

[«español»](#)

“Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce of the Government of Puerto Rico Act”

Act No. 10 of June 18, 1970, as amended

(Contains amendments incorporated by:

Act No. 141 of June 3, 1976
Act No. 18 of May 27, 1985
Act No. 24 of July 29, 1985
Act No. 24 of June 26, 1997
Act No. 47 of July 25, 1997
Act No. 29 of May 6, 2001
Act No. 187 of August 17, 2002
Act No. 213 of August 29, 2002
Act No. 228 of September 19, 2002
Act No. 265 of November 16, 2000
Act No. 282 of December 19, 2002
Act No. 63 of January 4, 2003
Act No. 212 of August 28, 2003
Act No. 185 of August 16, 2003
Act No. 272 of September 9, 2003
Act No. 290 of September 15, 2004
Act No. 301 of September 15, 2004
Act No. 526 of September 29, 2004
Act No. 16 of May 27, 2005
Act No. 52 of May 6, 2008
Act No. 280 of August 15, 2008
Act No. 170 of December 16, 2009
[Act No. 167 of November 7, 2010](#)
[Act No. 256 of December 16, 2011](#)
[Act No. 173 of August 16, 2012](#)
[Act No. 165 of October 8, 2015](#)
[Act No. 7 of February 19, 2016](#)
[Act No. 141 of July 10, 2018](#))

To create the Puerto Rico Tourism Company [Note: Replaced by “Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce of the Government of Puerto Rico”]; to establish its duties, powers, rights and obligations; to authorize transfers; to establish penalties; and to appropriate funds.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The development of the tourist industry has made this activity of services one of the most dynamic and promising sectors of our economy. The encouragement from the government, the participation of private enterprise and other favorable elements, such as climate, natural beauty, and the oceanic facilities have made tourism a force creating wealth and generating a multitude of working opportunities for all Puerto Ricans.

This industry, because of its wide economic scope, is included within the first five main sectors of our economy, and throughout the years its remarkable contribution to the export trade, to the working market, to the gross national product and to the net income of our Island has been significant. Statistics show that in 1952, the total expense of tourism in Puerto Rico was 13 million; in 1955, 23 million; in 1965, 119 million; in 1967, 167 million; in 1968, 201.7 million and in 1969, 228.5 million.

Making a conservative estimate, it is considered that the tourist industry is responsible for the creation of 14,000 new direct jobs and of 21,150 indirect jobs making a total of 35,250, and that at present tourism contributes \$96 million to the net income of our economy.

Taking all the foregoing into consideration, the potential and extraordinary scope of the economic development of the tourist industry in Puerto Rico is obvious, if the necessary and adequate steps are taken to protect permanently the competitive capacity of the island as a tourist attraction.

In an ever-growing industry having a diversity of interests and of participating sectors, in which considerable amounts of local and foreign investments are rapidly growing and in which its volume and economic social importance require long-term planning, preventive measures, efficient and adequate direction and coordination, it is necessary for this Government to declare a public positive policy with respect thereto.

This Legislature recognizes the necessity and convenience of unification, development and protection of the competitive capacity of our tourism, particularly if we take into consideration the boom which this industry is reaching abroad. Likewise, we believe it is urgent to raise the priority and administrative structure of the program to a level suitable to the importance and complexity of this economic sector.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1. — Short Title. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671)

The Act of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce of the Government of Puerto Rico.

Section 2. — Creation. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671a)

A Tourism Office is hereby created within the Department of Economic Development and Commerce under the name of “Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and

Commerce of the Government of Puerto Rico” which shall be hereafter known as the “Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce.”

Section 3. — Executive Director. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671c)

The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall have an Executive Director to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate of Puerto Rico, who shall hold office until his successor is appointed and takes office. The Executive Director of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall answer directly to the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce. The Executive Director of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall be of legal age and of recognized ability, moral probity, and knowledgeable and experienced in the fields of public administration and the government endeavor. The Executive Director shall have an Advisory Council whose members shall be representatives of the tourism sector and shall not earn any wages, compensation, or per diem for their participation in said Council. Said Advisory Council shall advise the Executive Director on any matter referred thereto, including, but not limited to the Puerto Rico Tourist Business Loan and Loan Guarantee Program and the Puerto Rico Tourist Industry Development Fund.

