

(H.B. 1953)

(No. 293)

(Approved December 26, 2006)

AN ACT

To amend subsection (q) of Section 8 of Act No. 188 of May 11, 1942, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Industrial Development Act,” in order to extend the benefit granted in said subsection to non-profit organizations established before the approval of the Act.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Act No. 163 of December 14, 2001 amended Section 8 of Act No. 188 of May 11, 1942, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Industrial Development Act,” for the purpose of providing that the Industrial Development Company lease, at low cost, spaces in its industrial buildings to non-profit organizations for the establishment of factories the majority of whose employees must be persons with disabilities. The aforementioned law also provided for the establishment of regulations containing the procedures and requirements needed for obtaining this benefit.

The purpose of this amendment to Act No. 188 of May 11, 1942 was to encourage non-profit organizations to develop factories that employ persons with disabilities. In this way we intend to foster the establishment of alternatives for the integrated development of the persons with disabilities through new training and work-related growth options. However, it has been indicated that the Industrial Development Company interprets the benefit

granted by Act No. 163, *supra*, as an extension exclusive to the new organizations that may be established as of the date of approval of the aforementioned Act No. 163 in 2001, thus limiting the opportunities for growth of any already established non-profit organization that also intends to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities.

This Legislature therefore believes it meritorious to extend the benefit of low cost leasing to non-profit organizations who wish to expand their operations and offer work alternatives to persons with disabilities even when they have been established prior to the approval of Act No. 163 of December 14, 2001.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.-Subsection (q) of Section 8 of Act No. 188 of May 11, 1942, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Industrial Development Act,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 8.-

(a) ...

(q) To provide space in the existing and available buildings for non-profit public or private organizations that shall be established in the future, or in the case of those that already exist to expand their operations, to be used as factories in already existing and operating industrial zones under the protection of Industrial Development. The human resources to be used for the functioning and operations of said factories must be, in their majority, persons with disabilities.

....”

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. 293 (H.B. 1953) of the 4th Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to amend subsection (q) of Section 8 of Act No. 188 of May 11, 1942, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Industrial Development Act,” in order to extend the benefit granted in said subsection to non-profit organizations established before the approval of the Act,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 30th of April of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director