

Section 3.—The Administrator is hereby empowered to establish the standards for the procedure to condone debts caused by improper payments in the coordination of pensions and by the payment of a double pension, establishing to whom debt is to be condoned and the procedure to be followed therefor.

Section 4.—This condonation shall be exclusively for the group of pensioners affected by the improper payments made on December 31, 1985, because their pension was coordinated belatedly with their Social Security benefits, and for the pensioners who received the payment of a double pension on or before March 24, 1986.

Section 5.—This act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

*Approved April 13, 1986.*

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**Vehicles and Traffic—Penalties; Administrative Fines;  
Amendment**

(H.B. 331)

[No. 14]

[*Approved April 17, 1986*]

AN ACT

To amend subsection (a) of Section 3-302 of Act No. 141 of July 20, 1960, amended, known as the "Vehicle and Traffic Law of Puerto Rico", in order to increase the penalty in specific violations when driving a motor vehicle without being duly authorized to do so.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—Subsection (a) of Section 3-302 of Act No. 141 of July 20, 1960, amended,<sup>22</sup> is hereby amended to read as follows:

<sup>22</sup> 9 L.P.R.A. § 722(a).

"Section 3-302—Penalty

(a) Any person convicted of violating the provisions of subsections (7), (8), (9) and (10) of Section 3-301<sup>23</sup> shall be punished with a fine of not less than twenty-five (25) dollars nor more than seventy-five (75) dollars."

Section 2.—This act shall take effect sixty (60) days after its approval.

*Approved April 17, 1986.*

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**Labor—Construction Workers; Bond Securing  
Payment of Wages; Amendment**

(S.B. 47)

[No. 15]

[*Approved April 25, 1986*]

AN ACT

To amend Sections 2, 13b and 14 of Act No. 111 of June 22, 1961, which secures the payment of wages to the construction workers in order to increase the percent taken as a base to determine the amount of the bond, require that the workers be notified of the name of the company which underwrites the bond and that they be given a copy of the contract, and to increase the penalties.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Under Act No. 111 of June 22, 1961, the Legislature of Puerto Rico heard the clamor of the labor movement as to the need to protect the wages of the workers in view of the possible bankruptcy or dissolution of the employer. In recent years, there has been a marked boom in the practice of general contractors to subcontract phases, stages or parts needed to develop a project.

The precarious financial situation the construction industry is going through has brought about instability in the composition of the industry's employer sector as the old construction companies disappear. This has caused the creation of many new firms that,

<sup>23</sup> 9 L.P.R.A. § 721(7)-(10).

in turn, disappear after a short time taking with them, in many cases, the wages and benefits accrued by the workers.

In order to deal with the difficulties brought about by these facts, the Legislature of Puerto Rico proposes, through this measure, to revise the legal provisions in effect to make them consistent with the clear and far-reaching public policy established when Act No. 111 of 1961 was approved, of giving effective protection to the construction workers.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—Section 2 of Act No. 111 of June 22, 1961,<sup>24</sup> is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.—The above-mentioned bond shall be posted by the contractor in cash, certified check or with the security of a bonding company licensed to do business in Puerto Rico, and said payment bond shall answer jointly and severally with the contractor, up to the limit of the bond liability, for the payment to the contractor’s laborers and employees of the wages earned by them in the work. The amount of this payment bond shall not be less than twenty (20) percent of the estimated cost of the work under construction.”

Section 2.—Section 13b of Act No. 111 of June 22, 1961,<sup>25</sup> is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 13b.—In every construction project where the contractor or subcontractor performs activities through contracts or subcontracts with any natural or artificial person, it shall be the duty of said contractor or subcontractor to post a public notice at the payment sites accepted by the Secretary of Labor and Human Resources for the duration of said contract or subcontract stating the name of the contractor or subcontractor, the nature of the work performed and the name of the bonding company that secures the bond. Any labor union that represents the workers or employees of a contractor or subcontractor shall be entitled to request and obtain from the latter a copy of the payment bond contract which has been posted in accordance with the requirements of this act.”

Section 3.—Section 14 of Act No. 111 of June 22, 1961,<sup>26</sup> is hereby amended to read as follows:

<sup>24</sup> 29 L.P.R.A. § 196.

<sup>25</sup> 29 L.P.R.A. § 205.

<sup>26</sup> 29 L.P.R.A. § 206.

“Section 14.—Any contractor who starts a work, building or construction without having posted the bond required by this act in behalf of the Secretary of Labor and Human Resources shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand (1,000) dollars nor more than five thousand (5,000) dollars, or by imprisonment in jail for a term of not less than one month nor more than one year, or both penalties in the discretion of the court.”

Section 4.—This act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its approval.

*Approved April 25, 1986.*

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Librarian's Day

(H.B. 737)

[No. 16]

[Approved April 25, 1986]

AN ACT

To officially declare Friday of the Library Week as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Librarian's Day.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Throughout the centuries, the library has been the institution responsible for organizing, preserving and diffusing information and knowledge, making them available to man for the optimum development of his potentialities. Libraries serve as a source of information, education, culture and recreation. They are areas devoted to forging ideas, cultivating the intellect, enriching and developing the spirit and the mind. They offer the user the adequate means from books to computers to enrich their education and culture.

Within the framework which is propitious to thought and study offered by libraries, it is proper to emphasize the work of the librarian as an information specialist and the professional and indispensable services which he offers. It is his professional capacity, dedication and care which facilitates access to information