

(H. B. 1127)

(No. 272)

(Approved December 21, 2006)

AN ACT

To authorize the use of the recreational or sports facilities owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its agencies or dependencies free of cost or at their adjusted fee whenever the same are to be used for any activity related to the Youth and 4-H Clubs Program of the Agricultural Extension Service.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Youth and 4-H Clubs is the dynamic and comprehensive informal education program through which the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Puerto Rico responds to the youth of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Youth and 4-H Clubs Program is a nonprofit institution whose mission is directed toward providing opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge and develop positive attitudes, and basic skills that shall allow them to become productive persons and useful citizens for the Puerto Rican society.

This educational mission is based upon the philosophy of “learning by doing,” which allows for the use of various methods through which learning is achieved through practice. This enables 4-H members to obtain knowledge with a minimum of effort. At the same time, it fosters the youth’s constant and voluntary search under the motto “To Make the Best Better.”

The acquired knowledge promotes the development of vocational aptitudes that allow youths to make a wiser and more precise selection of their vocation and career. The result of these efforts shall contribute toward self-development of young 4-H members' personality, and understanding of their relationship with their family, community and world.

The Youth and 4-H Clubs Program has been developing in Puerto Rico since 1935. Since then, the Program has spread out to all of the farthest locations of the island. They currently provide an informal education program from all the local Agricultural Extension Service to fifteen thousand (15,000) 4-H youths and one thousand six hundred nineteen (1,619) voluntary 4-H leaders. Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls who have benefited from the sound ethical orientation and formative curricula of the 4-H Program are now productive and useful citizens to Puerto Rican society.

At present, the Youth and 4-H Clubs Program is subject to the payment of fees for the use of recreational and sports installations owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and of the recreational and sports facilities of the University of Puerto Rico. We deem that these recreational and sports facilities should be made available free of charge when requested for the purpose of carrying out any activity related to the Youth and 4-H Clubs Program.

In so doing, we contribute to the emotional, physical and spiritual development of our children and youth. We shall likewise facilities the work that voluntary 4-H leaders, together with parents and relatives perform as part of the 4-H Program in Puerto Rico.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- To provide that all facilities owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its agencies or dependencies shall be made available

free from the payment of fees of any sort whenever the same are requested for the purpose of carrying out any activity related to the Youth and 4-H Clubs Program of the Agricultural Extension Service.

Section 2.- These terms or phrases shall have the meaning stated below:

- a. Youth and 4-H Clubs Program means the informal education program disseminated from the local offices of the Agricultural Extension Service to promote education for youths through short courses, workshops, conferences, excursions, field trips, camps and other local, regional and state activities.
- b. Facilities owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, its agencies or dependencies means any facility, campus, physical area, or property such as parks, courts, land, public beaches, forests, green areas, centers, mountains, slopes, peaks, knolls, lakes and islets, with or without structures, that due to their size and daily use, or to their nature or purpose are for recreational, sports or contemplative use, or which may be used to hold camping or recreational activities, or to practice a sport, or for public gatherings. Excluded from this definition are stadiums, sports complexes, coliseums or any facility that by their nature or size is primarily used for holding regional or national activities, in the case of facilities that are managed by public, state or municipal instrumentalities, whose source of income depends on the fees charged for the use of the facilities under their management, a 50% discount on the normally charged fees shall be granted, and the use of the facilities shall be subject to their availability, in accordance with the calendar of programmed events or activities.

- c. The agencies or dependencies of the Government of Puerto Rico shall maintain control over the form and manner in which they make their resources available, as well as the power to identify the areas that are suitable for each request, and may grant similar benefits to analogous entities for which the corresponding regulations have been approved within a term not to exceed sixty (60) days as of the date of effectiveness of this Act.
- d. To obtain a use permit for said facilities, interested entities shall notify the agencies and public instrumentalities concerned of the type of activity to be held, the purpose thereof, and the scope or duration of the period of the activity within not less than thirty (30) days in advance. They shall also provide a certification stating that they have the minimum public liability insurance for participants and those that provide coverage for damages that may be caused to the facility, devices or equipment therein.

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 272 (H.B. 1127) of the 4th Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to authorize the use of the recreational or sports facilities owned by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its agencies or dependencies free of cost or at their adjusted fee whenever the same are to be used for any activity related to the Youth and 4-H Clubs Program of the Agricultural Extension Service,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 31st of October of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director