

(H. B. 1272)
(Conference)

(No. 31)

(Approved July 27, 2005)

AN ACT

To declare the month of April of each year as the “Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month” in Puerto Rico.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Legislature approved legislation to promote anatomic donations. Over the years, the Legislature continued to approve legislation to keep promoting organ and tissue donation. Act No. 325 of September 2, 2000, as amended, set forth the public policy of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on organ donations.

Donations may be made either when the person is alive or after his/her death. Just one donor may save the life and improve the living conditions of more than fifty (50) persons by donating organs and tissues. As part of these donations, various organs may be procured, to wit: heart, stomach, intestines, kidneys, lungs, liver, pancreas, among others, which shall give life to other persons. Furthermore, tissues may also be procured, as well as bones, which shall provide a better quality of life to other persons.

Unfortunately, Puerto Rico is among the jurisdictions with the least procurement of organs, tissues, bones, and corneas. During 2003, only sixty eight (68) donors were registered and in 2004, only eighty-five (85) donors were registered.

In view of this reality, this Legislature deems it convenient and necessary to declare April as the month for organ donation and transplantation in Puerto Rico. In this manner, we shall contribute with organ procurement organizations, the Eye Bank, and the Human Body, Organ, and Tissue Disposal Board, and other entities in the diffusion of a message on the importance of organ, tissue, bones, and cornea donations and transplantation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The month of April of each year is hereby declared as the “Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month” in Puerto Rico.

Section 2.- The Governor of Puerto Rico, through a proclamation to such effect, shall exhort the People of Puerto Rico to observe the month of April of each year as the “Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month” in Puerto Rico.

Section 3.- The Human Body, Organ, and Tissue Disposal Board, the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the organ procurement organizations, and the eye Bank, as well as any other institutions interested in this observance, shall be in charge of disclosing information on the significance of this event.

Section 4.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 31 (H.B. 1272) (Conference) of the 1st Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to declare the month of April of each year as the “Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month” in Puerto Rico,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 17th of January of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director