

(H. B. 1427)

(No. 48)

(Approved August 12, 2005)

AN ACT

To declare April as the “Alcohol Use and Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.”

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Puerto Rico is a small island in terms of territorial expansion yet is great in terms of its values, culture and traditions. These words are repeated over and over again throughout history. Throughout the world, we see Puerto Ricans stand out for their talent, creativity and charisma, among other things. However, in spite of our fine reputation in countless aspects, there is a truth that is evident to us as a People.

As a new century begins, our people face a series of problems and new issues brought by this new era. It is the ill use of alcohol. Alcohol itself is not considered a social evil. The problem is the wrong use given to it, and even worse, the publicity it is granted with regard to its “qualities.” Alcohol is marketed as a solution to our daily problems, in which it is projected as if it makes us better persons. By consuming it, we are more popular, and extremely happy. This is the message to be transmitted to our youth. Nothing farther from the truth.

The seriousness of the matter is the true and aggravating consequences that arise from the abuse of this substance. It is then when there is a conversion of violence in the family nucleus, work, personal and

social incompetence, and fatal accidents that cause deaths in our roads. All the above is the result of the lack of information and awareness that we intend to eradicate.

By declaring the month of April as the Alcohol Use and Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, we shall join efforts to provide the people, in a massive and convincing manner, the necessary information to prevent the pitiful loss of quality of life of the Puerto Rican families. With the cooperation of the different government bodies, as well as those private entities committed to this effort, we shall propitiate and preserve our physical and mental health.

At present, more and more organizations at national and international level, have come together to achieve the eradication of the prevailing ignorance in our society with regard to alcohol abuse. The proclamation of April as the awareness month, known as: April: Alcohol Awareness Month, is a project that has been carried out for many years throughout the American Nation. Each year, seminars, workshops, publications, and propaganda directed solely to the education of the citizenry on the risks and the alternatives to this disease, have been successfully carried out through the media.

As a close-knit people, full of the combative spirit that characterizes us, we cannot fall behind in this effort. Let us create bonds of awareness, and most of all of affirmative action in the search for a final solution to the disease caused by the ill use of alcohol.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The month of April of each year is hereby declared as the “Alcohol Use and Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.”

Section 2.- The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, through a proclamation to the effect, shall annually exhort the People of Puerto Rico to commemorate this day.

Section 3.- The Department of Health, in coordination with the concerned government agencies and non-government entities, is hereby directed to disclose the significance of commemorating this month by holding activities to such purposes. It shall be our duty to involve the citizenry, by giving them the opportunity to understand the seriousness of the problem, in order to eradicate the consequences of the alcohol abuse, particularly in our youth.

Section 5.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 48 (H.B. 1427) of the 1st Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to declare April as the “Alcohol Use and Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 14th of October of 2005.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director