

(H. B. 289)

(No. 131)

(Approved October 17, 2005)

AN ACT

To direct, without it being construed as a limitation, the inclusion of the following basic products and/or services that are susceptible to freezing and/or fixing of price in emergency situations: hurricane shutters, hurricane shutters modification, repair and installation of shutters; screws, nuts, nails, expansion anchors, plywood, rope, guy wires, and tools; fuel, diesel or propane gas electric power generators, equipment and parts thereof; fuel, diesel, or propane gas electric power generator modification, repair and installation services; water tanks; equipment and parts thereof and portable stoves; tanks and containers for storing water; fuel containers and tanks; tarps and tents, and also batteries, lanterns and flashlights of all kinds, power chargers; water, ice, milk, coffee, all kinds of vegetables and grains; and to provide that the Department of Consumers Affairs (DACO, Spanish acronym) take the corresponding regulatory provisions to comply with this Act.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Island of Puerto Rico suffered a severe blow from nature when it was hit by Hurricane Georges. This experience, which overwhelmed the entire citizenry, has pointed out the basic and primary needs during these emergency situations.

As a consequence of the hurricane, we have come to realize that many people do not have the necessary articles, such as lighting, water, food, and roof, to maintain a minimum of their quality of life. This caused anxiety and desperation to many of these citizens who, in some cases, had to move out of

their homes to obtain water, food, and other products at higher prices than they would otherwise be obtained in ordinary circumstances.

However, many consumers and businessmen are frequently unaware of the products and/or services that may be subject to the freezing and fixing of price in emergency situations.

For such reason, the House of Representatives deems it urgent to specifically include, without it being construed as a limitation, said basic products and/or services within those already established through regulations by the Department of Consumers Affairs (DACO), in the list of controlled products during in emergency situations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The Department of Consumers Affairs (DACO) is hereby directed, without it being construed as a limitation, to include the following basic products and/or services that are susceptible to the freezing and/or fixing of price in emergency situations: hurricane shutters, hurricane shutters modification, repair, and installation services; screws, nuts, nails, expansion anchors, plywood, ropes, guy wires, and tools; fuel, diesel or propane gas electric power generators, equipment and parts thereof; fuel, diesel, or propane gas electric power generator modification, repair and installation services; water tanks; equipment and parts thereof and portable stoves; tanks and containers for storing water; fuel containers and cans; tarps and tents, in addition to batteries, lanterns and flashlights of all kinds, power chargers; water, ice, milk, coffee, all kinds of vegetables and grains; and it is hereby provided that the Department of Consumers Affairs (DACO) shall take the corresponding regulatory provisions to comply with this Act.

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 131 (H.B. 289) of the 2nd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to direct, without it being construed as a limitation, the inclusion of the following basic products and/or services that are susceptible to freezing and/or fixing of price in emergency situations: hurricane shutters, hurricane shutters modification, repair and installation of shutters; screws, nuts, nails, expansion anchors, plywood, rope, guy wires, and tools; fuel, diesel or propane gas electric power generators, equipment and parts thereof; fuel, diesel, or propane gas electric power generator modification, repair and installation services; water tanks; etc.,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 6th of March of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director