

(H. B. 303)

(No. 112)

(Approved June 6, 2006)

AN ACT

To add subsection (9) to Section 6 of Act No. 23 of July 23, 1991, as amended, in order to allow all United States Armed Forces veterans who are one hundred percent (100%) disabled, their spouses, their dependents until they reach legal age, and their surviving spouses, provided he/she does not remarry, to purchase solely and exclusively in National Guard exchange posts, even if the disability is non service connected; and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Puerto Rican veterans of the United States Armed Forces who reside in Puerto Rico have risked their lives and have brought honor to our good name. These guardians of peace and justice sacrificed their lives, bodies and families to guarantee us a life of peace under our democratic government system.

To extend the National Guard post exchange benefits to all United States Armed Forces veterans who are one hundred percent (100%) disabled, regardless of whether or not their disability is non service connected, their dependents until they reach legal age, and their surviving spouse, provided he/she does not remarry, would be a well deserved benefit and a symbol of our genuine gratitude.

For them, their spouses and especially their surviving spouses and dependents, such a benefit represents an additional relief to the

pensions to which they are entitled which, in many circumstances, do not respond adequately to the increase in the cost of life.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Subsection (9) is hereby added to Section 6 of Act No. 23 of July 23, 1991, as amended, to read as follows:

“Section 6.- Post Exchanges or Canteens; Establishment

The Puerto Rico National Guard Institutional Trust is hereby authorized to establish and operate post exchanges, canteens or other services through the direct sale and resale of products, in the spaces that are transferred from time to time by the Adjutant General of Puerto Rico within the quarters and facilities of the Military Forces of Puerto Rico, for the benefit of:

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(4) ...

(5) ...

(6) ...

(7) ...

(a) ...

(b) ...

(c) ...

(d) ...

(9) All United States Armed Forces veterans who are one hundred percent (100%) disabled, even if the disability is non service connected, their spouses, their dependents until they reach legal age, and their surviving spouse, provided he/she

does not remarry. This provision shall only apply to Puerto Rico National Guard post exchanges where there is no conflict with Federal Legislation.

All veterans shall present a disability certificate duly issued by any federal or state agency.

For purposes of this Section, the term “veteran” shall mean any bona fide person from Puerto Rican who is a United States Armed Forces veteran pursuant to the federal laws in effect.”

Section 2.- If any part of this Act were ruled null by any court with competent jurisdiction, said ruling shall not affect or invalidate the remaining parts of the Act and its effect shall remain limited to the issue that is the object of said ruling.

Section 3.- The Puerto Rico National Guard, pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended, known as the “Uniform Administrative Procedures Act,” shall establish the necessary regulations to enforce compliance with the provisions of this Act.

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. 112 (H.B. 303) of the 3rd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to add subsection (9) to Section 6 of Act No. 23 of July 23, 1991, as amended, in order to allow all United States Armed Forces veterans who are one hundred percent (100%) disabled, their spouses, their dependents until they reach legal age, and their surviving spouses, provided he/she does not remarry, to purchase solely and exclusively in National Guard exchange posts, even if the disability is non service connected; and for other purposes,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 17th of September of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director

