provided, however, that rents lower than the basic rent or the reasonable rent may be charged, paid, or received.

The Administrator shall fix rules of procedure for the presentation of, and hearings and decisions on, applications for decreases or increases in the rents, filed by tenants or landlords, as the case may be; provided, that the Administrator shall enter no decision on any application for increase or reduction of the rent until after he has summoned the parties to plead according to their rights.

The fixing of the basic or reasonable rent of a lot which is the site of a building belonging to an owner other than the owner of the lot shall be subject to the norms established by this act for dwellings or buildings devoted to commercial, business or industrial purposes, as the case may be."

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

Approved June 21, 1955.

(Subs. for H. B. 1381)

[No. 89]

(Approved June 21, 1955]

AN ACT

To establish the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and define its purposes, powers and functions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Creation of the Institute.—For the purpose of contributing toward the preservation, enhancing, enrichment and diffusion of the cultural values of the people of Puerto Rico and of promoting a broader and fuller awareness and appreciation thereof, a body corporate is hereby created to be known as the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, hereinafter called Institute.

Section 2.—Board of Directors.—The Institute shall have a Board of Directors composed of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. One of said directors shall be designated as chairman by the Governor. Three directors shall be appointed for a term of four years. The other four directors shall be appointed for a term of three years. Upon expiration of the terms of the first seven members ap-
pointed, their successors shall be appointed for a term of four years. All of them shall be persons of recognized competency and repute in their cognition and appreciation of Puerto Rican cultural values. The directors shall draw no salary but shall receive a per diem of twenty (20) dollars for each meeting they attend. They shall also be entitled to reimbursement of traveling expenses authorized by the Board. Five directors shall constitute a quorum for the holding of meetings. The meeting to organize the Board shall be called by the Governor. Subsequent meetings shall be held according to such by laws as the Board may approve.

Section 3.—Personnel of the Institute.—

(a) The Board shall, with the approval of the Governor, appoint an Executive Director who shall be the manager of the Institute under the direction and general inspection of the Board. The Executive Director must reside in Puerto Rico and shall receive a salary of nine thousand six hundred (9,600) dollars per annum, or such salary as the Legislature may hereafter vote in the Operating Budget Act.

(b) The Executive Director shall appoint the personnel necessary to perform or exercise the functions, powers and duties assigned or conferred to the Institute. This personnel shall be included in the non-competitive service.

Section 4.—Functions and Powers of the Institute.—

(a) The Institute may carry out the following functions:

(1) Preserve, care for, restore, and survey real and personal property, corporeal or incorporeal, of value to attaining the fullest cognition of the historical and cultural heritage of the people of Puerto Rico, and place this knowledge within reach of the public through diverse means of diffusion.

(2) Encourage and sponsor the study and appreciation of the lives and works of illustrious Puerto Ricans of yore.

(3) Tend to the public diffusion of all outstanding manifestations of Puerto Rican culture through expositions, fairs, contests, and festivals, as well as through the creation and administration of museums and exhibition halls.

(4) Gather, study, and promote the conserving of all manifestations of Puerto Rican folklore.
(5) Encourage the arts and crafts of popular tradition, such as carving and engraving, weaving, embroidering, ceramics, leathercraft, and other activities of like nature.

(6) Set up and administer files with a view to arranging and preserving public documents and manuscripts on the history of the country.

(7) Determine which buildings, structures and places in Puerto Rico are of historical or artistic value.

(8) Restrict and regulate construction in zones declared of historical value.

(9) Commemorate men and events of significance in the cultural growth of Puerto Rico.

(10) Promote publication of both old and modern Puerto Rican books, as well as of surveys, monographs and documentary collections on Puerto Rico.

(11) Keep libraries and books for public use.

(b) In the exercise of such functions, the Institute shall have the following powers:

(1) To sue and be sued;

(2) To adopt, modify and use a corporate seal;

(3) To adopt, amend and repeal, through its Board of Directors, the bylaws governing its operation and the discharge and performance of the powers and duties conferred or imposed on it by law;

(4) To acquire through lawful means, for the carrying out of the ends and purposes of this act, any real or personal property, corporeal or incorporeal, or any right or interest therein; to hold, keep, use, and operate same; and to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of said property.

The Institute is hereby empowered to bring and prosecute, with the previous approval of the Governor, condemnation proceedings, in behalf of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as to any real or personal property, corporeal or incorporeal, or any right or interest therein, which may be necessary to attain the ends and purposes of this act. Such property may be condemned by the Institute in behalf of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or on petition of the Institute and for its own use and benefit, by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, represented by its Governor or by the officer to whom he may
delegate, without the prior declaration of public utility provided in the General Law of Eminent Domain. All real or personal property, corporeal or incorporeal, or any right or interest therein, deemed necessary by the Insitute to attain the ends and purposes of this act, is hereby declared of public utility. In the case of personal property, such property may be acquired through condemnation only when necessary to prevent its destruction, damage, or exportation from the country.

