

(S. B. 498)

**(No. 103-2017)**

(Approved August 17, 2017)

## **AN ACT**

To amend Section 2.04(1)(a) of Act No. 26-2017, in order to include the Bureau of the Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps among exempted employees.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

Last April 29, 2017, Act No. 26-2017, known as the “Fiscal Plan Compliance Act” was signed into law by the governor of Puerto Rico, the Hon. Ricardo Rosselló-Nevarez.

One of the principles that led to the approval of said Act was to ensure greater equality and uniformity in the granting of the fringe benefits enjoyed by the employees of the Government of Puerto Rico, specifically those who work in the agencies of the central system and public corporations.

Moreover, Act No. 20 of April 10, 2017, known as the “Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety Act,” reorganized the Government of Puerto Rico’s safety system. The Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps was included under this new scheme. These employees render essential services to the people in the event of fires.

Their tasks and duties make them susceptible to work-related illnesses and accidents. Therefore, protecting the occupational health and safety of the employees of the public safety system is the public policy in Puerto Rico.

Given the particular needs of the law enforcement officers of the Puerto Rico Police Department, these officers were given a different treatment under Act No. 8-2017, better known as the “Government of Puerto Rico Human Resources Administration and Transformation Act,” with regard to the accrual of vacation leave.

Due to the nature of the work performed by the personnel serving under the ranking system of the Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps, it is appropriate to amend Act No. 26-2017 to extend to such public officials the same treatment given to the officers of the Puerto Rico Police Department.

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

Section 1.- Section 2.04(1)(a) of Act No. 26-2017, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.04.- Fringe Benefits

...

The fringe benefits of the employees of the Executive Branch shall be the following:

1. Vacation Leave

a. As of the effective date of this Act, every public employee shall be entitled to accrue one and one-fourth (1¼) day of vacation leave for every month of service. This provision shall not apply to teaching personnel and school principals, except for the administrative and management personnel of the Department of Education, nor to teaching personnel of any educational institution of the Government of Puerto Rico, the law enforcement officers of the Puerto Rico Police Department, and the employees serving under the ranking system of the Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps, who shall continue to accrue vacation leave as they did prior to the approval of this Act for being excluded from the Sole Employer system created under Act No. 8-2017.

...”

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 103-2017 (S. B. 498)** of the **1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session** of the **18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

**AN ACT** to amend Section 2.04(1)(a) of Act No. 26-2017, in order to include the Bureau of the Puerto Rico Firefighters Corps among exempted employees.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2017.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez  
Acting Director