

(S.B. 6)  
(Conference)

**(No. 144)**

(Approved November 22, 2005)

## **AN ACT**

To amend Section 1 of Act No. 98 of June 4, 1980, as amended, in order to increase to five hundred and fifty (550) dollars, after December 2006, and to six hundred (600) dollars after December 2007, the Christmas Bonus of the pensioners or beneficiaries of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and for the pensioners or beneficiaries under any other law administered by the Administrator of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and to amend Section 1 of Act No. 49 of May 23, 1980, in order to increase to five hundred (500) dollars, after December 2005, to five hundred and fifty (550) dollars after December 2006 and to six hundred (600) dollars after December 2007, the Christmas Bonus of the pensioners or beneficiaries of the Teachers Retirement System, excepting those pensioners under the provisions of Act No. 305 of September 24, 1999, known as the “Retirement Savings Accounts Program;” and to promote the source for financing the payment of said increase.

## **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

There are many individuals in Puerto Rico who feel truly passionate about the public service. Every day they endeavor to do what they can to ensure that the Government of Puerto Rico is able to fulfill the needs of the citizens. These persons who offer their services for the welfare of the Puerto Rican people must be guaranteed a pleasant livelihood once they leave the public service and avail themselves of a well deserved retirement.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico believes it necessary to approve this Act which increases even more the Christmas Bonus which the pensioners or beneficiaries of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico receive. With the approval of this Act we make sure that once the increase contained in this Act is carried out, the Christmas Bonus of our pensioners increases from \$500 to \$600. This Act sets forth a programmatic commitment of the New Progressive Party which has the support of all political parties in their efforts to do justice to our pensioners.

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

Section 1.-Section 1 of Act No. 98 of June 4, 1980, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1.-Any person who receives a pension or benefit pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended, or from the pension plans set forth by the latter, or from any other law administered by the Administrator of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, including any persons who have availed themselves of a pension or benefit under Act No. 12 of October 19, 1954, as amended, shall be entitled to receive a Christmas Bonus equal to five hundred (500) dollars beginning on December 2005 and of five hundred and fifty (550) dollars beginning on December 2006; and of six hundred (600) dollars beginning on December 2007, whose payment shall be made not later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of December of each year. Pensioners under the provisions of Act No. 305 of September 24, 1999, known as the “Retirement Savings Accounts Program” shall be excluded from the benefits granted by this Act.

Section 2.-Section 1 of Act No. 49 of May 23, 1980, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1.-Any Teacher who receives a pension pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 49 of May 23, 1980, as amended, or under any other Law, shall be entitled to receive a Christmas Bonus equal to five hundred (500) dollars in 2005; to five hundred and fifty (550) dollar in 2006; and to six hundred (600) dollars on December 2007, whose payment shall be made not later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of December of each year.”

Section 3.-The resources to cover the cost of increasing the Christmas Bonus for the pensioners of the Central Governmental and pensioned judges, shall be consigned in the General Expenses Budget of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico beginning in fiscal year 2006-2007 and in subsequent years. The public corporations and the municipalities whose employees are covered under this Act shall provide the funds to cover the increase in the Christmas Bonus established in this Act for the pensioners of their corporations and municipalities.

Section 4.-This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 144 (S.B. 6) (Conference) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend Section 1 of Act No. 98 of June 4, 1980, as amended, in order to increase to five hundred and fifty (550) dollars, after December 2006, and to six hundred (600) dollars after December 2007, the Christmas Bonus of the pensioners or beneficiaries of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and for the pensioners or beneficiaries under any other law administered by the Administrator of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and to amend Section 1 of Act No. 49 of May 23, 1980, etc,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1st of March of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director