

Pensions to the Widows and Dependents of Public Peace Officers as a Result of the Outbreaks of Violence in the Week of October, 30, 1950

Act No. 6 of December 6, 1950

To Provide for the payment of pensions to the widows and dependents of public peace officers who are dead or who may die, and for the payment of pensions to public peace officers who were disabled, as a result of the outbreaks of violence which occurred in Puerto Rico during the week commencing October, 30, 1950; to fix the amount of said payments, the terms for, and conditions under which they will be made, and the procedure therefor; to appropriate the necessary funds, and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

During the week commencing October 30, 1950, a band of armed gangsters belonging to the so called Nationalist Party, launched a series of attacks against organized government and the Puerto Rican Community. Police stations were attacked, and members of the Police Force, and members of the National Guard, while on duty for the preservation of the public order, were also attacked. The wave of criminal destruction reached a point where a small band of fanatics attacked La Fortaleza and had to be repulsed by the police officers there on duty. In the development of the plans of destruction which moved them, this band of fanatics set fire to buildings, and on one occasion a fireman was killed while he was trying to put out the very fire started by those who assassinated him.

Throughout these events the forces of law and order devoted themselves heroically and with grim determination, and a lofty sense of loyalty to duty, to the suppression of the disturbances, and as a result of all these acts of violence against the organized government and the Puerto Rican Community, were lost the lives of seven members of the Insular Police, one member of the National Guard, and one fireman attached to the Insular Fire Service; and possibly some members of the Insular Police, of the National Guard, and of the Insular Fire Service will be permanently disabled for duty. All these officers of the peace were heads of families and both they and their families depended entirely for their support on the salaries they received.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico understands that it is an obligation of the People of Puerto Rico to make reparation, in the measure of its ability to do so, for the damage caused to these families through the crimes committed during the week of October 30, 1950, and it likewise understands that the financial reparation which should be provided for the relatives of the officers of the peace who died and for those who may remain disabled for work, should be equivalent to the income they were receiving on the date of their death or disability.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1. — Payment of the following annuities is hereby directed, chargeable to the funds in the Treasury of Puerto Rico:

1. To Zoraida Martínez, widow of Insular Police Lieutenant Ramón Villanueva Moro, and their daughters Ana Zoraida and Nilda Iris Villanueva Martínez, the sum of three thousand seven hundred and forty-four (9,744) dollars.
2. To Luz María Bonito, widow of Insular Police Corporal Ramón Robles Castillo, and their children Abigail, Lorenzo, Luz Magali, and Tanis Adelina Robles Bonito, the sum of two thousand and twenty-eight (2,028) dollars.
3. To Rita González, widow of Insular Policeman Virgilio Camacho Reyes, and their children Elba Lillian, Elba Delia Camacho González, as well as their adoptive children Roberto Negrón Camacho and Josefina Ramos Camacho, the sum of one thousand six hundred and sixty-eight (1,668) dollars.
4. To Teresa Rivera, widow of Insular Policeman Aurelio Miranda Rivera, the sum of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four (1,764) dollars.
5. To Buenaventura Torres, widow of Insular Policeman Luis Rivera Cardona, and their children Elidia, Jorge Luis, Nereida and Aida Rivera Torres, and his mother Joaquina Cardona, the sum of one thousand six hundred and eight (1,608) dollars.
6. To Luz María Bracero Alaméda, widow of Insular Policeman Jesús Feliciano Ruiz, and their children Eunice and Jesús Feliciano Bracero, the sum of one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two (1,752) dollars.
7. To Silvia Esther Marchand, widow of Insular Policeman Dionisio Rivera Yollistruck, and their children Mariana Esther, Iraida Margarita, Luis Gerardo, Héctor Manuel and Edwin Antonio Rivera Marchand, the sum of one thousand six hundred and ninety-two (1,692) dollars.
8. To Emilia Rodríguez, widow of National Guard Corporal José Rodríguez Alicea, and their daughters Carmen Judith and Iluminada Rodríguez Torres, the sum of one thousand six hundred and eight (1,608) dollars.
9. To Angelina Santiago Irizarry, widow of Insular Fireman David Torres Ramos, and their children David, Gladys, Esther, William and Hilda R. Torres Santiago, the sum of one thousand six hundred and eight (1,608) dollars.
10. To each and every one of the members of the Insular Police, the National Guard, and the Insular Fire Service who were disabled for work as a consequence of the injuries sustained during the aforesaid events, and annuity equal to the salary they were receiving on the date they were separated from office for physical disability, but in no case shall said pension be less than ,one thousand six hundred and eight (1,608) dollars a year.

