AN ACT

TO REGULATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS AND TO PROVIDE FOR COM-
PULSORY PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN IN PUERTO RICO;
TO REPEAL ACT No. 75, APPROVED JUNE 20, 1921, AS SUBSEQUENTLY
AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

TITLE I

EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS IN GAINFUL OCCUPATIONS

Section 1.—Whenever used in this act—

"Employment Certificate" shall mean a certificate issued by an
officer duly authorized by the Commissioner of Labor, allowing the
employment of a minor according to the provisions of this Act.

"Age Certificate" shall mean a certificate issued to a person
between eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) years of age, showing the
date of birth and the age of the minor.

"Minor" shall mean any child of either sex under twenty-one
(21) years of age.

"Employer" shall mean any natural or artificial person whether
principal or agent, employing a minor.

"Gainful Occupation" includes all works and every employment
in factories, mills, sugar cane factories (centrales), machinery shops,
establishments, any place where there is a factory or mechanical
enterprise, warehouses, stores, any establishment or place where
mercantile transactions are carried out, farms, plantations, estates,
or any other places devoted to agriculture, horticulture or grazing,
and in every mining or fishery undertaking.

Section 2.—No minor under sixteen (16) years of age shall be
employed, permitted, or suffered to work in Puerto Rico in, or in
connection with, any gainful occupation; Provided, That minors
between fourteen (14) and less than sixteen (16) years of age may
be employed outside class hours and during school vacations, but
not in a factory or any occupation in any wise prohibited by this
Act or by any order or regulation made according thereto; Provided,
FURTHER, That minors between fourteen (14) and less than sixteen
years of age may not be employed outside school hours.

ARTÍCULO 1.—Siempre que se emplee en esta Ley:

"Certificado de Empleo", significará un certificado otorgado por
un oficial debidamente autorizado por el Comisionado del Trabajo
permitiendo el empleo de un menor de acuerdo con las disposiciones
de esta ley.

"Certificado de Edad", significará un certificado otorgado a una
persona entre las edades de diez y ocho (18) y veintiún (21) años,
demostrativo de la fecha de nacimiento y edad del menor.

"Menor", significará cualquier niño de uno u otro sexo menor de
veintiún (21) años de edad.

"Patrono", significará cualquier persona natural o jurídica, ya
sea principal o agente que emplee a un menor.

"Ocupación lucrativa", incluye toda obra y todo trabajo en fac-
torías, molinos, centrales, talleres de maquinarias, establecimientos,
sitios de cualquier clase donde haya una fábrica o empresa mecá-
nica; en almacenes, tiendas, establecimientos y sitios de cualquier
clase donde se realicen operaciones mercantiles; en fincas, hacienda-
das, estancias u otros sitios de cualquier clase, en las cuales se diri-
jan empresas agrícolas de horticultura o pastoreo, y en toda empresa
de minería o pesquería.

ARTÍCULO 2.—Ningún menor de diez y seis (16) años de edad será
empleado ni se le permitirá ni tolerará que trabaje en Puerto Rico
en ninguna ocupación lucrativa, ni en relación con ella; Dispone-
iento, que menores entre catorce (14) y menos de diez y seis (16) años
podrán ser empleados, fuera de horas de clases y durante las va-
caciones escolares, pero no en una factoría o en alguna ocupación de
algún modo prohibida por esta ley o por orden o reglamento hecho
de acuerdo con la misma; Disponiéndose, además, que menores entre
ca torce (14) y menos de diez y seis (16) años de edad podrán ser
(16) years of age may be employed outside class hours and during school vacations in agricultural tasks, or as peddlers.

No minor under sixteen years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in, or in connection with, any gainful occupation during the period of time in which public schools in Puerto Rico are in session.

Section 3.—No minor between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in, or in connection with, any gainful occupation for more than six (6) consecutive days in any one week, or for more than forty (40) hours in any one week, or for more than eight (8) hours in any one day; neither shall any minor between fourteen (14) and less than sixteen (16) years of age be permitted, or suffered to work before eight o'clock in the morning or after six o'clock in the evening; nor shall any minor between sixteen (16) and less than eighteen (18) years of age be permitted, or suffered to work before six o'clock in the morning or after ten o'clock in the evening; Provided, That minors between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age may be employed in concerts or theatrical shows until midnight, upon authorization of the Commissioner of Labor. In the case of minors attending school and working after class hours, the total number of school and working hours shall not exceed eight (8).