Section 4. — Rights, Duties, and Powers. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671d)

In order to achieve its purposes, the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall have and may exercise rights, duties, and powers as are necessary or convenient to promote, develop, and improve the tourist industry, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) To propose, recommend, adopt, and administratively coordinate together with the pertinent government agencies any measures directed, among others, to the following aspects:

- (1) To develop the quality and the just and reasonable compensation of the products in the tourist traffic.
- (2) Maintenance of the proper hygienic and health conditions in the tourist facilities and others related to the industry.
- (3) Conservation of the natural beauties and of the environmental health.
- (4) Improvement in the services of public cleanliness of streets, parks, beaches, plazas, walks, lakes, forests, and other tourist places.
- (5) To establish and execute, in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Public Works and the Highways Authority, a signage plan to identify streets and tourist, historical, and cultural interest areas with international symbols, in agreement with the tourist signage system established by the World Tourism Organization and the Federal Government of the United States of America. Additionally, to prepare maps and information publications, printed and electronic, including websites, in both Spanish and English as well as in any other language that the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce deems necessary after conducting a market study;
- (6) Maintenance of order and protection to the persons and to the property.

- (7) Improvement in the services of communication and transportation by air, sea, and land, including travel agencies and tourist excursions, not only for the increment of tourism, but also for the incentive of the participation in the industrial and commercial activities of Puerto Rico.
- (8) Improvement in hotel and restaurant services, including safety rules, claims, and other facilities of attention and lodging.
- (9) To obtain the maximum benefit of the natural resources and the different regions of the Island by virtue of a proportionate distribution of hotel facilities and tourist services. In addition, it shall actively promote and market ecotourism and ecotourism projects, as defined in subsection (n) of Section 3 of Act No. 340 of December 31, 1998. *[Note: Repealed by Act 254-2006, as amended]*
- (b) To loan money and secure loans granted by financial institutions to any person, firm, corporation, or other organization, through a Puerto Rico Tourist Business Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, when such loans are to be used to promote, develop, and improve Puerto Rico’s tourist industry.
- (c) To require all tourism businesses operating in Puerto Rico to furnish any necessary statistical data, either in electronic or paper format, to develop a database that may contribute to the marketing and effective planning of tourist activity. The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce may prescribe through Regulations a reasonable transition period for those businesses required under this Act to furnish statistical data to the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, to take the pertinent actions to comply with the electronic delivery thereof. Upon conclusion of said period, all tourism businesses shall electronically deliver the required data; and failure to do so shall constitute noncompliance with the provisions of this Act. Every tourism business shall designate a contact person who shall be in charge of furnishing the necessary statistical data to the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce. The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall classify the statistics into endorsed and unendorsed tourism businesses. The requirements imposed under this Section on the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce and tourism businesses are mandatory and shall be answered within the period provided by the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce. Specifically, but not limited to, tourism businesses operating in Puerto Rico and check-in guests at their facilities shall be required to furnish guest registration data to the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce within ten (10) calendar days after the close of the month in question, together with the room occupancy rate declaration provided in Section 28(b) of Act No. 272-2003. Said information shall include the following data: hotel registries and the source thereof; occupied rooms, available rooms, out-of-service rooms; average rate; length of stay; jobs; and any other additional information as the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce deems necessary. Noncompliance with these requirements shall constitute a violation of the requirement imposed hereunder of furnishing the pertinent statistical data. Such data shall be confidential, insofar as it is privileged data or trade secrets that may be associated with specific natural or juridical persons. However, aggregate figures and data, as well as results and statistical analyses that do not disclose confidential data or trade secrets shall be made available to the general public.

