

(S. B. 365)

(No. 67)

(Approved April 21, 1998)

AN ACT

To amend Section 9 of Act No. 5 of May 11, 1959, as amended, known as the "Metropolitan Bus Authority Act" and amend Section 36 of Act No. 109 of June 28, 1962, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Public Service Act" in order to authorize the Metropolitan Bus Authority and the Puerto Rico Public Service Commission to formulate and adopt regulations to govern the conduct of the users of its services.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Metropolitan Bus Authority was created by Act No. 5 of May 11, 1959. Since its creation the busses of the Authority have served thousands of Puerto Ricans daily as a means of transportation between the various sectors of the metropolitan area. Throughout the years, the Government has directed its efforts to achieve compliance of its objective to improve its service through the acquisition of busses.

Act No. 109 of June 28, 1962, as amended, created the Public Service Commission of Puerto Rico. The approval of this measure managed to improve the public transportation services through the establishment of fair and reasonable rates for all users; and regulating, among others, taxi companies, public transportation vehicles, busses and tourist touring vehicles.

However, at times, the lack of appropriate service does not arise from the employees of the companies that supply these services, but from the users themselves. Some users of these services make the trip less than pleasant by

transporting portable radios tuned to a high volume, soliciting, having loud discussions and even fighting inside the bus.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico deems it necessary to amend the Act which creates the Metropolitan Bus Authority as well as the Act which established the Public Service Commission of Puerto Rico in order to authorize the creation of regulations to govern the conduct of the users of its services. In this manner, a better service shall be rendered to the thousands of Puerto Ricans who use this means of transportation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Section 9 of Act No. 5 of May 11, 1959, as amended, known as the "Metropolitan Bus Authority Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 9.- The regulations of the Authority shall govern the internal operation thereof and shall determine the conduct of the users, in addition to the attributions, duties and responsibilities of its officials or functionaries, as well as the procedures that shall govern the acquisitions and contracts for supplies, services and the construction of works. The regulations shall be approved by the Board of Directors and may be amended by it."

Section 2.- Section 36 of Act No. 109 of June 28, 1962, as amended, known as the "Public Service Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 36.- Rules

The Commission may adopt those rules that are necessary and convenient for the exercise of its powers or for the performance of its duties. Provided, that it may authorize those rules or regulations that shall determine the conduct of the users in those transportation means regulated by the Commission. These rules shall have the force of law once the provisions of Act Number 170 of

August 12, 1988, as amended, known as the "Uniform Administrative Procedures Act", have been complied with.”

Section 3.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

July 7, 1999

Luis G. Hidalgo, Director of the Office of Legislative Services of the Legislature of Puerto Rico, hereby certifies to the Secretary of State that he has duly compared the English and Spanish texts of Act No. 67 (S.B. 365) of the 3rd Session of the 13th Legislature of Puerto Rico, entitled:

AN ACT to amend Section 9 of Act No. 5 of May 11, 1959, as amended, known as the "Metropolitan Bus Authority Act" and amend Section 36 of Act No. 109 of June 28, 1962, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Public Service Act" in order to authorize the Metropolitan Bus Authority and the Puerto Rico Public Service Commission to formulate and adopt regulations to govern the conduct of the users of its services,

and finds the same are complete, true and correct versions of each other.

Luis G. Hidalgo

