

(S. B. 634)

(No. 237)

(Approved November 3, 2006)

AN ACT

To provide that all replaced computers in the agencies, departments, public corporations, entities, instrumentalities and branches of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be donated to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico; to direct the Secretary of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico to accept the donation of computers; and to regulate computer equipment donation and distribution processes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

By express constitutional provision and by public policy clearly established by successive Government administrations throughout several decades, supported by abundant legislation and numerous executive initiatives, the public education system has traditionally been one of the priority areas of Puerto Rico's governmental endeavors. Pursuant to the importance vested upon such a vital area of the growth and development of our People, the Executive and Legislative Branches have historically sought to assign to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico the necessary resources to ensure excellence in education, promoting the most complete educational development possible for our children and youth.

Due to the technological demands of the modern world, to acquire adequate skills in the use and handling of computers has become an essential factor in order to perform adequately in almost any area of everyday life, at academic, professional, and even personal levels. One of the greatest challenges faced by our public education system is precisely the appropriation of sufficient technical and financial resources so that all students in the system may have adequate access to the necessary equipment and training for the acquisition of computer use and

handling skills. The high cost and swift technical obsolescence of this equipment makes government initiatives to give adequate access to this computer equipment to all students in the schools of the public education system more difficult, which counteracts initiatives to give adequate access thereto to the highest amount possible of students.

On the other hand, it is common in private industry and public service to replace such equipment relatively quickly and frequently, before the projected useful life term thereof expires, and while the replaced equipment still conserves a large amount of technical capacity. Therefore, our students, as a part of their academic process, may still benefit from using equipment in these conditions.

For said purposes, this Legislature, acknowledging the importance of technology and education in a country's development, as well as the responsibility and efforts of the Government toward educating our children, hereby provides that the computers of agencies, departments, public corporations, offices, branches and dependencies of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be donated to the Department of Education, and directs the Secretary of the Department of Education to accept the donation of computers, and to regulate computer equipment donation and distribution processes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- It is hereby provided that replaced computers in the agencies, departments, public corporations, entities, instrumentalities and branches of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be donated to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 149 of June 30, 1999, as amended, better known as the "Organic Act for the Department of Education of Puerto Rico of 1999."

Section 2.- Computers to be donated shall be delivered to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico in good condition, so that they may be used for the academic learning of all students in the public education system.

Section 3.- No administrative or payment charges shall be made for the delivery of this equipment against the Department of Education, agencies, departments, public corporations, entities, instrumentalities and branches of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico making the donation.

Section 4.- The Department of Education shall have preference with respect to the transfer or reappropriation of surplus property classified as office equipment or furniture made by the General Services Administration, as provided in Section 14, subsections (p), (q), and (r), and in Section 16, subsection A (18), (19) and (20) of Act No. 164 of July 23, 1974, as amended, better known as the “General Services Administration Act.”

Section 5.- The General Services Administration is hereby directed to amend the necessary regulations in order to enable compliance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 6.- The Secretary of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, by means of regulations, shall establish a procedure for the receipt and acceptance of this equipment, and create an inventory thereof and their distribution to the schools of the public education system, in accordance with their needs, in cooperation with the Regional Directors of the Department.

Section 7.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 237 (S.B. 634) of the 4rd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to provide that all replaced computers in the agencies, departments, public corporations, entities, instrumentalities and branches of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be donated to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico; to direct the Secretary of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico to accept the donation of computers; and to regulate computer equipment donation and distribution processes,

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