Such data shall be provided confidentially, disclosing aggregate figures to tourist businesses that provided them (without disclosing individual data of lodgings or businesses), as well as potential investors in order to help them develop their plans.

- (d) To hold public hearings, summon witnesses, issue orders, resolutions, and decisions, and discharge any other duties of a quasi-judicial nature as necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter.
- (e) To conduct adjudicative hearings to hear complaints filed against any person under its jurisdiction, whether *motu proprio* or at the request of an interested party, as provided in this Act, and impose the appropriate sanctions or fines in accordance with the regulations promulgated to such effects pursuant to [Act No. 38-2017, as amended, known as the ‘Government of Puerto Rico Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.’](#)
- (f) To investigate, issue summons, subpoena documentation deemed pertinent, and evaluate the evidence, whether *motu proprio* or on behalf of the person who initiated the claim or complaint.
- (g) To take measures to ensure the efficient operation thereof with its own identity at the local, national, and international level, and the functional operation thereof in order to properly formulate and implement policies on tourist development in a specialized and an independent manner within the government structure of the Department, including the authority to resolve complaints brought to its consideration and to grant adequate remedies at law.
- (h) To establish rules and norms as are necessary to conduct administrative proceedings, both regulatory and adjudicatory, in accordance with [Act No. 38-2017, as amended.](#)
- (i) To issue orders to compel the appearance of witnesses and the production of the required documents and information.
- (j) To resort to any administrative remedy as necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act and enforce the rules, regulations, orders, resolutions, and determinations of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, including the authority to impose sanctions under [Act No. 38-2017, as amended, known as the ‘Government of Puerto Rico Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.’](#)
- (k) To establish and maintain a register of authorizations granted, including those that have been cancelled or suspended. Any authorization of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall be subject to an administrative action for suspension, cancellation, or cease of operations in case of noncompliance with the rules in effect by the entities to which an authorization has been granted.
- (l) Require that travel agents and wholesalers include the number and type of license that authorizes them to operate in Puerto Rico, in any travel offer promotion published in the media of the Island, as well as an itemized breakdown of all components of the travel offers.
- (m) To establish a certification, promotion, marketing, and continuing education program for Tour Guides. In addition, it shall provide continuing education courses for the betterment of the profession. In order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this subsection, the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce is hereby authorized to establish a Tour Guide Council, chaired by the Executive Director of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce and composed of tour guides and representatives of the tourist transportation sector and by the tourism sectors deemed pertinent, which shall serve as a permanent discussion forum, to contribute, among other things, to

regulate all that pertains to the Tour Guide certification provided for in Section 5 of this Act, and to devise a plan for the betterment and professional training of tour guides.

- (n) To regulate and issue certifications to juridical persons or entities operating facilities, docks, or vessels devoted to nautical tourism including, but not limited to: (i) rental or chartering of vessels for leisure, recreation, and tourist education purposes; (ii) leasing of jet skis and other similar equipment to guests in a hotel, a condo-hotel, a timeshare or a vacation club, or located within a tourist resort; or (iii) services offered by facilities or docks to vessels devoted to nautical tourism for guest entertainment and leisure for compensation, in waters within and outside of Puerto Rico. The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall, in turn, investigate, intervene, and impose administrative fines or other sanctions on any juridical person or entity operating facilities, docks, or vessels devoted to nautical tourism.
- (o) To establish, among other strategies and initiatives that may be developed, a marketing program for the purpose of promoting Puerto Rico as a culinary, sports and recreation, cultural, medical, nature and adventure, luxury, and meeting destination, among others. In order to ensure the full development of the program, it is hereby provided that the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall enter into collaboration agreements with restaurateurs, associations, and sports, recreational, cultural, medical, ecological, and meeting promotion entities, among others, concerned with the development, creation, and holding of tourist, culinary, sporting, recreational, cultural, medical, nature and adventure, luxury, and meeting events, among others.

