

## ***“Educational Tour Program for Public Employees and Teachers”***

Act No. 72 of June 20, 1956 as amended

(Contains amendments incorporated by:

Act No. 8 of May 18, 1959

Act No. 22 of June 14, 1965

Act No. 16 of April 26, 1974

Act No. 57 of June 16, 1978)

To authorize the Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities to invest the System's reserves, besides as authorized in section 19 of the Retirement Act in force, in loans to public employees for educational tours, and to provide for the payment by the Government of Puerto Rico of the interest on such loans.

### STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The academic training of a people in the educational centers of their country is supplemented through studying and traveling in other milieus. The traveler profits from his acquaintance with other people's education and skills which he could avail of in the solution of life's real problems.

The people of Puerto Rico are now making remarkable strides in and stepping up their social, economic and political advancement. An effective medium for keeping alive the dynamics of such development would be to induce the largest possible number of Puerto Ricans to take on travel. Traveling would bring about a wider exchange of ideas and a fuller acquaintance with other peoples and would at the same time arouse a closer understanding of our own heritage. To this end it would be beneficial if a fair number of public employees could be included among our traveling population. Public service would profit from the experience and knowledge thus gained.

In the light of these considerations, the Government of Puerto Rico deems it advisable to work out an Educational Tour Program for its employees. Thus, while enjoying a period of rest, they can recover physically and mentally and at the same time broaden their knowledge. The Government would profit from both.

In view of the fact that most public employees are covered by the Employees Retirement system of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities, this system is considered one of the program's best sources of financial support. To this end the Board of Trustees is hereby authorized to invest a part of the System's reserves in the granting of loans to the employees directly. To induce public employees to participate in this activity, the Government will meet the interest payable by them on such loans. Thus will travel expenses be reduced and the refund of

the loan by the public employee made easier. For the foregoing reasons this enactment seems indispensable.

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

**Section 1.** — [3 L.P.R.A. § 750 (a)]

The Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities, and the Retirement System for the Judiciary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Retirement Board of the System of Annuities and Pensions for Teachers, are authorized to invest a part of the available reserves of said Systems in facilitating the granting of loans for educational tours to employees, public officials, teachers, pensioners of the Annuities and Pensions Fund for the Teachers of Puerto Rico and pensioners of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and the Retirement System for the Judiciary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**Section 2.** — [3 L.P.R.A. § 750 (b)]

Each one of said Boards shall determine, from time to time, the amount of funds that each System shall apply to this type of investment. The Administrator of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities, and the Teachers' Retirement Board, shall determine, by regulations, the pertinent conditions and procedures for the granting of the loans authorized by this section. These loans shall be amortized through monthly deductions from the employee's salary or pension, as the case may be. The Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall pay to the corresponding system fifty percent (50%) of the interest on the loan made to the public employee or pensioner, as the case may be, to participate in such tours. If the public employee resigns his position in the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico within eighteen (18) months from the date he received the loan, he shall have to repay the Government the interest it paid thereon. The sum deemed necessary for such purposes shall be included each year in the General Budgetary Act.

**Section 3.** — [3 L.P.R.A. § 750 (c)]

For the purposes of this section, "educational tour" shall mean any trip or excursion organized or approved by the Administrator of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities, or the Teachers' Retirement Board, in behalf of public employees and pensioners, so that they may travel to foreign countries for rest, recreation or educational pursuits.

**Section 4.** — [3 L.P.R.A. § 750 (d)]

The pensioners shall secure the loan with their retirement annuity. If said annuity is insufficient, the Administrator of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of

Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities or the Teachers' Retirement Board, as the case may be, shall determine by regulations, the additional guarantees needed to secure the amount of the loan.

**Section 5.** — This Act 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.