

Be it resolved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—The sum of six million, eight hundred and fifty thousand (6,850,000) dollars is hereby appropriated to the Right to Employment Administration from unencumbered funds in the Commonwealth Treasury for the financing of Diverse Occupations and Simple Public Works Programs.

Section 2.—This Joint Resolution shall take effect July 1, 1990.

Approved August 19, 1990.

Public Schools Improvement Office—Creation

(S.J.R. 1774)

[No. 3]

[Approved August 28, 1990]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To create the Puerto Rico Public Schools Improvement Office attached to the Department of Education, for the purposes of setting in motion a speedy program to repair and embellish schools, and to purchase books, desks, didactic equipment and supplies for the teaching-learning process; provide for the advance of two hundred million (200,000,000) dollars from the income of the Permanent Education Development Fund; authorize the transfer of three million, five hundred thousand (3,500,000) dollars for the operational organization of the Public Schools Improvement Office; and establish the period of effectiveness.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Act that creates the Permanent Education Development Fund provides that the income of said Fund shall be initially used in a first phase to attend all matters related to the school environment that will lead towards the maximum educational performance from the perspective of physical facilities, supplies, books and equipment for the teaching-learning process.

In order to comply with this mission, the creation of a body that will plan, coordinate and develop an accelerated program to improve and repair public schools and purchase desks, books, didactic material and educational equipment, is necessary.

For these purposes, the Puerto Rico Public Schools Improvement Office is hereby created through this Joint Resolution.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—The Puerto Rico Public Schools Improvement Office, attached to the Department of Education, hereinafter named Office, is hereby created for the purpose of setting in motion an accelerated program to repair and embellish schools and purchase books, desks, didactic equipment and supplies for the teaching-learning process.

Section 2.—The Office shall be directed by an Executive Director, appointed by the Governor, who shall administrate its operations. Said Office shall have the following powers and obligations, among others:

a. Outline, in coordination with the Department of Education, a work program to develop and implement the public schools' improvements and repairs plan (Improvements and Repairs Plan) and the plan to purchase desks, books, didactic material and educational equipment (Educational Material and Equipment Purchase Plan), for the implementation of the first phase to be financed by the Permanent Education Development Fund. Said work plan shall include the duties and responsibilities that correspond to each one of the work divisions of the Office. It shall also provide the ways in which other government agencies of Puerto Rico shall share in the plans, the use of fiscal and personnel resources and equipment that they shall contribute, and the use of public funds to be appropriated for the operation of the Office and any other additional resource that must be obtained in order to achieve compliance with the purposes that are entrusted to it.

b. Coordinate any projects, activities and tasks among the agencies and instrumentalities of the Government of Puerto Rico that are necessary to comply with the purposes of the plans to update schools.

c. Apply for and receive funds, grants and other contributions from the Government of Puerto Rico, the Permanent Education

Development Fund, the Federal Government, the Municipal Governments and private persons and entities, that may be used to achieve the purposes of this Joint Resolution.

d. Administrate and dispose of the funds appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise received by the Office, without being subject to the provisions of Act No. 230 of July 23, 1974,⁹² known as the "Puerto Rico Government Accounting Act". The Office shall establish its own accounting system after its approval by the Department of the Treasury. The moneys appropriated to the Office shall remain deposited in the Government Development Bank.

e. Appoint or contract such personnel that is needed to comply with the objectives of this Joint Resolution, without it being subject to the provisions of Act No. 5 of October 14, 1975,⁹³ known as "Puerto Rico Public Service Personnel Act."

f. Request the agencies of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, its public corporations or instrumentalities, the assignment of those employees and officials, as well as the equipment, materials and supplies that are needed to comply with the purposes of this Joint Resolution.

g. Enter into all those contracts, covenants or agreements with any person or private or government entity that are needed, and especially with the municipal governments.

h. Purchase supplies, material, equipment and non-professional services without the intervention of the General Services Administration, and without being subject to the provisions of Act No. 164 of July 23, 1974 as amended,⁹⁴ known as the "General Services Administration Act."

i. Promulgate, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, all regulations on personnel, purchase of materials and equipment and any other that may guarantee the proper use of public assets and funds, provided, that the distribution and delivery of books, desks, materials and educational equipment shall be made directly to the school districts or school nuclei.

⁹² 3 L.P.R.A. §§ 283 et seq.

⁹³ 3 L.P.R.A. §§ 1301 et seq.

⁹⁴ 3 L.P.R.A. §§ 931 et seq.

j. Establish the necessary organization of the Office to develop the functions that have been assigned to it through this Joint Resolution.

k. Carry out all those acts that are incidental to and necessary to comply with the purposes for which the Office is created.

l. Prepare a continuous preventive and corrective maintenance plan to keep schools in optimum condition and take steps to prevent the recurrence of deterioration of the physical plant, and the indiscriminate destruction of didactic material and others.

m. Submit to the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature a progress report on the work performed, every six months.

Section 3.—Regular employees who render services for the Office created hereby may voluntarily join the Savings and Loan Fund of the Employees Association of the Commonwealth, and the Retirement Systems Administration of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Section 4.—The Government Development Bank is hereby authorized to advance a loan equivalent to two hundred million (200,000,000) dollars to the Permanent Education Development Fund, even prior to the sale of our communications system, when it concludes that there is certainty that the sale of our communications system will be carried out and that the Permanent Fund shall be capitalized pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 3 of the Act that establishes said Permanent Fund.⁹⁵ The Fund, in turn, shall appropriate said sum to the Public Schools Improvement Office to carry out the first phase provided in said Permanent Education Development Fund Act.

Section 5.—The financial resources and personnel needed for the organization of the Public Schools Improvement Office and its operation, shall originate from the assignment of personnel from other agencies and the transfer of an amount which shall not exceed three million, five hundred thousand (3,500,000) dollars from the Budget of the Department of Education, which amount shall be compensated from the 2% destined to administrative expenses, from the two hundred million (200,000,000) dollars, once they are put at the disposal of the abovementioned Office.

⁹⁵ Laws of Puerto Rico 1990, p. 328.

Section 6.—This Joint Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval, for the purpose of organizing the Office and shall be in force for a period of twenty-four months from the moment the Government Development Bank informs the Legislature and the Governor of Puerto Rico of the availability of the two hundred million (200,000,000) dollars, for its certainty that the sale of the communications system is on its way to completion.

Approved August 28, 1990.

Municipalities—Approp.

(Substitutes to
H.J.R. 1762, 1763, 1764,
1765, 1766, 1767, 1769,
1771, 1772, 1791, 1792,
1793, 1794, 1796, 1797,
1798, 1799 and 1800)

[No. 4]

[Approved September 12, 1990]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide an appropriation of funds in the amount of two hundred and forty-five thousand, six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents (\$245,666.66) for capital works and improvements, activities and non-capital works of social interest to be carried out by agencies and/or municipalities by Representative District No. 7, and to authorize the transfer of the appropriated funds.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—The amount of two hundred and forty-five thousand, six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents (\$245,666.66) is hereby appropriated, from unencumbered funds in the Commonwealth Treasury to be distributed, as indicated, among the agencies and/or municipalities to carry out capital works and improvements and/or activities and social interest works that are listed hereinbelow:

Municipality of Bayamón

- a) Construction of a mini police station at *Barrio Nuevo* \$ 5,000
- b) Installation of a pipe system to channel waters at the Sabana parcels of *Barrio Buena Vista* 23,000
- c) Construction of a roofed court at the Vans Scoy sector 20,000
- d) Purchase of equipment and supplies for the installation of a gymnasium at the Multiple Services Center of *Barrio Buena Vista, El Ocho Sector* 6,000
- e) Construction of improvements to the basketball court of *Barrio Dajaos* 7,500
- f) Reconstruction of a gazebo in-the recreational area of Estancias de Cerro Gordo Urb 2,500
- (g) Construction of parking facilities for the baseball park of *Barrio Buena Vista* 30,000
- h) Construction of restrooms and a canteen and installation of a water fountain at Irlanda Heights Urb. park 20,000
- i) Contribution to the Puerto Rico Substitute Parents Association, Inc. 2,000

Municipality of Toa Alta

- a) Repaving of streets at Villa del Toa Urb 20,000
- b) Repair of fence and purchase of supplies and equipment for the Toa Baja Center for the Elderly 2,000
- c) Repaving of the Las Cruces road of *Barrio Río Lajas* 39,000
- d) Contribution to purchase supplies and equipment for the Toa Alta Heights student basketball organization (OBETAH, Spanish acronyms) 2,000
- e) Repaving of streets of the old *Barrio Piñas* parcels 20,000