AN ACT

To authorize and direct the Secretary of Public Works of the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to reconstruct on its historic
ruins the house built by don Juan Ponce de León in Villa
Caparra; to appropriate funds for such purpose, and for
other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

In the year 1938 the Legislature of Puerto Rico, by virtue
of Act No. 172 of that year, authorized the then Commissioner
of the Interior to make the necessary research for determining
whether or not the ruins and objects of historical interest
located at the vicinity of Km. 6—Hm. 6 on Road No. 2 between
San Juan and Bayamón, belonged to the one time-existing house
erected in Caparra in the year 1508, fifteen years after the
discovery of America, by the conquistador and first governor
of Puerto Rico, don Juan Ponce de León. That same act car-
ried the original appropriation of $8,000 for the research and
the purchase of the parcel or parcels of land adjacent to the
said ruins.

The Board for the Preservation of Historical Values of Puer-
to Rico, presided over at that time by the Commissioner of the
Interior, reported favorably on the authenticity of the ruins,
and consequently there were acquired from various persons a
total of twenty thousand three hundred and eleven square meters
of land in the said site in Villa Caparra.

The ruins of the onetime-existing house of Ponce de León
are located on a 4,980.47-square meter parcel of land acquired
from Juan Martínez Vela and José Alvarez on or about Novem-
ber 12, 1948.

The original intent of the Legislature, as indicated by the
various statutes on the matter, was to construct a memorial
park around those priceless ruins which constitute the cradle
and birthplace of Puerto Rico.

Without discarding the plans for the memorial park, we
feel it is high time that we commemorate in some material man-
ner the point in time at which our historical and cultural back-
ground came into being and reconstruct this honored manorial
abode of our people.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—The Secretary of Public Works of Puerto Rico is hereby authorized and directed to reconstruct on its historic ruins in Villa Caparra the house built in the year 1508 by Juan Ponce de León.

Section 2.—The reconstruction shall be carried out in accordance with the original plan of said house as it appears in historic documents and, though complying with modern techniques in point of durability, shall hold to the original form and appearance of the historic house.

Section 3.—The sum of $10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from any available funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for getting under way the necessary steps for locating the original plans, if such plans exist, or, in default thereof, data and descriptions of the one time-existing building, and starting surveys for the carrying out of the purposes of this act.

Section 4.—The Secretary of Public Works shall submit to the Legislature during its next regular session a report on the work accomplished with this appropriation, as well as an estimate of further appropriations required for continuing the work.

Section 5.—This act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved June 21, 1955.

(S. B. 418) (Rec.)

[No. 93]

[Approved June 21, 1955]

AN ACT

To add a new subdivision, which shall be known as subdivision "G" to section 6 of the Teachers' Retirement Act, Act No. 218, approved May 6, 1951.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—A new subdivision, which shall be known as subdivision "G", is hereby added to section 6 of the Teachers’ Retirement Act, Act No. 218, approved May 6, 1951, to read as follows:

Decrétese por la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico:

Artículo 1.—Se autoriza y ordena al Secretario de Obras Públicas de Puerto Rico para que proceda a reconstruir sobre sus ruinas históricas situadas en Villa Caparra, la casa construida en el año 1508 por Juan Ponce de León.

Artículo 2.—La reconstrucción se verificará, siguiendo el plano original de dicha casa según consta de los documentos históricos. La construcción se hará conforme a las técnicas modernas en cuanto a solidez, pero conservando la forma y apariencia original de la histórica casa.

Artículo 3.—De cualesquiera fondos en Tesorería no comprometidos para otras atenciones se asigna por la presente la cantidad de $10,000 o la parte que de dicha suma fuere necesaria para iniciar los trámites necesarios para localizar los planos originales, si los hubiere, o en su defecto los datos y descripciones de la antigua edificación, y dar comienzo a los estudios para cumplir los propósitos de esta ley.

Artículo 4.—El Secretario de Obras Públicas rendirá a la próxima sesión ordinaria de la Asamblea Legislativa un informe del trabajo realizado con esta asignación, así como un estimado de nuevas asignaciones requeridas para continuar los trabajos.

Artículo 5.—Esta ley empezará a regir inmediatamente después de su aprobación.

Aprobada en 21 de junio de 1955.

(P. DEL S. 418)

(Reconsiderado)

[Núm. 93]

[Aprobada en 21 de junio de 1955]

LEY

Para adicionar un nuevo inciso que se denominará inciso "G" a la Sección 6 de la Ley de Retiro para Maestros Núm. 218 aprobada el 6 de mayo de 1951.

Decrétese por la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico:

Artículo 1.—Por la presente se adiciona un nuevo inciso que se denominará inciso “G” a la Sección 6 de la Ley de Retiro para Maestros Núm. 218, aprobada el seis de mayo de 1951 para que lea como sigue: