

(S. B. 29)

(No. 47-2015)

(Approved March 31, 2015)

AN ACT

To amend subsection (b) of Section 2.5 of Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended, known as the “Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Uniform Administrative Procedures Act,” in order to require administrative agencies to write in plain language an executive summary stating the purpose, justification, as well as the costs and benefits of proposed regulations in order to promote citizen participation in the processes that would directly or indirectly affect them.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (LPAU, Spanish acronym) sets forth as the public policy of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico the informal solution of the administrative issues so that formal solution of the matters submitted to the agencies will be unnecessary.

Based on the level of expertise of public agencies, this Legislative Assembly has delegated to these instrumentalities the power and duty to regulate their fields of specialization.

However, and depending on the purpose of each administrative agency, it is difficult for the average citizen to understand the technical language used to write or amend public regulations. The foregoing limits citizen participation in processes that may affect or benefit them, as well as the need and purpose of the regulations. This Act amends the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act to provide that every regulations adopted by an agency shall contain an executive summary of its provisions.

The amendment proposed herein, in addition to providing transparency to the administrative regulation process, shall serve to meet the goal of improving administrative procedure oversight.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Subsection (b) of Section 2.5 of Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended, known as the “Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Uniform Administrative Procedures Act,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.5.- Rule or Regulations - Contents, Style, and Form.

Any rule or regulation adopted or amended by an agency shall contain the following information in addition to the text:

(a) A reference to the legal provision that authorizes its adoption or amendment;

(b) A brief and concise explanation of its purposes or the reasons for its adoption or amendment that includes an executive summary written in plain language stating its purpose, justification, as well as the costs and benefits of the proposed regulations;

(c) ...”

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. 47-2015 (S. B. 29)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to amend subsection (b) of Section 2.5 of Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended, known as the “Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Uniform Administrative Procedures Act,” in order to require administrative agencies to write in plain language an executive summary stating the purpose, justification, as well as the costs and benefits of proposed regulations in order to promote citizen participation in the processes that would directly or indirectly affect them.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 21st day of August, 2015.

Juan Luis Martínez Martínez
Acting Director