Section 2. — The pensions to be paid as directed in the preceding section shall be paid in equal monthly instalments at the end of each month, and shall be paid, in the first nine cases, in the proportion of one-half to the widow of each one of the deceased officers, and the remaining half to be distributed in equal shares among the remaining beneficiaries. Such payment shall be made directly in all cases of beneficiaries who are of age; thru the custodian, in all cases of beneficiaries who are minors; and through the guardian appointed for the purpose by the proper

section of the District Tribunal of Puerto Rico, in all cases of civil disability. Any of the above provisions of this section notwithstanding, in the event the beneficiary should be a single person, the amount of the pension shall entirely belong to him.

Section 3. — The widows of the deceased officers shall receive the payments provided for by this Act while they remain widows. In the cases of minors, such payments shall be continued until they reach their twenty-first birthdays, or until they complete their studies in the event they are regular *bona fide* students of a profession or trade on their twenty-first birthday, according to certification by the Commissioner of Education to the Auditor of Puerto Rico. In the cases of officers of the public peace disabled for work such payments shall be continued during the entire lifetime of the beneficiary.

Section 4. — When on the death of the beneficiary, or for any other reason as above provided in this Act, the payments to any of the aforesaid beneficiaries are discontinued, the sum appertaining to him shall be divided among the remaining beneficiaries of the said deceased officer of the public peace in the same proportion established by Section 2 hereof ; and in the case of the death of any of the officers of the public peace who are disabled for work, when such death is the result of injuries sustained as a consequence of the aforesaid events, the annuity appertaining to the latter shall be paid to his widow and other dependents who meet the same requirements above prescribed, and in the same manner provided for by this Act, for the beneficiaries of the deceased officers of the public peace.

Section 5. — The pensions granted by this Act shall be exempt from attachment or seizure, and from the income tax.

Section 6. — The payments above provided for shall be made in addition to any compensation granted by the State Insurance Fund, and in addition to any pensions they may receive from the Insular Police Pension Fund or from any other public fund.

Section 7. — Any judicial proceedings necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act shall be prosecuted by the Department of Justice free from the payment of fees and, dues to the court officers; and all the registries, offices, or official centers of the Government of Puerto Rico shall render the services and issue the certificates requested of them for such purposes, free of any of the fees prescribed by law.

Section 8. — The payment of the pensions provided for by this Act shall be made by the Treasurer of Puerto Rico upon proper warrant issued by the Auditor of Puerto Rico.

Section 9. — The sum of twenty-five thousand (25,000) 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, for the payment of the pensions provided for by this Act up to the end of the fiscal year 1950-51. The beneficiaries of the officers of the public peace shall be entitled to the payments provided for in this Act from and after the date of the death of the deceased officer,

and in the case of officers of the public peace who are disabled for work, such payments shall be made on and after the date on which they cease in office.

Section 10. — The necessary funds for the payment of the pensions provided by this Act shall be included in the General Budget of Expenses of the Government of Puerto Rico for each succeeding year.

Section 11. — For the purposes of this Act the term "officer of the public peace" shall include the members of the Insular Police, of the National Guard and of the Insular Fire service.

Section 12. — All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 13. — 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.