

office at a committee or body of a political party, be it at central, regional or municipal government level or at an electoral ward or unit.

It is also necessary to correct the allusion made in said Section 19.003 to the term "Central Government" which should read "Commonwealth Government."

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—Section 19.003 of Act No. 81 of August 30, 1991, as amended [21 L.P.R.A. § 4903], is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 19.003.—Commissioner

The Office of the Commissioner of Municipal Affairs shall be directed by a Commissioner appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate of Puerto Rico. The Commissioner shall be directly responsible to the Governor of Puerto Rico in the performance of his/her duties. The Commissioner shall be a person of recognized moral probity. He/she cannot be a municipal legislator, nor have held the office of Mayor during the eight (8) years prior to his/her appointment; nor during the four (4) years prior to his/her appointment to have sought or campaigned to hold office in the directorate or the organization of a political party or of a committee or body of a political party, be it at central, regional or municipal government level or at an electoral ward or unit, nor to have run for elective public office in general or special elections nor to have been nominated as candidate to elective public office during primary elections. While holding office, he/she may not seek or campaign to hold office in the directorate or the organization of a political party or committee nor run for or be nominated for an elective office.

The Governor of Puerto Rico shall fix the annual salary of the Commissioner in accordance with the standards applied in the central government for offices of the same or similar nature and level of responsibility. The Commissioner may avail

him/herself of the benefits of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended [3 L.P.R.A. §§ 761 et seq.], known as the "Retirement System for Employees of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities," and of Act No. 133 of June 26, 1966, as amended [3 L.P.R.A. §§ 862 et seq.], which created the Commonwealth Employees Savings and Loan Fund."

Section 2.—This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

*Approved September 28, 2006.*

**Protocol for Managing Domestic Violence  
Situations—Implementation**

(H.B. 2131)

[No. 217]

[*Approved September 29, 2006*]

AN ACT

To implement the Protocol for Managing Domestic Violence Situations at the workplace or the place of employment in order to strengthen the efforts for the prevention of and intervention in domestic violence cases; provide that the Office of the Women's Advocate offer assistance in drafting and implementing the same and that the Department of Labor and Human Resources ensure its faithful compliance.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Domestic violence continues to be a serious social and public health problem that affects thousands of victims and families in Puerto Rico. This is so in spite of the advances achieved with the approval of Act No. 54 of August 15, 1989, as amended, known as the "Act for the Prevention of and Intervention with Domestic Violence."

The statistics provided by the Puerto Rico Police reveal the urgent need for increasing the resources within our reach to achieve greater effectiveness in the prevention and eradication of domestic violence.

The number of domestic violence cases reported by the Puerto Rico Police for recent years is: year 2000 = 18,271 incidents; year 2001 = 17,796 incidents; year 2002 = 20,048 incidents; year 2003 = 21,164 incidents; and year 2004 = 22,274 incidents.

From the total number of women murdered under all motives, a total of 44% were murdered by domestic violence (the average for years 1993-2004). For the year 2004, that percentage increased to 51% of the total of women murdered (61 women murdered; 31 by domestic violence). The number of murders by domestic violence (including the category of crime of passion) reported to the Puerto Rico Police for more recent years is: year 2000 = 32; year 2001 = 23; year; year 2003 = 26; year 2004 = 31; and for the current year 14 cases have been reported to October 3.

In recognizing the need to promote the public policy of zero tolerance for domestic violence of the Government of Puerto Rico, the implementation of a Protocol for Managing Domestic Violence Situations at the workplace or the place of employment shall provide uniformity to the measures and the procedure to follow when an employee of either sex is victim of domestic violence. Taking preventive and security measures shall allow for the proper management of cases that may bring elements of danger into the workplace.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—The promulgation and implementation of a Protocol for Managing Domestic Violence Situations at the workplace or the place of employment in recognition of and harmony with the public policy of the Government of Puerto Rico, pursuant to Act No. 54 of August 15, 1989, as amended [8 L.P.R.A. §§ 601 et seq.], known as the 'Act for the Prevention of and Intervention with Domestic Violence,' is hereby required."

Section 2.—Every agency, department, office or workplace of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and of the private sector is responsible for complying with the requirement of establishing and implementing a Protocol for Managing Domestic Violence Situations at the workplace, which shall include the following minimum requirements: a public policy statement, a legal and applicability basis, personnel liability and uniform procedures and measures to follow in the management of cases.

Section 3.—The Office of the Women's Advocate shall provide the technical advice needed to draft and implement these Protocols for Managing Domestic Violence Situations and the Department of Labor and Human Resources shall be responsible for overseeing their faithful compliance.

Section 4.—This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

*Approved September 29, 2006.*

### Government Employees Overtime Pay—Repeal

(H.B. 2364)

[No. 218]

[Approved September 29, 2006]

AN ACT

To repeal Section 3 of Act No. 99 of May 5, 1941, as amended, in order to temper to the legislation in effect the overtime pay for the employees of the Government of Puerto Rico, including those of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico, who are employed to work at the Legislature.