Section 5. — Responsibilities. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671e)

The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall be responsible for:

- (1) Adopting, participating, organizing, and encouraging promotional programs and tourist attraction programs, such as the preparation and publication of books, magazines, pamphlets, maps and printed matter of all kinds and films, which may be distributed, circulated, and exhibited on the Island as well as in other countries.
- (2) Participating, organizing, coordinating, and encouraging promotion programs and tourist attractions whose themes and principal objectives are the native motives, the artistic and cultural production and the distinctive characteristics of our country, in order to make visitors take an interest in our history, culture, and personality of the people.
- (3) To conduct research on the opinion that tourists have formed of the country after a visit or several visits; the most common problems that they encounter; the criticism which they express; and the constructive measures which may be carried out in that respect; to conduct scientific research on the tourism potentiality and its demand, as well as on the facilities of the Puerto Rican industry to meet these demands for services; to make comparative studies, particularly with the main competitors of Puerto Rico. The results of all these researches shall be published at least once a year, on or before June 30.
- (4) In order to fulfill the responsibility set forth in the preceding subsection (3), the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall enter into an agreement with the University of Puerto Rico so that, through the appropriate academic departments, the

University and its research centers conduct studies as are necessary on the existing and potential tourism, which shall serve as a basis to design the marketing strategies and adequate investment of resources of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce. The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall coordinate with the pertinent agencies the gathering of data by distributing and collecting written forms to be filled out by tourists at both, their arrival to, and departure from our Island. These forms shall include, but not be limited to, the opinions and remarks of national and international tourists, the most common problems in the tourist offer, the activities and entertainment during their stay, their approximate expenses, the reasons for their visit, reviews, and suggestions. The foregoing should be classified according to factors such as the season of the year, tourist demographic and socioeconomic data, their likelihood of returning and reasons therefor, and the marketing and advertising needs. Said forms shall constitute the main source of information for the studies to be conducted by the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce in coordination with the University of Puerto Rico.

- (5) Promoting the training of the personnel needed for tourist activities, as well as the opportunities and executive training of employees in the hotel industry. Coordinating with the Department of Education, the establishment of a hotel and tourism school at the vocational and/or specialized and technical level, in order to promote the training and retraining of the human resources of the tourism industry in Puerto Rico.
 - (a) Establishing an Advisory Board that shall make recommendations to the Department of Education on the content of the curricula and programs according to the needs of the tourism industry. This Board shall be composed of nine (9) members: the Executive Director of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, who shall be its Chair; the Secretary of the Department of Education, who may delegate his representation to the Secretary of Vocational Instruction; the President of the Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association; the President of the Puerto Rico Travel Agencies Association; the Dean of the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management of the University of Puerto Rico, Carolina Campus, who may delegate his representation to the Director of the Program; the Administrator of the Future Workers and Entrepreneurs Training Administration; and the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Human Resources; a representative of tour guides and a representative of ground tourist transportation, who shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce.
 - (b) Terms. — The members of the public sector appointed by virtue of this Act shall hold office for the term of their appointments as Secretaries or Directors of the aforementioned agencies. The members of the private sector shall hold office for the term of their appointments as chairpersons of the Association. Representatives of the tourist guide and land tourist transportation sectors shall hold office for two (2) years.
 - (c) Organization of the Board. — Within a period which shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the approval of this act, the Chairman of the Board shall convoke Board members to meet, organize and establish bylaws for its administration, pursuant to the [Uniform Administrative Procedures Act](#) [3 L.P.R.A. §§ 2101 et seq.].

