

(S.B. 18)

(No. 79)

(Approved August 26, 2005)

AN ACT

To provide that in order to be able to obtain a motor vehicle driver's license, all applicants must submit an identity document issued by the competent public authorities of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of the United States of America, or of one of the states of the Union or a passport duly issued by a foreign authority as attesting evidence of the identity of the person who shall possess the driver's license; and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

When driver's licenses were first issued, the original main objective was to improve traffic safety. At present a driver's license is acknowledged in Puerto Rico to be a document which gives evidence of the identity of the holder and which is accepted practically blindly as attesting evidence of the identity of an individual.

However, none of the documents required to apply for a driver's license in Puerto Rico include one which would provide attesting evidence of the identity of the applicant. This allows any person with the intention of passing as another or of committing some offense in their name, to present false attesting evidence of another's identity.

Conscious of this situation and after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, many states of the United States require other documents besides

the application to obtain a driver's license. Some of these are birth certificates, electric power bills, passports, Social Security cards and licenses from other states.

Furthermore, the establishment of reliable identification mechanisms is as important as the methodology used by the personnel charged with verifying the authenticity of the documents submitted. This is why the Department of Transportation and Public Works must train the employees responsible for receiving the applications and for issuing driver's licenses.

The Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in order to give a driver's license the necessary reliability so it may be considered as attesting evidence of the identity of a person, provides that before issuing any driver's license it shall be compulsory to present an identity document issued by the competent public authorities of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of the United States of America, or of one of the states of the Union or a passport duly issued by a foreign authority.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.-It is hereby provided that in order to be able to obtain a driver's license to drive a motor vehicle of any category, including renewal of one, all applicants must submit an identity document issued by the competent public authorities of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of the United States of America, or of one of the states of the Union or a passport duly issued by a foreign authority as attesting evidence of the identity of the person who shall possess the driver's license. Parents with *patria potestas* or the legal guardians of minors may present the documents that accredit them as such so as to supply the information required in this Section. A passport issued by a foreign authority shall be accepted as an identity document provided it contains a visa from the Federal Agencies of the United States of

America, in which case the driver's license shall be issued for the term of said visa. A license shall never be issued for a term of less than a year.

Section 2.-The Department of Transportation and Public Works shall train all those employees responsible for receiving the applications and for issuing driver's licenses, according to the provisions of this Act.

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. 79 (S.B. 18) of the 1st Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to provide that in order to be able to obtain a motor vehicle driver's license, all applicants must submit an identity document issued by the competent public authorities of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of the United States of America, or of one of the states of the Union or a passport duly issued by a foreign authority as attesting evidence of the identity of the person who shall possess the driver's license; and for other purposes,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 20th of January of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director