

(S. B. 1051)

**(No. 53-2015)**

(Approved April 17, 2015)

## **AN ACT**

To establish the “Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrión School of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Internship Program,” attached to the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrión School of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Internship Program (henceforth, the Program) shall provide undergraduate and graduate students from universities in Puerto Rico with the opportunity to work during the academic semester in multilateral and international institutions and entities in Washington, D.C., as well as in foreign embassies. Through the Arturo Morales-Carrión Internship, students shall have a professional experience as interns in the field of international relations that shall significantly contribute to their curriculum and which they shall be able to integrate into their professional careers.

In addition to the academic and professional experiences that internships provide, the Program seeks to foster a mentality that is consistent with the advances and dynamics of international relations while allowing participating students to become agents of change and transformation so as to contribute to Puerto Rico’s social and economic growth and improvement. Furthermore, the Program has the purpose of raising awareness about the importance of exposing the Island to developments in international relations within the contemporary political and economic arena. Puerto Rico is part of the world and of the Caribbean. Within that context lies the importance of this program in order to open communication channels between Puerto Rico and other countries.

In the late 1940s, the Technical Cooperation Program and the Educational and Cultural Exchange Program took effect. Through said programs, Puerto Rico became a training and knowledge transfer center for thousands of visitors from many countries in the world. Initially, these programs were attached to the Planning Board. Later, Act No. 119 of July 1, 1953, and Act No. 39 of May 27, 1954, were approved – and are still in effect – to empower the Department of State to direct Puerto Rico’s internationalization efforts.

Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrión was the person designated at that time to direct the internationalization efforts from the Department of State.

Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrión was the greatest Puerto Rican diplomat and internationalist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born on November 16, 1913, he became an eminent historian, researcher, thinker, teacher, and man of action. He held top positions in the government of Puerto Rico and the United States, as well as in academia and cultural institutions, to wit: Deputy Secretary of State of Puerto Rico (1953-1961), Assistant Secretary of State for Inter American Affairs and the Caribbean of the U.S. State Department (1961-1963), Special Assistant to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) (1964-1969), President of the University of Puerto Rico (1973-1977), and director of the Puerto Rican Endowment for the Humanities. He also published important books, articles, research, and essays in which he discussed different topics, such as the relations between Puerto Rico and the United States, slavery and its subsequent abolishment in Puerto Rico, the history of Puerto Rican culture, and the different political processes that took place throughout the Island’s history.

Our Island’s geographic and commercial reality as a Caribbean nation makes it essential for us to have an effective relationship to the United States and the entire world. A Puerto Rico that realizes the importance of effective interaction within the global framework shall have a better chance of economic growth.

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

## Section 1.— Creation.

The Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrión School of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Internship Program is hereby established, to be attached to the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Said program shall be directed and administered as provided hereinbelow. The Internship Program shall aim to offer an educational experience to university students that combines theoretical and practical elements about processes in multilateral institutions and entities that govern diplomacy and international relations both in Washington, D.C. and in other cities around the world. Furthermore, this program seeks to provide undergraduate and graduate students with firsthand experience in order to create human capital that is knowledgeable in issues of international significance and capable of making a contribution to Puerto Rico's socioeconomic development and foreign relations.

## Section 2.— Implementation.

All that pertains to the implementation and operation of the Program herein established may be carried out through collaboration agreements entered into with various public and private entities.

## Section 3.— Committee.

A committee composed of three (3) members designated by the Secretary of State or his authorized representative is hereby created. In accordance with the public policy of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, committee members shall discharge their responsibilities without receiving any kind of stipend or per diem for carrying out their work and/or the duties of the position. Said committee shall be in charge of selecting the students that shall participate in the program. Members to the committee shall be appointed taking into account, but not limited to, their knowledge and credentials in fields related to diplomacy and international law.

#### Section 4.– Selection Criteria.

The committee shall select candidates for the appropriate academic period depending on fund availability, to be placed in various federal and state offices, in international institutions or/and entities, and in non-governmental organizations. The committee shall establish, through regulations, a methodology that shall include selection criteria such as professional interest, education, qualifications, experience, and outstanding community services, among others.

#### Section 5.– Stipend.

Candidates for the Program shall be undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in post-secondary institutions located in Puerto Rico. At the time of participation, the student must have approved at least half of the credit hours leading to his degree. Interns thus selected shall receive a monthly stipend. Moreover, interns shall be provided with lodging and transportation from Puerto Rico to the destination where they shall serve their internship. The duration of the internship shall be equal to one academic semester, up to five (5) months.

#### Section 6.– Rulemaking Authority.

The committee shall adopt bylaws to govern their internal operations. Said bylaws shall provide all the rules and procedures necessary for the Program's appropriate operation, and must include all that pertains to the payment of stipends.

#### Section 7.– Credit Transfer and Academic Credit.

The committee shall provide for the Program to operate according to the university calendar during each academic semester, and shall offer a combined curriculum of theoretical and practical experiences. Likewise, the committee shall take the appropriate steps to grant academic credit for participating in the program.

Section 8.– Funds.

The annual funds needed for the implementation of this Act shall be set aside at the request of the Secretary of the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in the General Budget of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Section 9.– Effectiveness.

This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 53-2015 (S. B. 1051)** of the **5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session** of the **17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

**AN ACT** to establish the “Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrión School of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Internship Program,” attached to the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez  
Acting Director