

(S.B. 9)

(No. 66)

(Approved August 25, 2005)

## **AN ACT**

To establish the Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Internship in the Legislature of Puerto Rico, to be attached to the Internships Committee of the Legislature which shall be in charge of the organization and administration of the Program; and to appropriate funds.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Legislature of Puerto Rico, through the establishment of various legislative internships, has been able to foster greater awareness on the importance of the legislative processes among its participants. Through these internship programs, university students acquire a valuable educational experience while directly participating in the legislative endeavor, which in turn has positive repercussions in furthering a better government for our country.

Because of the success achieved by other legislative internships, such as the Córdova Program of Congressional Internships, from which hundreds of students from all of Puerto Rico have benefited, the Pilar Barbosa Federal Internships Program for Teachers and the Jorge Alberto Ramos Comas Legislative Internships, the Legislature deems it meritorious to establish a new internships program attached to the Committee on Legislative Internships directed to offering the participants an educational experience

that combines the legislative endeavor and labor affairs. This Program shall be known as the “Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Program.”

The purposes of the Program is to give interns the opportunity to work in various offices of the Federal Congress, federal agencies or organizations concerned with labor affairs so that they may acquire multiple experiences within the vast world of labor law. It shall likewise seek to foster the study of labor laws in order to acquire a better understanding of public labor policies.

The name given to this Program seeks to honor Santiago Iglesias Pantín, former Resident Commissioner and founder and major contributor to the organized labor movement, whose great mission consisted in initiating a social transformation that gave way to the gradual approval of legislation protective of the labor movement and social justice in Puerto Rico.

For all of the above, the Legislature establishes the “Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Program,” which shall benefit hundreds of Puerto Rican students as well as our people.

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

Section 1.- The Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Program is hereby established in the Legislature of Puerto Rico, to be directed and administered by the Joint Committee on Internships of the Legislature.

Section 2.- The Joint Committee on internships of the Legislature shall be in charged of the implementation and administration of the program created by this Act.

Section 3.- Every member of the Joint Committee on Internships of the Legislature shall be entitled to recommend candidates for the Program on a quarterly basis. The Joint Committee must ensure that among the students selected there be a representation of candidates nominated by legislators

from all political parties represented in the Legislature. There must also be candidates from all universities in Puerto Rico, provided they meet all other requirements demanded by this Act. The Joint Committee must, through regulations, establish a method for selecting the candidates for the Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Internship Program, to include criteria such as: education, mastery of oral and written communication skills, grades, experience and outstanding community services. The participants shall be summoned to an oral interview as part of their evaluation. The Joint Committee shall provide for the placement of the students selected in one of the offices or dependencies: U.S. Congressional offices directly related to labor affairs, federal agencies involved with labor affairs in Washington, non-government labor unions or organizations involved in labor affairs in the federal capital.

Section 4.- As part of the Program requirements, interns must meet a minimum of twenty (20) hours of voluntary work in some nonprofit faith-based or community organization during their stay in Washington, D.C. so as to foster social service work among Puerto Rican youth.

Section 5.- The Program participants shall be students at the undergraduate level who have completed half or more of the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor's degree, or at the graduate level enrolled in post-secondary institutions located in Puerto Rico. The interns selected shall receive a stipend for room and board, transportation and personal expenses for a maximum term of five (5) months of full time work at the dependency in the federal capital designated by the Joint Committee.

Section 6.- The Joint Committee on Internships of the Legislature must approve bylaws not later than sixty (60) days as of the date of approval of this Act. Said bylaws must set forth all standards and procedures necessary

for the operation of the Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Internship Program, including, but not limited to: admission requirements of the interns, criteria and procedure for the selection of interns, criteria and procedure for the selection of dependencies in the federal capital, the payment of stipends, the length of the program and the maximum number of interns to be selected as well as any other matter the Joint Committee may deem convenient.

Section 7.- The Joint Committee shall take the necessary steps to ensure that participation in the Program is revalidated as a university credit.

Section 8.- The Joint Committee shall ensure that the Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Internship Program operates according to the school calendar during every school semester and offers a combined curriculum of theoretical and practical experiences.

Section 9.- The sum of one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) dollars is hereby appropriated for fiscal years 2006-2007 and subsequent years, a budgetary item to be consigned in the Joint Resolution of the General Budget for the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a separate item under the entry for Joint Activities of the Legislature of Puerto Rico.

Section 10.- This Act shall take effect January 1, 2006, provided the Program must begin placing students as of the school semester beginning in August 2006.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 66 (S.B. 9) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to establish the Santiago Iglesias Pantín Work Internship in the Legislature of Puerto Rico, to be attached to the Internships Committee of the Legislature which shall be in charge of the organization and administration of the Program; and to appropriate funds,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 17<sup>th</sup> of January of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director