

***Pensions to the Dependents of Penal Guards as a Result of the Violent Disturbances in the Insular Penitentiary on October 30, 1950***

Act No. 7 of December 12, 1950

Providing for the payment of annuities to the dependents of Penal guards who died as a consequence of the violent disturbances which occurred in the insular penitentiary of Puerto Rico on October 28, 1950, on the occasion of the escape of convicts, and providing for, the payment of an annuity to any Penal, guard disabled as a result of the aforesaid disturbances; fixing the amount of such annuities, their terms and conditions, and the procedure for the payment thereof appropriating the necessary funds, and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

On October 28, 1950 occurred the escape from prison of 112 of the convicts confined in the Insular penitentiary, many of these convicts attacking with revolvers and guns the penal guards of the said institution, causing the death on the spot of two of the guards, and seriously wounding others.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico understands that it is an obligation of the People of Puerto Rico to make reparation in the full measure of its ability to do so, for the damages sustained by the dependents of the penal guards who lost their lives in the line of duty, and of those who may be permanently disabled for work; and it understands, further, that the economic compensation should be equivalent to the income received by the said guards on the date they died or were disabled.

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

**Section 1.** — The following annuities are hereby directed to be paid chargeable to funds in the Treasury of Puerto Rico:

1. To Brígida Silva Ortiz, who was dependent for her subsistence on the income of penal guard Evangelista Peña, a sum of one thousand and eighty (1,080) dollars.
2. To Blanca Margarita Córdova, daughter of penal guard Angel Córdova Claudio, the sum of one thousand and eighty (1,080) dollars.
3. To each one of the penal guards who may have been or may in the future be disabled for work as a result of injuries received during the attack made upon the penal guards of the Insular Penitentiary on the aforesaid date, an annuity equal to the salary he may be or may have been receiving on the date of his separation from office for physical disability, but in no case shall said annuity be for less than one thousand and eighty (1,080) dollars.

**Section 2.** — The annuities directed to be paid under the preceding section shall be paid in equal monthly instalments at the end of each month. Payment shall be made directly to the beneficiaries who are of age; and, in the case of beneficiaries who are under age, through the person having them in their custody.

**Section 3.** — The annuity granted to Brígida Silva Ortiz shall cease immediately upon her marriage or upon her living as husband and wife with any other man. In the case of the child Blanca Margarita Córdova, payment shall be continued until the beneficiary attains the age of 21 years, or until she completes her studies, in case she should be at the age of 21 years, a regular bona fide student of a profession or trade according to certification of the Commissioner of Education made to the Auditor of Puerto Rico. In the case of officers disabled for work, said payment shall be continued during the lifetime of the beneficiary.

**Section 4.** — In the event of the death of any of the penal guards disabled for work, when said death occurs as a result of the injuries received as a consequence of the aforesaid events, the annuity thereto appertaining, shall be paid to his widow and other dependents meeting the same requirements hereinabove prescribed, and in the manner provided in this Act for the beneficiaries of deceased officers.

**Section 5.** — The annuities granted by this Act shall be exempt from attachment or levy, and from income taxes.

**Section 6.** — The payments hereinabove provided for shall be made in addition to any compensation granted by the State Insurance Fund, and in addition to any annuity received from other public funds.

**Section 7.** — Judicial proceedings necessary to enforce the provisions of this Act, shall be prosecuted by the Department of Justice free of charges and fees to the judicial officers; and all the registries, officers, or, official centers of the Government of Puerto Rico shall render the services and issue the certificates required therefrom for such purposes, free from any fees prescribed by law.

**Section 8.** — Payment of the annuities provided for by this Act shall be made by the Treasurer of Puerto Rico upon proper warrant of the Auditor of Puerto Rico.

**Section 9.** — The sum of two thousand (2,000) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from any available funds in the Treasury of Puerto Rico not otherwise appropriated, to pay the annuities provided for by this Act until the close of the fiscal year 1950-51. The beneficiaries of the officers of the public order shall be entitled to the payments provided for by this Act on and after the date of the death of the deceased officer, and, in the case of officer of the public order disabled for work, payment shall be made from the date when they ceased in office.

**Section 10.** — The necessary funds for the payment of the annuities provided for by this Act shall be included in the general budget of expenses of the Government of Puerto Rico.

**Section 11.** — All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 12.** — This Act, being of an urgent and necessary character, shall take effect immediately after its approval.

**Note.** This compilation was prepared by the Puerto Rico OMB 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. Compiled by the Office of Management and Budget Library.