Every employer shall post and keep posted conspicuously in the place where any minor between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age is employed, permitted, or suffered to work, a printed notice setting forth the maximum number of hours said minor may be required or permitted to work each day of the week, the hours of beginning and ending of work each day, and the hours when the time allowed for meals begins and ends. The printed form of such notice shall be furnished by the Child Bureau of the Department of Labor, and the presence of such minor in the place of work for a longer time in any day than so stated, or at any time other than as stated in said printed notice, shall be deemed a prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions of this section.

Section 4.—No minor between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work for a period of more than four (4) consecutive hours without being allowed at least one (1) hour to lunch, and no lunch period of less than one (1) hour shall be considered enough in any period of continuous work.

empleados fuera de horas de clases y durante las vacaciones escolares en faenas agrícolas o en ventas ambulantes.

Ningún menor de diez y seis (16) años de edad será empleado ni se le permitirá ni tolerará que trabaje en ninguna ocupación lucrativa ni en relación con ella durante el período de tiempo en el cual permanecen abiertas las escuelas públicas de Puerto Rico.

Artículo 3.—Ningún menor entre catorce (14) y menos de diez y ocho (18) años de edad será empleado ni se le permitirá ni tolerará que trabaje en ninguna ocupación lucrativa ni en relación con ésta, por más de seis (6) días consecutivos en una sola semana, ni más de cuarenta (40) horas en una semana ni más de ocho (8) horas en un solo día; ni a ningún menor entre catorce (14) y menos de diez y seis (16) años se le permitirá o tolerará que trabaje antes de las ocho de la mañana o después de las seis de la tarde; ni a ningún menor entre las edades de diez y seis (16) y menos de diez y ocho (18) años se le permitirá o tolerará que trabaje antes de las seis de la mañana o después de las diez de la noche; Disponiéndose, que menores entre las edades de catorce (14) y menos de diez y ocho (18) años podrán ser empleados en conciertos o en espectáculos teatrales hasta las doce de la noche, previa autorización del Comisionado del Trabajo. En los casos de menores que asistan a la escuela y trabajen después de horas de clases, el número total de horas en la escuela y horas de trabajo no excederá de ocho (8).

Todo patrono fijará y mantendrá fijo en un sitio visible donde quiera que haya un menor entre catorce (14) y menos de diez y ocho (18) años empleado, o se le permita o tolere que trabaje, un aviso impreso expresando el número máximo de horas que a dicho menor se le exigirá o permitirá que trabaje cada día de la semana, las horas de empezar y terminar el trabajo cada día y las horas en que empieza y termina el período concedido para las comidas. El impreso para dicho aviso será proporcionado por el Negociado del Niño del Departamento del Trabajo, y la presencia del referido menor en el sitio donde trabaja, por más tiempo en cualquier día que el tiempo así expresado, o a cualquiera hora que no esté expresada en dicho aviso impreso, será considerada como prueba prima facie de una infracción de las disposiciones de este artículo.

Artículo 4.—Ningún menor entre catorce (14) y menos de diez y ocho (18) años de edad se empleará ni se le permitirá ni tolerará que trabaje por un período de más de cuatro (4) horas corridas sin tener un intervalo de por lo menos una (1) hora para almorzar, y ningún período de menos de una (1) hora se considerará suficiente para interrumpir un período de trabajo continuo.
Section 5.—No minor between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age shall be employed, or permitted, or suffered to work in any gainful occupation unless his employer obtains and keeps in his files and accessible to any official, inspector, or other person authorized to enforce or assist in the enforcement of this Act, an employment certificate or a special permit issued in accordance with the provisions hereinafter contained in this Act, and unless said employer posts a complete list of all minors employed in said occupation, in a conspicuous place where said minors are employed, with the exception of minors engaged in peddling, as regards which occupation no employment certificate shall be required for minors of sixteen (16) or more years of age, but simply a badge to be provided by the Department of Labor after the minor shall have proven that he is more than sixteen (16) years old and in sound physical condition, as shown by proper medical certificate, shall be required.

