

(H. B. 741)

(No. 58-2022)

(Approved July 18, 2022)

AN ACT

To add a new Section 5.02(a) to Act No. 20-2017, as amended, known as the “Department of Public Safety Act,” to authorize the members of the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau who graduated from the Search and Rescue Academy to wear an identification badge; and for other related purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Department of Public Safety (the Department) was created upon the approval of Act No. 20-2017. The goal of the Department’s creation was to integrate all of the component that administer public safety in Puerto Rico. The Department is composed of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, the Bureau of the Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps, the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau, the Bureau of the Puerto Rico Medical Emergency Corps, and the Puerto Rico Special Investigations Bureau. The inclusion of the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau (the Bureau) in the Department implicitly acknowledges that the purpose of said Bureau is directly related to public safety.

Consistent with the foregoing, every member of the Bureau faces situations where their safety and the safety of others is at risk. For this reason, we deemed it important for every member of the Bureau to be properly identified while on duty. As a result, there shall be no doubt as to the identity of the official or the reasons why he is at the scene.

In view of the foregoing, we deem it appropriate for the members of the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau to wear a badge to identify themselves.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- A new Section 5.02(a) is hereby added to Act No. 20-2017, as amended, to read as follows:

“Section 5.02(a).- Use of an Identification Badge by the Members of the Emergency Management Disaster Administration Bureau.

All members of the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau, who graduated from the Search and Rescue Academy shall wear an identification badge on their uniforms. Badges shall bear a unique identification number as well as an emblem that identifies such employee as a member of the Bureau. The employees of the Municipal Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Offices shall wear identification badges in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Bureau.

The Bureau shall have ninety (90) days from the effective date of this measure to review and, if necessary, amend its regulations or adopt new regulations in accordance with this Act.

Section 2.- Effectiveness.

This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 58-2022 (H. B. 741)** of the **3rd Regular Session** of the **19th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT add a new Section 5.02(a) to Act No. 20-2017, as amended, known as the “Department of Public Safety Act,” to authorize the members of the Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau who graduated from the Search and Rescue Academy to wear an identification badge; and for other related purposes.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 6th day of September, 2022.

Mónica Freire-Florit, Esq.
Director