

(S. B. 304)

**(No. 3-2015)**

(Approved January 30, 2015)

## **AN ACT**

To direct the Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO, Spanish acronym) to conduct an awareness campaign in alliance with the Telecommunications Regulatory Board aimed at buyers of communication devices used by children and adolescents, directed to the responsible use of technological equipment, with emphasis on basic measures to provide safe communication and the appropriate use of the Internet, safe access to the Internet, disclosure of personal information, accepting calls from strangers, as well as any other identified security control related to the proper use of such communication devices by children and adolescents; and for other purposes.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO, Spanish acronym), created by Act No. 5 of April 23, 1973, as amended, has established as its mission to oversee the rights and wellbeing of consumers by promoting an environment of trust and respect among consumers and merchants. Furthermore, DACO plays a leading role in the process of educating and guiding citizens towards the goods and services that are available to them.

Act No. 213-1996, as amended, created the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (JRTC, Spanish acronym) in order to promote equal and fair competition among companies that provide telecommunications services and cable television, and guarantee that citizens have access to and enjoy said services at a reasonable cost. As part of its mission and among its purposes, the JRTC aspires to grant all Puerto Ricans access to the most advanced telecommunications services and cable television technology with the best quality and at the lowest available cost.

Mobile devices are currently accessible to children and adolescents at a very early age as a means to facilitate constant communication with their parents. In view of advances in communication technology, most of these mobile devices also provide Internet access to its users. In this manner, in spite of the usefulness and convenience of these communication devices, the same can pose a risk to personal safety for lack of information about basic controls for Internet safety and the appropriate use of the Internet. Any access to inappropriate websites, the disclosure of personal information, or even accepting calls from strangers place our children and adolescents in a vulnerable position.

This Legislative Assembly has the pressing interest to conduct new awareness campaigns aimed at this particular population which is vulnerable given the constant use of these devices. Therefore, we deem it meritorious to require the intervention of DACO in alliance with the JRTC to conduct a campaign, at least three (3) times a year, and shall significantly impact the children and adolescents who use these telecommunications services.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1.- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO) is hereby directed to conduct an awareness campaign in alliance with the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico, at least three times a year, aimed at buyers of communication devices for children and adolescents. The campaign directed herein is aimed towards the responsible use of such technological equipment, with emphasis on the basic measures to maintain safe communication and the proper use of the Internet; safe access to the Internet, disclosure of personal information, accepting calls from strangers, as well as any other identified security control on the appropriate use of such communications technology by children and adolescents.

Section 2.- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO) and the Telecommunications Regulatory Board shall take all pertinent actions to implement this awareness campaign in coordination with the telecommunications companies, as the same are defined in Act No. 213-1996, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Telecommunications Act,” in order to provide the necessary information both at the sales points and the mass communications media. Both agencies shall coordinate the approval of regulations that establish the responsibility or participation of each one of them, and the integration of the telecommunications companies in the awareness campaign directed by this Act.

Section 3.- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO) and the Telecommunications Regulatory Board shall file a report with the Legislative Assembly stating in detail their compliance with the provisions of this Act within a term that shall not exceed ninety (90) days as of the approval of this Act.

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. 3-2015 (S. B. 304)** of the **5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session** of the **17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

**AN ACT** to direct the Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO, Spanish acronym) to conduct an awareness campaign in alliance with the Telecommunications Regulatory Board aimed at buyers of communication devices used by children and adolescents, directed to the responsible use of technological equipment, with emphasis on basic measures to provide safe communication and the appropriate use of the Internet, safe access to the Internet, disclosure of personal information, accepting calls from strangers, as well as any other identified security control related to the proper use of such communication devices by children and adolescents; and for other purposes.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

Juan Luis Martínez Martínez  
Director