

(S. B.625)

(No. 154)

(Approved August 9, 2006)

AN ACT

To declare the month of May of every year as the “Radio Month” and the 30th of May of every year as the “Broadcasters Day,” in order to raise awareness on the Island of the great importance in social, economic, and labor terms of said industry and of the broadcasters profession.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Each day, hundreds of broadcasters from the one hundred and twenty-six radio stations existing in Puerto Rico go to work to provide the most varied programming of social interest to the community. They do so with a great sense of responsibility and professionalism using diaphanously spoken words as their work tool.

The radio was the first mass communication media accessible to the average citizens in their homes, and since the beginning of the radio in Puerto Rico in 1922, broadcasting has been one of the most important and essential professions. Broadcasting and radio have a symbiotic relationship that contributes to the social and economic development of the people by serving as an instrument to disclose news, politics, health and scientific issues, stories, entertainment, good music, and many other matters of interest. The radio is the mass communications media that reaches most homes and persons and the one that most promptly discloses news and ideas, thus it makes the broadcaster the communicator par excellence. Thanks to

the voice of the broadcaster heard through radio waves, we have witnessed great world or local events on countless occasions.

Broadcasters are workers who are available for work at any time and on any day, including holidays. Many of these devoted workers work until late at night or begin to work in the wee hours of the morning. When there are natural disasters due to atmospheric phenomena or of another kind, the broadcaster and the radio are our inseparable companions, whether to comment the news or to provide sound entertainment which entertains and alleviate the situation. Their great mission of informing, commenting, explaining, announcing and entertaining through the radio waves transmits and diffuses the knowledge of information that is beneficial and necessary to be informed of recent events regarding the weather, traffic, politics, and sports, among other topics. The most eloquent example of the social impact of broadcasting is that, both in the past and in the present, persons of our highest esteem such as José Miguel Agrelot, Ramón del Rivero “Diplo,” Ramón S. Olivencia and many others have brought glory to the broadcasting profession through their excellence, commitment, and professionalism, being forever perpetuated in the memory of our people.

For all of the stated above, broadcasters are citizens with great social responsibility. The propriety and correction of their words and expressions, the professionalism with which they address is sensitive or controversial issues, and their use of language make them an object of continuous scrutiny by their fellow citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to recognize that in the great majority of times, broadcasters perform their work very much aware of their great social commitment to their Country and complying faithfully with this responsibility.

For all of the above stated, this Legislature deems it necessary and meritorious to recognize the local radio industry, the Puerto Rican broadcasters and broadcasters in general by establishing May as the “Radio Month” and May 30th of each year as the “Broadcasters’ Day.” By doing so, we are recognizing the enormous work, commitment, and social function they perform, and at the same time, we raise this dignified profession to the rank of importance it deserves.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.-The month of May of every year is hereby declared as the “Radio Month” and May 30 of every year is hereby declared as the “Broadcaster’s Day” in order to raise awareness on the Island of the great importance in social, economic, and labor terms of said industry and of the broadcasters’ profession.

Section 2.-The Department of State, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Puerto Rico Corporation for Public Broadcasting shall have the responsibility to disclose said month as the “Radio Month” and said day as the “Broadcasters’ Day” to the Island and to attain the greatest participation possible of the public and private sector in these celebrations by conducting activities and programs leading to the same.

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. 154 (S.B. 625) of the 3rd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to declare the month of May of every year as the “Radio Month” and the 30th of May of every year as the “Broadcasters Day,” in order to raise awareness on the Island of the great importance in social, economic, and labor terms of said industry and of the broadcasters profession,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 13th of March of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director