

(H. B. 2442)

(No. 191)

(Approved September 1, 2006)

AN ACT

To amend Sections 2, 3 and 5 of Act No. 215 of August 29, 2002, known as the “Puerto Rico Cooperative Internships Promotion Act,” to authorize municipal governments to sponsor every semester positions for students enrolled in the Seminar Course Work and Studies in Cooperativism with Supervised Practice by the Institute of Cooperativism of the University of Puerto Rico so that they may conduct their corresponding practice.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Act No. 215 of August 29, 2002, known as the “Puerto Rico Cooperative Internships Promotion Act,” was created in order for the Cooperative Development Administration to establish and promote, by means of regulation, the necessary mechanisms to coordinate the opening of positions to be held every semester by the participants in the Seminar Course Work and Studies in Cooperativism with Supervised Practice by the Institute of Cooperativism of the University of Puerto Rico, whether in government agencies related to cooperativism or in any other government dependency.

This Act is promulgated under the principle that cooperativism, as a people’s institution, must continue to exist, and on the fact that the Legislature, committed to the cooperativist philosophy, must ensure its permanence in Puerto Rico. It is the responsibility of the Government to continue to develop the Cooperativist Movement to the fullest extent in order to offer more and improved services to its members and to the citizenry in general.

However, the municipalities, which could benefit greatly from the experience and input of students with full knowledge of the cooperativist philosophy, are not included in said Act. The Executive is definitely responsible toward the cooperativist movement, but there is no doubt that it should also be promoted in the municipalities, as creations of the Legislature that are closest to the citizenry. It is our contention that this Act shall benefit, not only the municipalities, but also the students that may very well perform their practice therein, and even close to their homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Section 2 of Act No. 215 of August 29, 2002, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.- For the purposes of this Act, the Cooperative Development Administration shall serve as liaison between the University of Puerto Rico Institute of Cooperativism and all government agencies that are part of the Executive and the municipal governments.”

Section 2.- Section 3 of Act No. 215 of August 29, 2002, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3.- The Cooperative Development Administration shall establish and promote, through regulations, the necessary mechanism to coordinate the opening of positions to be occupied twice a year by Program participants be it in government agencies related to cooperativism or in any other government agency, any other government dependency, municipal government programs or in Inter-municipal Consortia created by virtue of the Workforce Investment Act.”

Section 3.- Section 5 of Act No. 215 of August 29, 2002, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 5.- Students selected to work in any government dependency, municipal government program, or Inter-municipal Consortia created by virtue of the Workforce Investment Act shall receive the federal minimum wages, which shall be defrayed by the dependency or municipality to which the students are assigned, provided that the funds are duly identified and budgeted.”

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. 191 (H.B. 2442) of the 4th Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to amend Sections 2, 3 and 5 of Act No. 215 of August 29, 2002, known as the “Puerto Rico Cooperative Internships Promotion Act,” to authorize municipal governments to sponsor every semester positions for students enrolled in the Seminar Course Work and Studies in Cooperativism with Supervised Practice by the Institute of Cooperativism of the University of Puerto Rico so that they may conduct their corresponding practice,

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