

(S. B. 1229)

(No. 60-2015)

(Approved May 2, 2015)

AN ACT

To amend Section 12 of Act No. 416-2004, as amended, known as the “Environmental Public Policy Act,” in order to allow for the electronic notification of any resolution or decision issued by the Governing Board of the Environmental Quality Board.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

In Puerto Rico, the Environmental Quality Board is the state agency responsible for the protection of the quality of the environment by preventing and controlling air, water, soil, and noise pollution, among others. For such purposes, Act No. 416-2004, as amended, known as the “Environmental Public Policy Act,” sets forth the necessary public policy to foster a desirable and convenient harmony between mankind and the environment, promote “efforts that would prevent or eliminate environmental and biospheric harm,” and “broaden the understanding of major ecological systems and natural sources in Puerto Rico.” Said Act also authorizes the Environmental Quality Board to hold hearings on the aforementioned issues. As part of said process, notice of any resolution or decision issued by the Board shall be served to the interested parties through certified mail.

Notwithstanding the provisions of said Act, and in accordance with the public policy of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of integrating new technologies into government processes, it is deemed necessary to broaden the notification methods for the purpose of enabling the electronic notification of the resolutions or decisions issued by the Governing Board of the Environmental Quality Board. In

doing so, the process to obtain said notifications shall be swift and accessible to both the interested parties and the citizens in general. Moreover, savings for said agency are achieved, thus enabling economic resources to be used for the fair protection of the environment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Section 12 of Act No. 416-2004, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 12.- Hearings, Orders and Judicial Proceedings.-

A. The Governing Board of the Environmental Quality Board shall hold public hearings, either *motu proprio* or at the request of an interested party, in connection with matters related to the implementation of this Act...

1. ...

2. ...

3. The Board shall issue either the pertinent resolution or decision within a reasonable term after the hearing has been held, which shall not exceed sixty (60) days, and notify each of the interested parties with a copy thereof. Notice of the resolution or decision of the Board shall be served either by regular or electronic mail and shall enclose a certification from the Secretary of the Governing Board.

4. ...

...”

Section 2.- Effectiveness.

This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 60-2015 (S. B. 1229)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to amend Section 12 of Act No. 416-2004, as amended, known as the “Environmental Public Policy Act,” in order to allow for the electronic notification of any resolution or decision issued by the Governing Board of the Environmental Quality Board.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 3rd day of July, 2015.

Juan Luis Martínez Martínez
Acting Director