Section 6.—The employment certificate or special permit required by this Act shall be issued in triplicate by the Commissioner of Labor or by any person duly authorized by him. Said certificate shall include a certification stating that all the conditions and requirements for issuing an employment certificate under the provisions of this Act have been fulfilled. It shall state the name, sex, date of birth, and residence of the minor, and shall be signed by the person issuing it. Said certificate shall express the kind of evidence as to age which was accepted for its issuance; the name and address of the employer for whom, and the nature of the specific occupation in which, said employment certificate authorizes the minor to be employed. It shall further state the grade last completed by said minor. No certificate shall be valuable except to the employer and for the occupation named therein. It shall bear a number, shall show the date of its issue, shall be signed by the minor for whom it is issued, and shall be mailed to the employer by the Child Bureau. A record giving in full for each applicant the facts with reference to name, sex, date and place of birth, name and address of parents, guardian, or custodian, name and address of employer, and nature of the specific occupation in which the applicant desires to be employed, grade and school last attended, evidence of age, and date of issuance or date of refusal of certificate, with reason thereof in the latter case, shall be kept in the Child Bureau, together with a
medical certificate of physical fitness, the school record, and the employer's statement of his intention to employ the minor.

The original copy of the employment certificate or special permit shall be forwarded by mail to the prospective employer of the minor; the first copy shall be transmitted to the central office of the Department of Labor of Puerto Rico, and the second copy shall be kept on the files of the local office where the permit has been issued.

The officer authorized to issue employment certificates may refuse to issue a certificate to any minor whenever, in his judgment, there is reason to believe that the interests of said minor will be better served by refusing the permit. A record shall be kept of said refused permits and of the reasons adduced for such refusal.

Employment certificates shall be of two kinds: Regular employment certificates, for children to work during class hours; and vacation certificates, permitting employment during vacation periods and at hours when public schools are not in session.

Section 7.—The officers authorized by this Act to issue employment certificates shall issue such certificates only upon the application in person of the child desiring employment, accompanied by his parent, guardian, or custodian, and after having received, examined, approved, and filed the following papers, namely:

(a) A statement signed by the prospective employer or by some one duly authorized on his behalf, stating that he expects to employ such minor, setting forth the specific nature of the occupation in which he intends to employ such minor, and the number of hours per day and of days per week which said minor shall be employed and the daily time of the beginning and ending of such employment and of the period for lunch and the salary said minor is to receive.

(b) Proof of age as provided in Section 8 of this Act.

(c) A certificate of physical and mental fitness as provided in Section 9 of this Act.

(d) A school record as provided in Section 10 of this Act.

Section 8.—The evidence of age required by this Act shall consist of one of the following, which will be required in the order herein designated:

(a) A birth certificate or attested transcript issued by the person in charge of the registry of vital statistics or other officer charged with the duty of recording births. No fee shall be charged for said certificate.

dica de capacidad física, récord escolar, y una declaración del patrono expresando su intención de emplear el menor.

La copia original del certificado de empleo o del permiso especial será enviada por correo al patrono que va a emplear el menor; la primera copia se enviará a la oficina central del Departamento del Trabajo de Puerto Rico y la segunda copia permanecerá en los archivos de la oficina local donde ha sido expedido el permiso.

El oficial autorizado a expedir certificaciones de empleo puede negarse a extender un certificado a un menor si de acuerdo con su opinión hay razón para creer que los intereses del menor serán mejor servidos negando el permiso. Se llevará un récord de tales permisos denegados y las razones adicionadas para ello.

Los certificados de empleo serán de dos clases; certificados de empleo regulares, para niños que van a trabajar durante horas de clases; y certificados de vacaciones permitiendo el empleo durante las vacaciones y durante horas en las cuales las escuelas públicas no están en funciones.

