unauthorized persons, so that they may be used at the trials of election contests. If, within one year from an election, the ballots thereof are not required by the court, the General Supervisor of Elections may direct that they be destroyed.

Section 16.—When a contest is decided against one of the parties, the court shall give judgment in favor of the party prevailing in the suit and shall decree the ouster of the other party, and shall direct the issuing of such writs as may be necessary to place the prevailing party in the full enjoyment of the office, and of its privileges and emoluments. The judgment shall not be executed until after the expiration of thirty days from its rendition; and if the judgment is appealed from, as provided for in section 11, the appeal shall stay the judgment to abide the decision of the Supreme Court.

Section 17.—This Act shall not affect such election suits, quo warranto or certiorari proceedings, and other election contests as may be authorized under existing laws.

Section 18.—All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

Section 19.—This Act shall take effect ninety days after its approval.

Approved, May 4, 1931.

[No. 73] AN ACT

Providing that Wages Earned in the Construction, Extension, Maintenance or Repair of Any Improvement, House or Building, the Total Amount of the Wages Earned by Him Shall Constitute a Lien on Such Property; Providing Proceedings for the Execution of Said Liens, and for Other Purposes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Porto Rico:

Section 1.—That whenever a worker or employee works on the construction, extension, maintenance or repair of any improvement, house or building, the total amount of the wages earned by him shall constitute a lien on said property, both when the work is done under the immediate direction of the owner and when contractors, sub-contractors, jobbers, or builders intervene.

With the exceptions provided by law, the said lien shall have preference as to payment over all other debts of the property owner.

elección. Si dentro del año de haberse verificado unas elecciones, las papeletas correspondientes a las mismas no fueren solicitadas por el tribunal, el Superintendente General de Elecciones podrá disponer que se destruyan.

Sección 16.—Resuelta que fuere una contienda en contra de una de las partes, el tribunal dictará sentencia a favor de la parte victoriosa, decretando el despojamiento de la parte contraria, y disponiendo que se libren los mandamientos que fueren necesarios para instalar a la parte victoriosa en el pleno goce del cargo y de los correspondientes privilegios y emolumentos. La sentencia no se ejecutará hasta la expiración de treinta días contados desde la fecha del pronunciamiento, y si se apelare de la sentencia, según lo dispuesto en la sección 11, la apelación tendrá efecto suspensivo, mientras se resuelva el asunto en la Corte Suprema.

Sección 17.—Esta Ley no afectará a las demandas, procedimientos de quo warranto o certiorari y demás impugnaciones electorales autorizados por las leyes vigentes.

Sección 18.—Toda ley o parte de ley que estuviere en conflicto con la presente, queda por ésta expresamente derogada.

Sección 19.—Esta Ley empezará a regir a los noventa días desde su aprobación.

Aprobada en 4 de mayo de 1931.

[No. 73]

LEY

Para Establecer que los Salarios Devengados en la Construcción, Ampliación, Conservación o Reparación de Cualquier Obra, Constituyen un Gravamen Sobre dicha Propiedad; Para Determinar el Procedimiento de Ejecución de dicho Gravamen, y Para Otros fines.

Decrétese por la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico:

Sección 1.—Siempre que un obrero o empleado trabaje en la construcción, ampliación, conservación o reparación de cualquier obra, casa o edificio, el importe total de los salarios que devengare por razón de su trabajo constituirá un gravamen sobre dicha propiedad, tanto en los casos de trabajos realizados bajo la inmediata dirección del propietario como en aquéllos en que intervengan contratistas, sub-contratistas, ajustadores o maestros de obras.

Este gravamen gozará de preferencia en cuanto al pago sobre todas las demás deudas del propietario, con las excepciones establecidas por ley.
Section 2.—Every worker or employee who fails to receive any sum as compensation for work done under the conditions specified in the preceding section, may execute the said lien in accordance with the proceedings established by Act No. 10 of 1917, as amended by Act No. 12 of 1923; Provided, That before filing the judicial complaint, the workman or employee shall request payment from the owner or grantee of said property, or from his agent or representative, through the Department of Labor, or upon a written notice from the said worker or employee.

Section 3.—The facts upon which the claim is based shall be stated under oath in the complaint, and a description of the property encumbered by the lien shall be given therein; Provided, That the claims of all such workers and employees as have failed to receive their wages, or any part thereof, may be joined in one action; And provided, further, That the filing of a complaint by one or more workmen or employees shall not bar the filing of other actions by other workmen or employees.

Section 4.—No action or claim may be established against the owner or grantee of any work sixty (60) days after the work for which payment is claimed has been finished.

Section 5.—If judgment in an action brought for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act, is rendered against the owner or grantee of any work, costs may be taxed on him, attorney’s fees included.

Section 6.—A judgment upholding the claim shall state that the lien is legally constituted and shall direct payment within the five (5) days following the date on which said judgment becomes final; Provided, That upon the expiration of said period, it may be made effective on the encumbered property through an order of execution which shall be issued by the secretary upon request of the complainant, and shall be served by the marshal within a period not exceeding twenty (20) days from the date on which the said order of execution is delivered to him.

Section 7.—All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 8.—This Act shall take effect ninety days after its approval.

Approved, May 4, 1931.