

(H. B. 21)

**(No. 16)**

(Approved May 27, 2005)

**AN ACT**

To amend Subsection (o) (9) of Section 5 of Act No. 10 of June 18, 1970, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Tourism Company Organic Act,” in order to establish the promotion of Ecotourism as a duty of the Tourism Company.

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company is the planning, promotional, and developmental core of our tourist industry. However, Act No. 10 of June 18, 1970, as amended, does not expressly include the promotion of Ecotourism in Puerto Rico as a duty of this government entity.

Although it may be alleged that this duty is implicit among its duties of tourist promotion, this Legislature deems it necessary to make a clear and unequivocal statement of a public policy directed to exploiting the benefits of this sector of the tourist industry. This development shall propitiate not only the economy of the Island, but it also shall improve our quality of life and shall make it more feasible, from an economic point of view to keep our natural patrimony.

From this point of view, it is necessary to amend Act No. 10 of June 18, 1970, as amended, which creates the Tourism Company to directly establish the promotion of ecotourism of as one of our tourist industries among its duty.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:**

Section 1.- Subsection (o)(9) of Section 5 of Act No. 10 of June 18, 1970, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 5.- The Company shall have and may exercise the rights, duties, and powers that are necessary and convenient to promote, develop, and improve the tourist industry, including, without limiting, the following:

A. ...

(O) Administratively propose, recommend, adopt, and coordinate with other agencies, departments, or any pertinent government body, any measures directed, among others, to the following aspects:

(1) ...

(9) To obtain the maximum benefit of the natural resources and the different regions of the Island by virtue of a proportionate distribution of hotel facilities and tourist services. In addition, it shall actively promote and market ecotourism and ecotourism projects, as defined in subsection (n) of Section 3 of Act No. 340 of December 31, 1998, as amended.”

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

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 16 (H.B. 21) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend Subsection (o) (9) of Section 5 of Act No. 10 of June 18, 1970, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Tourism Company Organic Act,” in order to establish the promotion of Ecotourism as a duty of the Tourism Company,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 20<sup>th</sup> of January of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director