

With the passage of legislation earlier in the year which legalized the use of recreational cannabis, it was only practical to include language in Bill 212-35 which would not require the results of cannabis usage in the drug testing. However other “illicit drugs” which are part of the checklist guidelines of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SMHSA) were included, but not limited to.

While Bill 212-35 does not restrict an individual whose drug test report displays positive results for any of the illicit drugs being tested for from running for office, it would allow the court of public opinion to decide whether the candidate should serve in that capacity. The legislation is a small step in addressing the drug problems on island, and would complement several of the other measures introduced by Senator Moylan that are catered towards curtailing this epidemic.

“To address this epidemic would require a community effort. This legislation is just a small step in terms of making a statement, but the reality is that so much more needs to be done, especially by the government. The work is far from over.” Senator Moylan concluded.

END OF RELEASE