

(S. B. 372)

**(No. 58)**

(Approved August 20, 2005)

**AN ACT**

To amend Section 4 and add a new subsection (g) to Section 6 of Act No. 113 of August 11, 1996, as amended, to impose on the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Donations the duty of advising non-government entities and faith-based groups in the preparation of proposals to solicit federal funds for the development of social and community programs.

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Special Joint Committee on Legislative Donations carries out an important job as facilitator for semipublic and private entities that seek legislative funds to carry out their activities that nourish the socioeconomic development of Puerto Rico. As supervising entity, it oversees that disbursed funds serve their purpose and attain the intended goal.

To reach the needy and contribute to the socioeconomic development of our Island is a monumental job that requires a broad financing. The funds donated through the efforts of this Committee are not enough to satisfy the needs of the large variety of soliciting entities. At present, there are other sources of financing at the federal level that are available for activities of community outreach and social development, however, they require knowledge in the preparation of proposals to obtain said funds. At present, our community and faith-based organizations, among others, neither count on the knowledge, expertise, nor have the time to attain a higher financing for their tasks. It is necessary for us to adjust to the times and follow the

example of initiatives such as that of the municipal government of San Sebastián, which opened the *La Oficina de Iniciativas de Fe y Comunitarias* to assist community and faith-based organizations in the federal fund soliciting process.

We deem it necessary that our community and faith-based organizations participate equitably in the federal funds soliciting process, but at the same time they should have the necessary advise to do so. It is for this reason that this Legislature deems it necessary to extend the services of the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Donations, so that it not only orients and oversees legislative donations, but that it also provides orientation and assistance to non-government entities and faith-based groups in soliciting federal funds to develop social and community programs.

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

Section 1.- To amend Section 4 of Act No. 113 of August 11, 1996, as amended, to read as follows:

“Section 4.- The Special Joint Committee on Legislative Donations shall be attached to the Legislature of Puerto Rico and shall have, among other functions provided in this Act, the responsibility to consider, evaluate, analyze, visit, inspect, supervise facilities, financial statements, perform audits and other matters related to the process of granting legislative donations. Likewise, the Committee shall have the responsibility of establishing and conducting orientation and advisory programs for those semipublic and private entities that present proposals to solicit legislative funds from the Committee in coordination with the Custodial Departments or Agencies. At the same time, it shall provide orientation and technical support to non-government entities and faith-based groups in the preparation

of proposals to solicit federal funds to develop social and community programs.”

Section 2.- Section 6 of Act No. 113 of August 11, 1996, as amended, is hereby amended to add a new subsection (g) and to change the present subsection (g) to subsection (h), to read as follows:

“Section 6.- Duties and Responsibilities of the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Donations.

The Committee, in addition to any other provisions in this Act, other laws, programs or assignments, whose administration and implementation are delegated thereto, shall have the following functions:

- a) ...
- b) ...
- c) ...
- d) ...
- f) Establish an orientation and technical support group in charge of assisting non-government entities and faith-based groups in the preparation of proposals to solicit federal funds for the development of social and community programs.
- g) ...”

Section 3.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 58 (S.B. 372) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend Section 4 and add a new subsection (g) to Section 6 of Act No. 113 of August 11, 1996, as amended, to impose on the Special Joint Committee on Legislative Donations the duty of advising non-government entities and faith-based groups in the preparation of proposals to solicit federal funds for the development of social and community programs,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1<sup>st</sup> of December of 2005.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director