

Christmas Gift for Pensioners and Beneficiaries

Act No. 98 of June 4, 1980 as amended

(Contains amendments incorporated by:

Act No. 14 of April 24, 1987

Act No. 109 of September 2, 1997

Act No. 159 of June 27, 2003

Act No. 433 of September 22, 2004

Act No. 144 of November 22, 2005)

To grant a Christmas Gift of [---] during the month of December of every year to retired persons or their beneficiaries under the provisions of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended, or under pension plans superseded by it, and to pensioners or beneficiaries under any other act administered by the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities, including Act No. 12 of October 19, 1954, as amended.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities is a trust, created by Act No. 442 of May 15, 1951, for the purpose of helping to bring to a happy culmination the public careers of its participating employees. Said act provides in Section 1, that the funds of the System may be used to grant "other benefits" besides the ordinary benefits paid to pensioners and beneficiaries such as retirement and disability annuities, and death annuities and benefits.

We consider that a Christmas Gift for our retired persons is a reasonable additional benefit within the goal of achieving a happy culmination of a public career. We also believe that it will help to maintain a very beautiful part of the Puerto Rican cultural and religious values. On the other hand, we understand that the granting of this Gift will benefit government agencies by raising the morale of employees who are nearing retirement, which will bring about greater productivity for the service.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1. — (3 L.P.R.A. § 761 note)

Any person who receives a pension or benefit pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended, or from the pension plans set forth by the latter, or from any other law administered by the Administrator of the Retirement System of the Employees of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, including any persons who have availed

themselves of a pension or benefit under Act No. 12 of October 19, 1954, as amended, shall be entitled to receive a Christmas Bonus equal to five hundred (500) dollars beginning on December 2005 and of five hundred and fifty (550) dollars beginning on December 2006; and of six hundred (600) dollars beginning on December 2007, whose payment shall be made not later than the 20th of December of each year. Pensioners under the provisions of Act No. 305 of September 24, 1999, known as the “Retirement Savings Accounts Program” shall be excluded from the benefits granted by this Act.

Section 2. —

All pensioners or beneficiaries shall be entitled to the Christmas Gift provided in Section 1 of this act as long as said persons are not entitled to the Christmas bonus as Government employees for the year in which the Gift is granted.

If there is more than one beneficiary entitled to a pension at the time of the death of the active or retired participant, the Gift shall be distributed *pro rata* among all the beneficiaries.

Section 3. —

The cost of the Gift shall be defrayed with funds from the trust of the Employees Retirement System of the Government of Puerto Rico and its Instrumentalities in the case of pensioners or beneficiaries under Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951. In the case of pensioners or beneficiaries under Act No. 12 of October 19, 1954, or by special laws, the cost shall be charged to the funds from which said pensions are defrayed.

Section 4. —

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.