

"The provisions of Act No. 221 of May 15, 1948, as amended [15 L.P.R.A. §§ 71 et seq.], notwithstanding, any regulations adopted by the Company to regulate matters concerning games of chance must be approved by the Governor, and must comply with the procedures stated below so that said regulations shall have the force of law.

The Tourist Company, after complying with the provisions of Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended [3 L.P.R.A. §§ 2101 et seq.], except for filing the regulations with the Department of State, shall submit said regulations, the proposed amendment to or revocation of the regulations to the Legislature. Said regulations, amendment to or revocation of the regulations shall be deemed as approved thirty (30) days after being filed before both Legislative Bodies, without the majority of the total number of members of either Legislative Body having adopted, during that period, a resolution stating disagreement with the regulations, amendment to or revocation of the proposed regulations. Should the Legislative Session end before the thirty (30) days of the filing of the regulations with both Bodies are have expired, the days left over at the end of the Legislative Session shall be accrued and transferred to the first day of the following Legislative Session—be it regular or special—and from that moment on they shall continue to be computed until the thirty (30) days required by this paragraph have elapsed. Should each Body approve, said regulations, amendment to or revocation of the regulations through a resolution, the latter shall also be deemed as approved as of the date of the last approval.

The regulations thus approved shall take effect once they have been filed with the Department of State pursuant to Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended [3 L.P.R.A. §§ 2101 et seq.].

Section 11.—Effectiveness

This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved September 3, 1996.

Civil Rights Commission—Amendments

(S.B. 1450)

[No. 186]

[Approved September 3, 1996]

AN ACT

To amend Section 5 of Act No. 102 of June 28, 1965, which authorizes the Civil Rights Commission to participate in a judicial process as *amicus curiae* during any stage of the process, amend Section 7 in order to attach the Commission to the Legislature for budgetary purposes instead of it being attached to the Department of Justice, and to amend Section 8 to establish that radio and televisions stations assign time to the Commission to broadcast information on Civil Rights and for government agencies to provide their facilities for those ends.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The fundamental rights of all human beings deserve, require and should receive the highest consideration in the constitutional and juridical body of law's of Puerto Rico.

Our Supreme Court has resolved that the fundamental rights contained in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution are to be exercised *ex-proprio vigore*, that is to say, without the need of laws to implement them and that they are opposable not only before the government but also before private individuals. In addition to the protection of all Puerto Ricans by the Constitution of Puerto Rico and its interpretative jurisprudence with regard to civil rights, we are also protected by the civil rights provided by the Constitution of the United States and the Jurisprudence that the Federal Constitution has interpreted in that regard.

The Puerto Rico Civil Rights Commission has performed a most commendable task since its creation. Its organic act authorizes it to conduct studies, investigations, and to make

recommendations, exclusively. The Commission has great moral and persuasive force through its reports.

The object of this Act is to provide the Commission with the power to intervene in lawsuits not initiated by them as *amicus curiae*, be it within the state or the federal jurisdiction.

This measure is part of the empowerment of the People of Puerto Rico to defend its most precious rights.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Act No. 102 of June 28, 1965, as amended [2 L.P.R.A. § 155], is hereby amended for Section 5 to read as follows:

“Section 5.—Investigations

The Commission shall not have the authority to adjudicate individualized cases nor remedies, but it is empowered to participate as *amicus curiae* in any stage of a process. The Commission shall not intervene in any process of a penal nature. To authorize the intervention of the Commission as *amicus curiae* in a process, it must have the approval of a majority of its members.

In order to conduct its functions, the Commission shall establish and organize an office adequate to its needs, which is attached but is not part of the Legislature, and may use its administrative services only if necessary in order to expedite its work. It shall also designate an Executive Director who shall be responsible for organizing and directing the tasks assigned to the office, and with the prior approval of the Commission, who shall appoint the office personnel, that shall not be subject to the provisions of the Personnel Laws of the Government of Puerto Rico and its regulations. Likewise, the Director may contract the services of experts and advisors. The Director shall administer the budget and be accountable for his actions before the Commission. through its President.

