

(S. B. 1223)

(No. 73-2015)

(Approved June 1, 2015)

AN ACT

To declare October of each year as “*Paradores de Puerto Rico* Program Month,” in order to encourage tourism, promote tourist attractions, foster economic development, and stimulate job creation in this type of lodging.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Tourism is one of our most important economic sectors for being a significant source of employment and capital. Moreover, it has an enormous potential for development. Hundreds of Puerto Ricans work in this industry throughout the Island, providing thousands of guests with excellence in service every year. Therefore, this industry is of utmost importance for Puerto Rico’s economic development.

On the other hand, *Paradores de Puerto Rico* is a program developed and registered by the Puerto Rico Tourism Company more than 40 years ago for the purpose of fostering local and international tourism, as well as to encourage tourism in areas with many tourist attractions and stimulate their economic development while also creating jobs. *Paradores de Puerto Rico* provide standing, variety, and reliability to our tourist offering. They are located in areas of high historic, cultural, and eco-tourism interest, for which they are the preferred option of locals and international tourists seeking to know Puerto Rico better.

Paradores (inns) currently represent a cost-effective alternative for locals and international tourists in search of unforgettable experiences in the Island. International tourism has surged in these inns given their unparalleled offerings. They are not only affordable, but also provide an opportunity to better appreciate Puerto Rico’s natural beauty while diving into and closely experiencing our culture.

Paradores de Puerto Rico are known for their leadership, community work, customer service, and gourmet restaurants. These qualities have earned them the recognition of the Tourism Quality Division of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, and that of renowned entities such as TripAdvisor and Booking. This is proof of the quality and excellence offered by these inns. Today, *Paradores de Puerto Rico* continue to offer high quality products and services adhering to the philosophy that has guided them from the beginning.

In light of the foregoing, and to promote tourism in the *Paradores de Puerto Rico*, this Legislative Assembly hereby introduces this legislation declaring October of each year as the “*Paradores de Puerto Rico* Program Month.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1. – In order to foster, promote, and stimulate the development of the tourism industry in Puerto Rico, the month of October of each year is hereby declared as the “*Paradores de Puerto Rico* Program Month.” This seeks to promote local and international tourism, stimulate the economy, and create jobs in this type of lodging. During the month of October of each year, activities shall be carried out to promote tourism in the *Paradores de Puerto Rico*.

Section 2. – The Puerto Rico Tourism Company shall be the government instrumentality in charge of enforcing the provisions of this Act. During October of each year, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, together with the *Asociación de Dueños de Paradores de Puerto Rico* (Paradores de Puerto Rico Owners Association), shall organize and carry out all activities related to the promotion of the *Paradores de Puerto Rico* at the local and international level. This initiative shall be taken in addition to the regular promotion carried out all year round.

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

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 73-2015 (S. B. 1223)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to declare October of each year as “*Paradores de Puerto Rico* Program Month,” in order to encourage tourism, promote tourist attractions, foster economic development, and stimulate job creation in this type of lodging.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez
Acting Director