

“The Justices of Peace shall keep over the initial salary fixed by this act the increases over the basic salary of three thousand (3,000) dollars annually that they may have obtained upon the taking of effect of this act. The time accumulated in order to be entitled to the increases for every two (2) years of service before July 1, 1972, shall continue to be considered for the purposes of determining the date of the increases to be granted every two (2) years.”

Section 2.—

The funds necessary to carry out the purposes of this act shall be set aside annually in the General Budget Act.

Section 3.—This act shall take effect on July 1, 1972.

Approved June 21, 1972.

**Goods and Domestic Appliances—Not Guaranteed; Sale Prohibited;
Consumer Service**

(H.B. 1501)

[No. 26]

[*Approved June 21, 1972*]

AN ACT

To repeal section 2 and to add sections 2, 3 and 4 of Act No. 93 of June 24, 1971, which prohibits the sale of goods and domestic appliances in Puerto Rico whose warranty is not applicable to Puerto Rico and which fixes penalties for violations of this act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Section 2 is hereby repealed⁴⁰ and sections 2, 3 and 4 are hereby added to Act No. 93 of June 24, 1971, to read as follows:

Section 2.—

The Director of the Consumers Service Administration is hereby empowered to enforce this act and to approve, amend or revoke those rules, regulations, orders and determinations that may be necessary for the enforcement thereof pursuant to the powers conferred by Act No. 148 of June 27, 1968, as amended.⁴¹

⁴⁰ 10 L.P.R.A. § 112(b).

⁴¹ 23 L.P.R.A. §§ 1001-1015.

Section 3.—

The Director of the Consumers Service Administration is hereby empowered to impose fines, upon service of notice and holding of an administrative hearing, for any violation to the provisions of this act, as well as to the orders that may be issued and to the regulations that may be adopted hereunder.

The fines imposed shall not be less than twenty-five (25) dollars nor more than one thousand (1,000) dollars.

Section 4.—

Within the ten (10) days following the promulgation of any regulation, order or resolution, any person affected directly by said regulation, order or resolution, shall file in writing a petition for reconsideration, setting forth his objections to the determination or any of its provisions. Any person aggrieved by a determination of the Director may, within the ten (10) days following the date of notice, file an appeal for review before the Superior Court, San Juan Part.

Section 2.—

The number of Section 3 of Act No. 93 of June 24, 1971, is hereby amended to read Section 5.

Section 3.—This act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved June 21, 1972.

Labor—Bonus to Employees (One or More); Nonpayment

(H.B. 1558)
(Conference)

[No. 27]

[*Approved June 25, 1972*]

AN ACT

To amend sections 1 and 7 of Act No. 148 of June 30, 1969, as amended, which establishes the payment of a bonus to certain employees of the private enterprise.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Sections 1 and 7 of Act No. 148 of June 30, 1969, as amended, are hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1.⁴²—

Any employer who employs one or more workers or employees within the period of twelve (12) months comprised from the first of October of any calendar year until September 30 of the subsequent calendar year shall be bound to grant to each one of said employees who have worked seven hundred (700) hours or more or one hundred (100) hours or more in the case of dock workers, within the period set forth, a bonus equivalent to 2% of the total wages, computed up to a maximum of ten thousand (10,000) dollars, earned by the employee or worker within the said lapse of time. The total of the amounts paid by reason of said bonus shall not exceed 15% of the net annual profit of the employer, had within the period comprised from September 30 of the preceding year until September 30 of the year to which the bonus corresponds. It being provided, that on computing the total of the hours worked by an employee to receive the benefits of this act, there shall be counted those hours worked for the same employer though the services have been rendered in different businesses, industries and other activities of this employer.

This bonus shall constitute a compensation in addition to any other wages or benefits of any other nature to which the employee is entitled, but any other bonus of the same nature to which the employee is entitled, shall be creditable by virtue of the individual work contract.

Section 7.⁴³—

The Secretary of Labor is hereby authorized to adopt those rules and regulations as he may deem necessary for the better and appropriate administration of this act.

Likewise he is hereby authorized to request and require from the employers that they furnish, under oath if so required, any information that he may have in relation with the statements of assets and liabilities, statements of profits and losses, account books, payrolls, wages, hours of work and any other information that he may consider necessary for the proper administration of this

⁴² 29 L.P.R.A. § 501.

⁴³ 29 L.P.R.A. § 507.

act, and to such effects, the Secretary of Labor may prepare blank forms which may be obtained by the employers through the Department of Labor and shall be filled out and filed in the Office of the Department of Labor within the date prescribed by the Secretary.

He is also authorized to investigate and examine by himself or through his subordinates the books, accounts, archives and other documents of the employers to determine their responsibilities with regard to their employees, under this act.

Whenever an employer fails to pay the bonus established in this act claiming that he has not obtained profits in his business, industry, commerce or enterprise, the Department of Labor shall carry out an auditing for the verification of the accounts of said employer. The auditing shall be made by the auditors of the Department of the Treasury upon request of the Department of Labor. To such effects, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby empowered to place at the disposal of the Secretary of Labor the auditors that may be required to carry out the task herein provided.

Copy of the auditor's report shall be delivered to the workers or employees of the defendant employer.

Except as above-provided, the information obtained by the Secretary of Labor or by his agents duly authorized by virtue of the powers conferred hereunder shall be of a confidential and privileged nature and may only be revealed by authorization of the Secretary of Labor.

The Secretary of Labor shall, further, enjoy, in relation to the administration of this act, those faculties and general powers of investigations which have been conferred for the better fulfillment of his functions under the labor legislation administered by him.”

Section 2.—

The sum of fifty thousand (50,000) dollars is hereby appropriated from unencumbered funds in the Commonwealth Treasury to the Department of the Treasury for the payment of wages of the personnel used to perform the auditing work of the accounts required by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the provisions of this act. The amounts needed for these purposes for subsequent years shall be set aside in the General Budget of Expenses of the Department of the Treasury.

Section 3.—This act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved June 25, 1972.