

(S. B. 295)

(No. 7-2023)

(Approved January 12, 2023)

## AN ACT

To designate June 23 of each year as “Olympic Day” in Puerto Rico; exhort the People of Puerto Rico to observe this day and pay tribute to their athletes; and direct the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee and the Sports and Recreation Department to raise awareness of the importance of this event.

### STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Puerto Rico has participated in all the International Olympic Games held since 1948 and has won a total of ten (10) medals thus far. The athletes that have won medals while representing the delegation of Puerto Rico are: Mónica Puig, Jasmine Camacho-Quinn, Javier Culson, Jaime Espinal, Juan Evangelista Venegas, Arístides González, Luis Francisco Ortiz, Daniel Santos, Aníbal Acevedo, and Orlando Maldonado.

Athletes like: Miguel Cotto, Luis “Tingui” Vargas, Carlos Arroyo, Deborah Seilhamer, and Asunción Ocasio have also represented the Island with dignity. Looking to the future, athletes such as: Adriana Díaz, Bryan Afanador, Wesley Vázquez, and Gretchen Ortiz, among others, are positioning themselves as emerging international Olympic stars.

The month of February has been designated as the “Sports and Exercise Month” in Puerto Rico by means of Act No. 57-2012. However, many countries around the world observe “Olympic Day” on June 23, therefore, it is appropriate to observe this day and recognize Puerto Rico’s Olympic history. Thousands of athletes have represented our flag with dignity under the Puerto

Given that students shall be enjoying their summer break on June 23, the Department of Education shall promote that students be taught about this day and the Olympic values during the second semester of the school year, particularly through the physical education programs of our public education system, for the purpose of having the students recognize the observance of this day in Puerto Rico.

Section 4.- This Act shall take effect upon its approval.