

(H. B. 1191)

(No. 20)

(Approved June 29,2005)

## **AN ACT**

To exclude the promotional campaigns of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company from Section 8.001 of Act No. 4 of December 20, 1977, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Electoral Act,” during the electoral ban for the referendum to be held on July 10, 2005.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

On July 10, 2005 a referendum shall be held, through which the people of Puerto Rico shall vote on a proposal to express their preference regarding the Chamber System of the Legislature of Puerto Rico. For this reason, the electoral ban which restricts advertising by the Government of Puerto Rico became effective from March 1 to July 11, 2005.

The Puerto Rico Inns Program (hereinafter, the “Program”) which was established in the early 70’s, is regulated by the Puerto Rico Hostelries and Inns Minimum Requirements and Regulations promulgated by the Puerto Rico Tourism Company (hereinafter, the “CTPR,” Spanish acronym), promotes tourist destinations that represent our history, culture, idiosyncrasy and hospitality throughout Puerto Rico. On the initiative of the Legislature, the CTPR is developing a publicity campaign to maximize occupancy in the Inns of Puerto Rico, which consequently benefits the economy of the communities where they are located. This publicity campaign is aimed exclusively to maximize the occupancy rate in Puerto Rican Inns.

The term of the electoral ban resulting from the aforementioned referendum coincides with the peak occupation expectancy of persons who do domestic tourism in Inns and other hostelries. Thus it becomes essential for the CTPR to maintain its promotional efforts during this period not only for the benefit of the hostelries but also for the region where they are located and the citizenry in general. Said campaign shall be affected if the CTPR is forced to comply with the procedure established by the “Regulation for the Control of Public Diffusion Expenses of the Government”, adopted by the Commonwealth Elections Commission approved on February 23, 2005.

Therefore, it is convenient for the benefit of the tourist industry and of the economy of the Island in general, that the CTPR be exempted from the provisions of Section 8.001 of Act No. 4, *supra*, during the term of the electoral ban for the referendum on the chamber system of the Legislature of Puerto Rico.

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

Section 1.- The prohibition contained in Section 8.001 of Act No. 4 of December 20, 1977, as amended, shall not apply to the promotional campaigns of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company during the electoral ban imposed due to the referendum directed by Act No. 477 of September 23, 2004. better known as the “Referendum on the Chamber System of the Legislature Act.”

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. 20 (H.B. 1191) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to exclude the promotional campaigns of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company from Section 8.001 of Act No. 4 of December 20, 1977, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Electoral Act,” during the electoral ban for the referendum to be held on July 10, 2005,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 16<sup>th</sup> of December of 2005.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director