

(H. B. 1588)

**(No. 170)**

(Approved August 30, 2006)

**AN ACT**

To amend Act No. 418 of September 22, 2004, known as the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” to include the High Schools of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico in the cooperation protocols established with the Office of Youth Affairs, Office of the Governor.

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” was created on September 22, 2004, to establish the cooperation protocols between the University of Puerto Rico and the Office of Youth Affairs, attached to the Office of the Governor. The cooperation protocols established by the aforementioned Act seek to create initiatives and studies geared toward youth and their lifestyles. However, this Act limits and classifies the University of Puerto Rico and its different campuses as the ideal locations to establish this alliance.

We consider that problems that involve situations such as suicide, unwanted pregnancy and drug addiction, among others, are first manifested during adolescence. Therefore, if the purpose of the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act” is to create initiatives and studies geared toward new and true knowledge of youth and their lifestyles, then we cannot leave teenagers out of this work group. Who better than teenagers to tell us how they feel about issues that affect them daily? The establishment

of a questionnaire for adolescents to express their ideas, concerns and needs is warranted for such purposes. Said questionnaire shall be a tool that shall help the Legislature of Puerto Rico to introduce legislation that is in harmony with the needs of our youth.

For such reason, this Legislature deems that the Department of Education should be part of the interagency group that creates the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” thus granting representation to adolescents in High School, that is to say, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade student of the schools of the Island.

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

Section 1.- Section 2 of Act No. 418 of September 22, 2004, known as the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.- Definitions

The following ...

- (a) “Mutual Cooperation” shall mean the establishment of cooperation protocols between the University of Puerto Rico, the Department of Education, and the Office of Youth Affairs of the Office of the Governor.
- (b) ...
- (c) ...”

Section 2.- Section 4 of Act No. 418 of September 22, 2004, known as the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The University of Puerto Rico and the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, in coordination with the Office of Youth Affairs of the Office of the Governor shall adopt regulations that evince the establishment of

collaboration between both agencies to achieve a cooperation protocol within mutually acceptable frameworks and directed to offering the expected results to the youths. The conceptual framework for its design, implementation and operation shall be organized and attuned to the applicable regulations of the Office of Youth Affairs, as well as to the realities and needs of our youth.”

Section 3.- Section 5 of Act No. 418 of September 22, 2004, known as the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The President of the University of Puerto Rico, the Secretary of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico and the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Affairs shall have the individual duties and responsibilities as stated hereinafter:

- (a) To identify, gather, develop and implement the complete work plan pertaining to the creation, development and enforcement of this Act. For such purposes, they shall prepare a questionnaire for adolescents to express their ideas, suggestions and concerns.
- (b) To render an annual report to the Legislature regarding the creation and progress of what is proposed in this Act. Said report shall also contain the ideas, suggestions and concerns expressed by the majority of the youths in answering the questionnaire to be established by the agencies. The aforementioned report shall be available to the public on the official virtual page of the Office of Youth Affairs, of the Office of the Governor.
- (c) To implement the cooperation protocol between the Agencies, attuned to the public policy established in this Act.

- (d) To enter agreements with private university institutions, high schools as well as the agencies, corporations and public instrumentalities for research, studies and other services germane to the achievement of the goals and objectives for which this Act is approved.

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. 170 (H.B. 1588) of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend Act No. 418 of September 22, 2004, known as the “Youth Research and Investigations Mutual Cooperation Act,” to include the High Schools of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico in the cooperation protocols established with the Office of Youth Affairs, Office of the Governor,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 30<sup>th</sup> of March of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director