Section 14.—This Act, being of an urgent and necessary character, shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved, May 15, 1948.

[No. 221]
[Approved, May 15, 1948]

AN ACT

To authorize, subject to particular regulation and strict surveillance, certain games of chance in Puerto Rico; to prescribe license fees for the exploitation thereof; to fix the minimum requirements to obtain said licenses; to empower the Tourism Advisory Board of the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company to regulate said games of chance, and the Treasurer of Puerto Rico to regulate the license fees and collect the same; to appropriate the necessary funds for the enforcement of this Act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Statement of Motives.—The purpose of this Act is to contribute to the development of tourism by means of the authorization of certain games of chance which are customary in the recreation places of the great tourist centers of the world, and by the establishment of regulations for and the strict surveillance of said games by the government, in order to ensure for tourists the best possible safeguards, while at the same time opening for the Treasurer of Puerto Rico an additional source of income.

Section 2.—Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 299, 300, 301, 302, 303 and 304 of the Penal Code of Puerto Rico, there are hereby authorized the games of chance of roulette, dice and cards in gambling rooms operated under a license issued in accordance with the provisions of this Act, subject to the conditions and limitations of this Act and of the regulations prescribed hereunder.

Section 3.—The Treasurer of Puerto Rico is hereby authorized to issue licenses for the operation of gambling rooms for roulette, dice and cards, to such natural or artificial persons as prove to his full satisfaction that they meet the following requisites:

(a) That they own and manage a hotel, a restaurant, a bona fide amusement place proper for tourists, a club-house or a privately owned center which gives tourists the freedom of its facilities, where the gambling rooms shall be established; or that they own the building where one of said establishments is located.

LEYES DE PUERTO RICO

Sección 14.—Esta Ley, por ser de carácter urgente y necesaria, empezará a regir inmediatamente después de su aprobación.

Aprobada en 15 de mayo de 1948.

[Núm. 221]
[Aprobada en 15 de mayo de 1948]

LEY

Para autorizar sujeto a determinada reglamentación y fiscalización, ciertos juegos de azar en Puerto Rico; imponer derechos de franquicia para su explotación, fijar los requisitos mínimos para obtener tales franquicias; facultar a la Junta consultiva de turismo de la compañía de fomento industrial de Puerto Rico para reglamentar dichos juegos de azar, y al Tesorero de Puerto Rico para reglamentar los derechos de franquicia y efectuar su cobro, y para asignar los fondos necesarios para la ejecución de la presente ley.

Decrétese por la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico:

Sección 1.—Exposición de Motivos.—El propósito de esta Ley es contribuir al fomento del turismo mediante la autorización de ciertos juegos de azar que se estilán en sitios de diversión de los grandes centros turísticos del mundo, y la reglamentación y la fiscalización de esos juegos por el gobierno a los fines de brindar al turista las mayores garantías posibles, y al mismo tiempo brindar al Tesoro de Puerto Rico una fuente adicional de ingresos.

Sección 2.—No obstante las disposiciones de los Artículos 299, 300, 301, 302, 303 y 304 del Código Penal de Puerto Rico, por la presente se autorizan los juegos de azar de ruletas, dados, y barajas, en salas de juegos explotadas por franquicia expedida de acuerdo con los términos de esta Ley, sujeto a las condiciones y limitaciones de esta Ley y de los reglamentos que a su amparo se dicten.

Sección 3.—El Tesorero de Puerto Rico queda facultado para expedir franquicias para la explotación de salas de juego de azar de ruleta, dados y barajas, a las personas, naturales o jurídicas, que acrediten a su plena satisfacción, las siguientes condiciones:

(a) Poseer y administrar un hotel, restaurante, centro de diversión bona fide y propio para turistas, o casino club o centro privado que permita a los turistas el uso de sus facilidades, en el cual habrá de establecerse la sala de juegos, o ser dueña del edificio en que esté ubicado uno de dichos establecimientos.
(b) That they have not been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor which involves moral turpitude, and that they have a good reputation in Puerto Rico. In the case of artificial persons, all of the shareholders or partners thereof shall fulfill this requirement. In any case, this requirement shall be applicable to the true owners and not merely to the nominal owners either of the business, or of any participation or share therein.

(c) To have the means and the organization to establish a gambling room suitable for tourists in the hotel, restaurant, recreation center, club-house or privately owned place which gives to tourists the freedom of its facilities, and which is owned by him or is under his management.

Section 4.—Any person wishing to obtain a license under this Act, shall file an application under oath with the Treasurer of Puerto Rico, showing that he meets the requirements established by Section 3 of this Act. Before considering the application, the board shall cause to be published in one of the newspapers of general circulation in the Island of Puerto Rico, once each week for four weeks, a notice stating the facts of the application, the name of the applicant and the name of the hotel, restaurant or recreation place where the gambling room is to be established. Fifteen days after the publication of the final notice the board may consider and definitely recommend that the application be granted or denied.