- (d) Meetings. — The Board shall meet at least, but without limitation, four (4) times per year, in special meetings convened by the majority of the members, when necessary. All regular and special meetings shall be notified to all Board members and to any other person, as determined by the Board.
- (6) Issuing certificates attesting that hotels, condo-hotels, vacation clubs, Paradores, agri-lodgings, guesthouses, tourist villas, and other tourist facilities and activities meet the requirements established through regulations by the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce for promotional purposes pertaining to the classification and the category of service quality, the physical facilities, the hygienic and sanitary conditions, and the safety and protection of visitors. This authority shall not be construed so as to limit similar functions of any other government agencies or entities, since the categories and classifications fulfill a promotional purpose; the establishment of categories or classifications, however, does not impose a responsibility on the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce for the functions of all other government agencies or entities.
- (7) Studying, preparing, reviewing, and coordinating all legislation which affects or may affect, or which in any manner is related to the tourist industry, and to make the necessary and pertinent recommendations to that effect.
- (8) Studying, proposing, and coordinating with the Planning Board a Regulatory Plan for tourism promotion and development in Puerto Rico. Provided, that the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, in coordination with the municipalities, shall establish municipal and regional tourism committees to integrate the community into the tourism planning and development process. Said committees shall be governed by regulations to be promulgated for such purposes by the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and shall be composed of representatives of the hotel industry and Paradores, restaurants, and the trade and banking sectors, carriers, historians, architects, planners, environmentalists, and artisans, among others, not later than sixty (60) days after the regulation takes effect. The participation of at least one representative of the residents shall be guaranteed.
- (9) To advise the Minimum Wage Board in connection with determinations which said Board might make concerning the tourist industry.
- (10) The development of a Nature Tourism Program, in coordination with the Executive Director of the Puerto Rico National Parks Company, which shall promote and sell this type of tourist attractions, without being limited to those within the Puerto Rico National Parks System; and shall conduct an inventory of said tourist attractions.
- (11) The promotion and advertising of ecotourist projects that have been duly certified by the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.
- (12) Regulating, investigating, intervening and sanctioning those persons or entities dedicated to the sale or offering for sale within Puerto Rico of travel [by] air, land or aquatic transportation tickets to persons for places in Puerto Rico, or abroad, or who make lodging, entertainment or land transportation reservations, or prepare and sell integral travel or tours within Puerto Rico, or abroad.
- (13) Approving regulations for regulating everything concerning tour guide certification in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(14) Establishing, constituting, and organizing the Puerto Rico Sports Tourism Council, which shall have the duty to draft the public policy on sports as a segment for economic investment and the projection of the Island as a destination. It shall draft, in turn, the strategic plan for the practice of those sports tourism events with the potential of attracting economic benefits and promotion for the Island and promote the development of infrastructure and facilities suitable for holding different kinds of local and international sports events. Creating an inventory of existing sports infrastructure, to be made public and accessed over the agency’s webpage (Internet), both in the Spanish and the English languages, not to be construed as an exclusion of any other language that allows for its massive dissemination, and promote the same for holding sports events from abroad; evaluating recommendations for investment by financially supporting different sports events.

- (a)** The Sports Tourism Council shall be composed of the following seven (7) members: the Executive Director of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce, who shall be its chair and provide the Office of the Secretary of the Council with the appropriate support services regarding minutes and agreement follow-ups; the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development; the Secretary of the Sports and Recreation Department; the President of the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee; the Commissioner of Municipal Affairs; and the Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau; and two (2) members of the private sector who shall represent the public interest, one of whom shall have at least five (5) years of experience in advertising, public relations, and marketing of major international events, and the other one shall have five (5) years of experience in the administration of sports facilities suitable for holding world-class events. Provided, further, that a majority of the members comprising the Council shall constitute a quorum.
- (b)** The members of the Sports Tourism Council shall hold their offices for the term of their appointments as secretaries or directors of the above said agencies and entities. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall discharge his/her functions for the remainder of the term of the member he/she is succeeding, and in the event the term to hold the office or position to which he/she was appointed has expired, he/she may continue discharging such functions until his/her successor is appointed and takes office. Any vacancies in the Sports Tourism Council in no way shall impair the rights of any other members to exercise their rights and carry out their duties and exercise their authorities.
- (c)** The Sports Tourism Council shall hold at least one regular meeting on a quarterly basis. Special meetings may be called by the chair or the majority of the members of the Council. Prompt notice shall be delivered regarding all regular or special meetings to all members as well as to any other such, as the members may determine.
- (d)** On or before March 31 of each year, the Sports Tourism Council shall render to the governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico an annual report on the steps and actions taken to fully comply with the duties entrusted by this subsection. Said report shall comprise the calendar year immediately preceding the term for the filing thereof and include a detailed account of the measures implemented and the issues addressed to attain its objectives.

(15) Developing and implementing a Tourist Guide Program, which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a)** Tourist information centers in airports, ports, tourist zones and sites in locations of tourist and cultural interest, inns, transportation systems, important activities and events, restaurants, among others.
- (b)** Programs to welcome tourists at special events, conventions, and others activities endorsed by the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce consisting of activities that could periodically include artistic and/or musical performances and artisan and cultural exhibitions in airport and port terminal facilities.
- (c)** An official guide for tourists including, but not limited to, advice and information important to them, so that they can make the most of their visit to the Island.
- (d)** Activities in the main tourist zones in Puerto Rico to exhibit our culture through artistic and musical performances.

Section 6. — [blank]

Section 7. — Public Hearings. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671g)

Pursuant to Section 4 of this Act, the bylaws, the adoption of which the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce deems necessary and convenient to discharge the powers and duties of the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce under this Act, and which due to their nature affect third parties, shall be subject to the procedures established in [Act No. 38-2017, known as the “Government of Puerto Rico Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.”](#)

Section 8. — Recommendations. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671h)

The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall recommend the granting of loans, by any government or private entity, authorized to grant them to any natural or juridical person engaged in tourist activities in Puerto Rico, for the purchase, establishment, conservation, reconstruction, and improvement of facilities and equipment.

Section 9. — (23 L.P.R.A. § 671r)

No injunction shall be issued to enjoin the application of this chapter or any part thereof.

Section 10. — Penalties. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671s)

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter and the regulations thereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), or by imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months, or both penalties, at the discretion of the court.

The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce is hereby empowered to withdraw its endorsement from the businesses that were endorsed thereby, if they refuse to furnish the required statistics to the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce on two (2) consecutive occasions. The Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce shall also be empowered to impose civil fines up to a maximum amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) on those businesses that fail to furnish the required statistical data on two (2) or more occasions.

Section 11. — Special Provisions. (23 L.P.R.A. § 671 note)

The existing regulations adopted by the Economic Development Administration applicable to the Tourism Department, as well as the regulations adopted under [Act No. 221 of May 15, 1948, as amended](#), and those adopted by the Tourism Company, shall continue in effect as a means to implement this Act, insofar as it is not in conflict therewith and until they are substituted, amended, or repealed by the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce. Any law making a reference to the Tourism Company, the Board, and its Director shall be deemed to refer to the Tourism Office of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce and the Secretary, respectively, by virtue of [Reorganization Plan No. 4-1994, as amended, and the Reorganization Plan of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce of 2018](#).

Section 12. — (23 L.P.R.A. § 671 note)

The sum of one million, two hundred fifty thousand (1,250,000) dollars is hereby appropriated to the company from any unencumbered funds in the Commonwealth Treasury in order that it may comply with the provisions of this act.

Section 13. — (23 L.P.R.A. § 671 note)

This act shall take effect immediately after its approval but while the transfer is pending the Tourism Department shall continue operating as in the present.

Note. This compilation was prepared by the [Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget](#) staff who have striven to ensure it is complete and accurate. However, this is not an official compilation and may not be completely free of error. It contains all amendments incorporated for reading purposes only. For accuracy and exactitude please refer to the act original text and the collection of Laws of Puerto Rico Annotated LPRA. The state links acts are property of [Legislative Services Office](#) of Puerto Rico. The federal links acts are property of [US Government Publishing Office GPO](#). Compiled by the Office of Management and Budget Library.

See also the **Original version Act**, as approved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico.