

Puerto Rico Atheneum

Act No. 5 of March 1, 1956 as amended

(Contains amendments incorporated by:

Act No. 81 of June 19, 1961

Act No. 75 of August 30, 1990

Act No. 125 of August 9, 1995

Act No. 224 of August 29, 2002)

To appropriate to the Ateneo Puertorriqueño the sum of five hundred thousand (500,000) dollars annually to help defray its operating expenses.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

WHEREAS, hereas, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño, founded in 1876, is the oldest of all cultural institutions in Puerto Rico;

WHEREAS, since its foundation, seventy-eight years ago, it has incessantly labored toward the cultivation and enhancement of literature and the fine arts with such fruitful and noteworthy results that the history of our cultural life for the last three generations would be lacking and incomplete without prominently portraying the role played by this Institution;

WHEREAS, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño has singled itself among all local institutions for its being an open forum and for its having ceded the use of its auditorium for the free expounding of all ideas, thus fulfilling one of the essential functions of democracy;

WHEREAS, all activities of the Ateneo Puertorriqueño are open to the public without any class distinction whatsoever, and the facilities afforded by its valuable library and the publications and magazines received from abroad are used by the general public, especially by pupils of public and private schools;

WHEREAS, in recent years the Ateneo Puertorriqueño has enlarged the scope of its activities by organizing and establishing among other things, an Experimental Theater, a chamber music band, and a Paintings gallery;

WHEREAS, the work of the Ateneo Puertorriqueño has merited the recognition of cultural entities outside of Puerto Rico;

WHEREAS, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño depends for its support on its membership fees and the voluntary contributions of a limited group of friends of the Learned House, in all insufficient to cover its minimum budgetary expenses, which renders so precarious the life of the Institution;

WHEREAS, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño fulfills in its tradition and purposes a function of incalculable value, worthy of the support of all those who are concerned with the cultural values which that function represents;

WHEREAS, these activities of the Ateneo Puertorriqueño are so pervaded with public interest; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico :

Section 1. — [Puerto Rico Atheneum] [18 L.P.R.A. § 1202 (a)]

The sum of five hundred thousand (500,000) dollars is hereby appropriated annually for the Puerto Rico Atheneum to help this institution accomplish the public purposes sought by it. If any portion of the funds appropriated is not used during the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, the same shall revert to the Commonwealth Treasury at the close of the fiscal year. It shall be the duty of the directors of the Atheneum to render a detailed annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Office of the Comptroller, stating when, where and how the funds appropriated by this section have been spent. It shall also be the duty of the directors of the Atheneum to send a copy of said report to the Clerk of the House of Representatives when they should be so required.

Section 2. — [18 L.P.R.A. § 1202 (b)]

For the purposes of this act, "operating expenses" shall mean the sums necessary to keep the Institution going, including compensation of the employees designated by its Governing Board.

Section 3. — [18 L.P.R.A. § 1202 (c)]

The Ateneo Puertorriqueño may match the funds consigned herein with any other resources available in the Commonwealth, Federal or Municipal Governments, as well as with private gifts.

Section 4. — No member of the Governing Board may receive any sum whatsoever out of this appropriation.

Section 5. — All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 6. — This act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Note. This compilation was prepared by Puerto Rico OMB staff who have striven to ensure it is complete and accurate. However, this is not an official compilation and may not be completely free of error. It contains all amendments incorporated for reading purposes only. For accuracy and exactitude please refer to the act original text. Compiled by the Office of Management and Budget Library.