Section 8.—Cooperation of Government Bodies

The Commission may use the services and facilities offered by persons or private institutions. The Department of Education, the University of Puerto Rico, the Department of

the Family, the Corrections Administration and the Puerto Rico Police, among other government bodies, shall provide their facilities for the educational activities of the Civil Rights Commission, in general.

Government of Puerto Rico's radio and television stations shall assign, free of cost, a permanent time slot, of at least one hour a month, to broadcast information on civil rights.

The Commission may contract or appoint any official or employee of the Government of Puerto Rico or of any of its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, bodies or political subdivisions, with the consent of the nominating authority of the government organization where said official or employee is rendering services. In such a case, it shall be the duty of the nominating authority to retain the positions or employment of said officials or employees while the Commission is using their services.

The Commission is also authorized to contract the services of any official or employee of the Government of Puerto Rico or any of its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, bodies or political subdivisions, and to pay for the additional services rendered to the Commission after their regular working hours without being subject to the provisions of Section 551 of Title 3 [L.P.R.A.].

The Commission may, with the approval of the Governor, entrust to' any department, agency, bureau, division, authority, instrumentality, body or political subdivision of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, to perform any study or investigation, or any phase or part thereof, or to perform any other kind of work that is necessary for the discharge of its functions. The government body so entrusted shall give every priority possible to the completion of such study investigation or work. The government organization entrusted with such a study, investigation or work, may request and obtain from the Commission, if, in its judgment, it is necessary, upon prior authorization of the Governor, a transfer of funds in the amount the Commission may deem reasonable.

The Commission may appoint Advisory Committees in each of the municipalities of the country, constituted by citizens of those municipalities.”

Section 2.—This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved September 3, 1996.

Government of Puerto Rico Accounting—Prohibited Travel Expenses of Relatives

(H.B. 2034)

[No. 187]

[Approved September 4, 1996]

AN ACT

To amend Section 9, subsection (c) of Act No. 230 of July 23, 1974, known as the “Government of Puerto Rico Accounting Act”, in order to prohibit the disbursement of travel expenses and per diems to the spouses and close relatives who accompany the heads of the government dependencies on official trips.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Government of Puerto Rico has the commitment to assume the moral and ethical responsibility to perform its duties according to certain standards and principles which govern the good and proper conduct of its citizens.

As part of the sound public administration efforts and the efficient use of the existing resources, this Legislature believes that it is necessary to amend the “Accounting Act”, in order to prohibit the payment of travel expenses and per diems of the spouses and relatives who accompany the heads of agencies of the government dependencies on official trips.

At present, Regulation No. 37 of the Department of the Treasury, promulgated by virtue of Section 14a of the

Government of Puerto Rico Accounting Act, which governs the use of public funds for official trips, does not include that prohibition.

The distribution of public funds to defray the travel expenses and per diems of the spouses and relatives of certain officials does not respond to the public policy of austerity in the public service. We also believe that this legislation will generate economies in the travel expenses of the government dependencies.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To add a paragraph to Section 9, subsection (c) of Act No. 230 of July 23, 1974 [23 L.P.R.A. § 283a(h)], to read as follows:

“(a) ...

(c) The Secretary is also authorized to appoint as payer any official or employee of any dependency or any private person, even though he/she is not a public employee or official, designated by the Governor or the official he may designate in the case of executive dependencies, by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or the official he/she may designate in the case of judicial dependencies, by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the officials they may designate on their behalf, and by the Controller of Puerto Rico, or the official he/she may designate regarding his/her Office, for any official mission outside of Puerto Rico. Any person appointed as payer by the Secretary, in harmony with the provisions of this Section, shall be subject to the rules established by the Secretary. The travel expenses and per diems of the persons appointed to conduct missions entrusted by the judicial and the legislative dependencies shall be subject to the rules established by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on their behalf and by the Controller of Puerto Rico, regarding his/her Office. In the case of officials and employees of joint legislative dependencies, it shall be necessary to obtain the approval of the travel voucher by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The