Section 5.—Any license issued under this Act shall be subject to payment by the licensee into the Treasury of Puerto Rico, of the sum of twenty-four thousand (24,000) dollars a year, which sum shall be paid quarterly in advance by way of license fee. The revenues accrued from licenses shall be covered into the general funds of the Treasury of Puerto Rico. The Treasurer is hereby empowered to prescribe such regulations as he may deem necessary or advisable for the assessment and collection of license fees, and he may collect said fees through the administrative and judicial procedure provided by law for the collection of taxes.

Section 6.—Any license issued by the Treasurer under this Act shall state the name of the licensee and of the hotel, restaurant, recreation place, club-house, or privately owned place where the operation of a gambling room is authorized. No person other than the licensee and his employees may operate a gambling room, nor shall the same be located at a place other than the one stated in the license. In case the licensee is an artificial person, any transfer or cession of any share of or interest therein shall be notified in writing to the
Treasurer and to the board by said licensee within thirty days from the date on which said transfer or cession is made, irrespective of the date on which said transfer is entered in the register of shares. Failure to notify such cession or transfer, or concealment in any form of the true owner or owners of a gambling room, or of any share or participation in the artificial person who is the licensee, shall entail the cancellation of the license.

Section 7.—The board is hereby empowered for the strict surveillance of, and the determination of what constitutes a, gambling table; and to regulate the gambling rooms operated under this Act, in a way to safeguard and protect the public patronizing the same, and it may, for the purpose, among other things, establish the regulations which shall govern the various games; fix the time schedule to be observed by gambling rooms, require bond, and take the necessary measures to govern and insure the collection of the license fees. The regulations prescribed by the board under this Section shall not be in force until they are approved by the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Section 8.—No gambling room shall be permitted to advertise or otherwise offer their facilities to the public of Puerto Rico; or to admit persons under eighteen years of age.

Section 9.—The Treasurer of Puerto Rico may cancel the license granted under this Act to any person who (a) fails to meet the requirements demanded by Section 3 of this Act; (b) fails to pay when due, or evades payment of, license fees; (c) violates any of the provisions of this Act or of the regulations prescribed for the enforcement hereof. The board may impose administrative fines on the licensee in any of the cases referred to in this section, in a sum of not less than one hundred (100) dollars nor more than ten thousand (10,000) dollars for each violation. The amount of the fine shall be covered into the general funds of the Treasury of Puerto Rico and unless the amount thereof is paid within thirty (30) days after notice thereof is served on the licensee, the Treasurer may cancel the license, or proceed to the collection of the fine through the same procedure used for the collection of license fees.

Section 10.—The Treasurer of Puerto Rico and the board shall appoint the personnel necessary in their judgment for the enforcement of this Act and the regulations hereunder, and such personnel shall be included in the service exempt for the purposes of Act No. 345 of May 12, 1947. The sum of ten thousand (10,000) dollars is hereby appropriated to the Treasurer, and the sum of forty thousand (40,000) dollars is hereby appropriated to the board, for the
payment of salaries, per diems, and expenses for said personnel, and for materials, office supplies, and other necessary expenditures during the fiscal year 1948–1949.

Section 11.—This Act, shall take effect August 15, 1948.

Approved, May 15, 1948.

[No. 222]

[Approved, May 15, 1948]

AN ACT


Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—The sum of forty-five thousand nine hundred and thirty-one dollars and twenty-three cents ($45,931.23) is hereby appropriated from any available funds in the Insular Treasury of Puerto Rico not otherwise appropriated, to cover the following deficiencies and to provide for the payment of accounts pending payment in the Department of Health, as follows:

**Fiscal Year 1939–40**

Division of Public Health

Bureau of Public-Health Units
Incidentals $29.70

**Fiscal Year 1940–41**

Division of Public Health

Bureau of Public-Health Units
Incidentals 26.40

**Fiscal Year 1941–42**

Division of Public Health

Bureau of Public-Health Units
Incidentals 4.55

**Fiscal Year 1942–43**

Division of Public Health

Bureau of Public-Health Units
Incidentals 268.04

y para el pago de los sueldos, dietas y gastos de dicho personal, materiales, efectos de oficina y demás desembolsos necesarios durante el año fiscal 1948–1949, por la presente se asigna la suma de $10,000 al Tesorero y $40,000 a la Junta.

Sección 11.—Esta Ley comenzará a regir el 15 de agosto de 1948.

Aprobada en 15 de mayo de 1948.

[No. 222]

[Approved, May 15, 1948]

LEY


Decrétase por la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico:

Sección 1.—Por la presente se asigna la suma de $45,931.23 de cualesquiera fondos existentes en la Tesorería de Puerto Rico no destinados a otras atenciones, para cubrir las siguientes deficiencias y proveer para el pago de cuentas pendientes en el Departamento de Salud, como sigue:

**Año Fiscal 1939–40**

**División de Salud Pública**

Negociado de Unidades de Salud Pública
Imprevistos $29.70

**Año Fiscal 1940–41**

**División de Salud Pública**

Negociado de Unidades de Salud Pública
Imprevistos 26.40

**Año Fiscal 1941–42**

**División de Salud Pública**

Negociado de Unidades de Salud Pública
Imprevistos 4.55

**Año Fiscal 1942–43**

**División de Salud Pública**

Negociado de Unidades de Salud Pública
Imprevistos 268.04