AN ACT

To amend section 14 of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Section 14 of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 14.—Refunds.—"Upon separation from service, provided such separation is permanent, any member who shall not be entitled to a retirement annuity, shall be paid upon application, except as herein otherwise provided, a refund equal to the amount of his contributions to the System. Any member shall also be entitled to a refund of contributions made to a superseded pension fund, if any.

"Refunds of contributions made to the System shall include interest at the regular rate, and refunds of contributions made to any superseded pension fund, if any, shall be governed by the provisions of the laws applicable to such superseded funds. The contributions of those members who on the date this Act takes effect have already separated from service shall draw interest only up to June 30, 1954, and contributions of members separating from service in the future shall draw interest up to six months following the date of the permanent separation of the employee.

"Any member receiving a refund shall thereby forfeit and waive all accrued rights in the System. If such person again becomes an employee and a member of the System and remains a contributor to the System for at least three (3) years, he shall have the privilege of making a repayment of the amounts previously received by him as refund, together with regular interest for the period of his separation from service. Upon such restoration, such member shall again receive credit for the period of creditable service which he forfeited upon his withdrawal from service.

"Refunds to employees who had become separated from the service of the Government prior to the operative date and who did not become members of the System on said date, shall be
governed by the laws in force on the date of their separation from service, and payments of any refunds due such former employees shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in such laws; Provided, that the contributions of such employees shall draw only such interest as they may be entitled to up to June 30, 1954.

"Upon death of a member who is no longer in service and who shall be entitled to receive a deferred retirement annuity in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of this Act, but who shall not have begun to receive such deferred annuity, there shall be payable to such person or persons as the member may have nominated, or to his heirs if such nomination shall not have been made, a refund of his accumulated contributions as of the date of death.

"Any member who shall be granted a pension or retirement annuity by virtue of special legislation, any other provision here- in to the contrary notwithstanding, shall lose all rights to retirement and other benefits under this Act, and shall also lose all right to refund of his contributions to the System."

Section 2.—This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved, April 9, 1954.

(S. B. 400)

[No. 8]

[Approved, April 9, 1954]

AN ACT

To amend section 3 of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Section 3 of Act No. 447 of May 15, 1951, as amended, is hereby amended so that the definition of "average compensation" shall read as follows:

"Average compensation" shall mean the highest average annual compensation of a member of the System during any five (5) consecutive years of creditable services.

Section 2.—This Act shall take effect July 1, 1954.

Approved, April 9, 1954.