(5) To accept gifts or donations of services or of real or personal property, corporeal or incorporeal, which will contribute to attain its purposes.

(6) To enter, in the exercise of its functions, into cooperative agreements with departments or agencies of the United States Government, the Government of Puerto Rico or the municipal governments, or with corporations, associations, or individuals, under such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable.

Section 5.—Finances and economic controls.—

(a) To perform the functions authorized by this act, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture Fund is hereby created;

(b) To this fund shall be credited the receipts derived from any operations carried out under this act, and all funds appropriated, assigned, transferred, or donated to the Institute. The Fund shall be available for the payment of all expenses of the Institute hereunder and may be invested in debentures of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its dependencies and public corporations, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury;

(c) The sum of thirty-five thousand (35,000) dollars is hereby appropriated to the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture Fund;

(d) The Institute shall prepare each year a budget which it shall submit to the Governor for revision and approval under such rules and regulations as the Governor may prescribe as to time for submission, form and content, classification of data, and the manner of its preparation and presentation.

Section 6.—Transfers.—The Governor is hereby authorized to transfer to the Institute, upon recommendation of the Board, the functions and such funds, properties, personnel and records

en quien él delegue, sin la previa declaración de utilidad pública provista en la Ley General de Expropiación Forzosa. Por la presente se declaran de utilidad pública todos los bienes, muebles e inmuebles, corporales o incorporales, o cualquiera derecho o interés sobre los mismos, que el Instituto considere necesarios para llevar a cabo los fines y propósitos de esta ley. En el caso de bienes muebles, éstos podrán adquirirse mediante expropiación forzosa solamente cuando sea necesario para evitar su destrucción, deterioro o exportación del país.

(5) Aceptar regalos o donativos de servicios, o de bienes muebles e inmuebles, corporales o incorporales, que ayuden a la realización de sus propósitos;

(6) Concertar, en el ejercicio de sus funciones, arreglos cooperativos con departamentos o agencias del Gobierno de Estados Unidos, del Gobierno de Puerto Rico o con los gobiernos municipales; o con corporaciones, asociaciones o individuos bajo tales términos y condiciones como creyere aconsejables.

Sección 5.—Hacienda e Intervención Económica.—

(a) Para desempeñar las funciones autorizadas por esta ley, se establece el Fondo del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña;

(b) Se acreditarán a este fondo los ingresos de cualesquiera operaciones realizadas a tono con la presente ley, así como cualquier dinero asignado, concedido, transferido o donado al Instituto. El fondo estará disponible para el pago de todos los gastos del Instituto con arreglo a esta ley, y podrán hacerse inversiones en obligaciones del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico y sus dependencias y corporaciones públicas, con aprobación del Secretario de Hacienda;

(c) Se asignan treinta y cinco mil (35,000) dólares al Fondo del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña;

(d) El Instituto preparará anualmente un presupuesto que someterá al Gobernador para revisión y aprobación, de acuerdo con las reglas y los reglamentos en que el Gobernador estableciera en cuanto a fecha para someterlo, forma y contenido, clasificación de la información y la manera cómo se preparará y se presentará.

Sección 6.—Transferencias.—Se autoriza al Gobernador a transferir al Instituto, por recomendación de la Junta, las funciones y aquellos fondos, propiedades, personal y archivos de
of the departments, divisions, dependencies and public corporations of the Commonwealth Government as are in keeping with the functions of the Institute described in section 4 of this act. Every transfer shall be made by the Governor through an Executive Order and copy thereof shall be transmitted to the Legislature, for its information, at the regular or special session closest to the date said order was issued.

Section 7.—Report to the Legislature.—The Institute shall submit to the Governor, for transmittal to the Legislature at the beginning of each regular session, an annual report of its operations.

Section 8.—Effectiveness.—This act shall take effect July 25, 1955.

Approved June 21, 1955.

(H. B. 1394) [No. 90] [Approved June 21, 1955]

AN ACT

To amend sections 141 and 143 of the Income Tax Act of 1954.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Section 141 of the Income Tax Act of 1954 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 141.—WITHHOLDING OF TAX AT SOURCE ON WAGES.

(a) Definitions.—As used in this section—

(1) Wages.—The term ‘wages’ means all remuneration for services performed by an employee for his employer, and all remuneration as pension for services rendered, including the cash value of all remuneration paid in any medium other than cash; except that such term shall not include remuneration paid—

(A) for services performed as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or