

To Appropriate Funds to the University of Puerto Rico

Act No. 2 of January 20, 1966, as amended

(Contains amendments incorporated by:

Act No. 46 of August 6, 1992

Act No. 12 of July 7, 1993

Act No. 226 of December 1, 1995

Act No. 7 of March 9, 2009, Sec. 31)

To appropriate funds to the University of Puerto Rico for the fiscal year 1967, and to set the manner in which the appropriation of funds shall be determined in subsequent years.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Because of the paramount importance repeatedly ascribed to it by our people, the public function of education has received in the last two decades preferential budgetary treatment over all other public requirements. Education has been and will continue to be one of the key stanchions in the restructuring of our country's social, cultural and economic life.

In the last few years, a remarkable effort has been made to extend the opportunities of elementary and secondary education to our young population. This effort is reflected in an increase in the demand for facilities at university level. In addition to the increased opportunities for university-age youths so far attained, the broadening of these facilities must be stepped up.

In the present academic year, the University of Puerto Rico enrolled 26,500 students, or 67 % of the total enrollment at the universities of the country. The trend in the university-age population is that it will increase considerably, which will undoubtedly result in the consequent increase in the number of university students, for whose education the Government must provide physical facilities and able teaching personnel.

It is the earnest desire of this community that public and private facilities be constructed to make room for this growing number of students and to meet the demand for the developing of personnel equipped with the culture and professional and technical knowledge that our on-the-march dynamic society demands.

The magnitude of the effort that will be required is foreseeable in the significant fact that in the short period of five years-by the academic year 1971-the physical plant of all universities here should be able to house a total enrollment of 58,000 students, of which around 39,500—50 percent more than the current year's enrollment—must be taken care of at the University of Puerto Rico. If all of this increase could be concentrated in Mayagüez, the enrollment at that campus would then be fourfold that of this year.

In order to accommodate such a large student body, a comprehensive works program is required: construction of classrooms, laboratories, libraries, among others, and, of course, the necessary financial means to render possible the operation of such new facilities.

It is the purpose of this Commonwealth to see to it that these academic facilities are built so that all the population fit to pursue university studies may do so and receive the best possible education we are able to provide at the least possible cost to the student.

An essential element of that purpose is to broaden the university autonomy in its fiscal aspect and to increase the University's resources in such a way that the excellence of university education and the expansion of opportunities therefor will be proportionate to the integral growth of the University.

It is imperative to work out and start forthwith an orderly plan for the construction of the physical plant required for those purposes, for in the course of the next five years the works constructed or in process of construction may well exceed the sum of 50 million dollars, not including the capital improvement projects to complement the teaching function proper, such as residences for the faculty and dormitories for students.

This act aims at setting the manner in which the Commonwealth will provide to the University the increased resources necessary for such expansion. Likewise, it ensures increased efforts to add quality to teaching as well as to make possible a higher compensation for the university teaching personnel. This act further provides for the Legislature periodically to revise the condition of the University resources, in keeping with the economic and social realities of the country, as manifested in the course of the next five years.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1. — The sum of twenty-six million four hundred thousand (26,400,000) dollars is hereby appropriated to the University of Puerto Rico for the fiscal year 1967, from unencumbered funds in the Commonwealth Treasury, which sum shall be covered into the general funds of the University. Such funds as on the date of approval of this act may have been appropriated to the University by the General Budget Joint Resolution, J.R. No. 54, approved June 23, 1965, as well as any other income provided thereto by Act No. 135 of 1942, as subsequently amended, and by any other laws of the Legislature of Puerto Rico, shall continue to be available to the University until June 30, 1966. Any surpluses from the contributions at present made to the University under Act No. 308 of 1949, as amended, or under the appropriation acts, shall remain available to the University.

Section 2. — [Years 1968-1971] (18 L.P.R.A. § 621)

Beginning with the fiscal year 1968, there shall be assigned to the University a sum equivalent to seven and eight-tenths percent (7.8%) of the average total amount of annual revenues collected under the provisions of the laws of this Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and covered into the Treasury of Puerto Rico in the two (2) fiscal years immediately preceding the current fiscal year. The said seven and eight-tenths percent (7.8%) shall be annually increased by forty-five hundredths of one percent (0.45%) up to a maximum of nine percent (9%) for the fiscal year 1971, in which year the increase shall be thirty hundredths of one percent (0.30%).

Section 3. — [Appropriation of funds after 1993]. (18 L.P.R.A. § 621-1)

(a) Beginning with fiscal year 1997, there shall be appropriated to the University of Puerto Rico, a sum equal to nine point sixty percent (9.60%) of the average total amount of annual revenues obtained under the provisions of the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and covered into the General Fund of the Commonwealth Treasury in the two (2) fiscal years immediately preceding the current fiscal year, and of the total amount covered into any special funds created through legislation on and after July 1, 1993, that are nourished from resources generated by taxation; with the exception of the money deposited in the Dedicated Sales Fund, as provided by Section 3 of Act No. 91 of May 13, 2006, as amended. Provided, That zero point twenty-seven percent (0.27%) shall be apportioned to the financing of the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service of the Mayagüez University Campus, without this constituting a limitation to the appropriation of funds for these dependencies. The programs of these dependencies shall be framed in the public policy of the agricultural development program for Puerto Rico which is established in close coordination with the Department of Agriculture. For years beginning after June 30, 2009.--Beginning with fiscal year 2009-10.[sic]

(b) For the purposes of these computations, those revenues, collections or incomes received through the operation of the Special Act Declaring a State of Fiscal Emergency and Establishing a Comprehensive Fiscal Stabilization Plan to Salvage the Credit of Puerto Rico, shall be excluded.

Section 4. — [Repealed. Act 226-1995, § 2] (18 L.P.R.A. § 621a)

Section 5. — [Installments] (18 L.P.R.A. § 621b)

The Board of Trustees of the University of Puerto Rico shall establish the pertinent procedures to request, receive, give custody to, and administer said funds.

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

Note. This compilation was prepared by the 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.