

(S. B. 701)

**(No. 130-2018)**

(Approved July 10, 2018)

## **AN ACT**

To amend Section 2.04(1)(a) of Act No. 26-2017, as amended, known as the “Fiscal Plan Compliance Act,” in order to provide equality for all the teachers of the Government of Puerto Rico regardless of where they discharge their duties; and for other purposes.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

To ensure the proper transition of students with functional diversity from preschool centers to the Department of Education and from the Department of Education to the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration (VRA) is among the programmatic commitments of the Plan for Puerto Rico. To achieve such transition, the Teachers of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration play a key role in the development of such students, since they are responsible for analyzing the consumer files in order to conduct an assessment that allows for the validation of their skills, interests, and abilities in connection with the vocational goal. For this process, they use different educational activities, techniques, and strategies according to the indicators to be worked with, taking into account the job goal of the applicant / consumer. Moreover, they are in charge of drafting the Plan of Activities as well as evaluation reports, collaborate in identifying community resources, provide assistance during professional trainings and meetings, and adjust the established plans.

The Teachers of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration also identify the vocational goals, conduct ability evaluations through standardized tests (MECA, VALPAR, VITA) as well as academic evaluations, and work on developing reading, writing, mathematical, and other skills that shall allow the participant to attain his vocational goal.

The process conducted by VRA teachers is individualized pursuant to federal regulations. For such reason, they are not placed in a traditional classroom with a group of students.

One of the unbreakable commitments of the Plan for Puerto Rico is to provide equality in all aspects. For such purposes, we deem it commendable that this Legislative Assembly provide equal treatment for all the teachers of the Government of Puerto Rico, regardless of whether they work in a traditional classroom of the Department of Education, in a correctional institution of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or in an individualized education classroom of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

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

Section 1.- Section 2.04(1)(a) of Act No. 26-2017, as amended, known as the “Fiscal Plan Compliance Act,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2.04.- Fringe Benefits

1. Vacation Leave

a. As of the effectiveness of this Act, every public employee shall be entitled to accrue one and one-fourth (1  $\frac{1}{4}$ ) 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 managerial personnel of the Department of Education, nor to teaching personnel of any educational institution of the Government of Puerto Rico, certified teachers of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, law enforcement

officers of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, and the employees rendering services 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 they are excluded from the Sole Employer system created under Act No. 8-2017.”

Section 2.- Effectiveness

This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.