Artículo 7.—Los funcionarios autorizados en esta Ley para expedir certificados de empleo expedirán los mismos sólo mediante solicitud hecha personalmente por el niño que deseé emplearse, acompañado de uno de sus padres, tutor o encargado y después de haber recibido, examinado, aprobado y archivado los siguientes documentos:

(a) Declaración firmada por el futuro patrono, o por una persona debidamente autorizada para hacerlo en su nombre, expresiva de que su intención es la de proporcionarle a dicho menor, y manifestando la naturaleza específica de la ocupación en que piensa emplearlo, el número de horas diarias y el número de días a la semana que estará dicho menor empleado, y las horas diarias de empezar y terminar su ocupación y del tiempo concedido para almorzar y el salario que habrá de devengar.

(b) Prueba de edad, según lo dispuesto en el artículo 8 de esta Ley.

(c) Certificado de capacidad física y mental, según lo dispuesto en el artículo 9 de esta Ley.

(d) Récord escolar, según lo dispuesto en el artículo 10 de esta Ley.

Artículo 8.—La prueba de edad exigida por esta Ley será una de las siguientes, y en el orden designado:

(a) Certificación de nacimiento o transcripción certificada expedida por un encargado del Registro Demográfico u otro funcionario encargado del Registro de Nacimientos. No se cobrará ningún derecho por la certificación.
(b) A baptismal record or duly certified transcript thereof showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the minor. No fee shall be charged for this certificate.

(e) A passport or a certificate of arrival issued by immigration officers of the United States showing the age of the minor.

(d) Other documentary record of the minor's age satisfactory to the Commissioner of Labor; Provided, however, That a school record, a school census certificate, or a parent's, guardian's or custodian’s affidavit or statement of the minor’s age shall not be accepted except as specified in paragraph (e).

(e) A certificate of physical age, signed by a physician, and based upon a physical examination of the minor. Such certificate shall state the height and weight of such minor and other evidence upon which the opinion as to the age of such minor is founded. A parent’s, guardian’s or custodian’s affidavit of age, and a record of the age as given in the register of the school first attended by the minor, if obtainable, or in the earliest available school census, shall accompany the physician’s certificate of age.

No evidence authorized by a subsequent subdivision of the order of proof herein enumerated shall be accepted unless there be received and filed substantial evidence that the proof required by the preceding paragraphs can not be obtained. If subsequent proof of age of the sort required under Section 8 of this Act shall be likewise filed and shall conclusively establish the falsity of the proof previously filed, the Commissioner of Labor shall cancel the certificate and shall issue or refuse a new one, according to the age thus established. The proof of age in the files of the Child Bureau shall be receivable in all future applications for employment certificates without such proof being again required; Provided, That upon each new application the applicant’s physical fitness for the particular employment must be reestablished as hereinafter provided.

All birth or baptismal certificates, passports, or any other documentary record submitted as proof of age may be returned to the minors upon request, after the officials authorized to issue the certificates shall have made a literal transcription thereof for their files.
Section 9.—The certificate of physical and mental fitness required by this Act shall be signed by a physician and shall state the height and weight of the minor; that said minor has been submitted to a thorough examination by said physician upon filing application for an employment certificate; that said minor has attained the normal physical development of a minor of his age; that he is in sound health and physically and mentally fit for the employment specified in the statement submitted according to the provisions of this Act.

Section 10.—The school record required by this Act for the issuance of an employment certificate shall be signed by the principal of the school last attended by the child, or by some one duly authorized by said principal. Said record shall bear the name, date of birth, grade last completed, and address of the minor; Provided, That in the case of a certificate issued to work outside class hours, the school record shall bear a certificate stating that the child regularly attends school, and that, in the opinion of the principal, he can be employed in such gainful occupation without detriment to his progress in school, but said certificate of the principal shall not be required in the case of employment certificates issued to work during vacations.

Section 11.—Upon request of any minor between eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) years of age, the official in charge of issuing employment certificates may issue an age certificate stating that said minor is over eighteen (18) years of age, if said minor wishes to work and the employer requires him to present evidence of his age. Upon receiving this age certificate, the employer may collect and file it while the minor is working with him. When the minor ceases in his employment, the employer shall return said certificate.

Section 12.—Every employer receiving an employment certificate issued to a minor between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age shall return said certificate to the local office of the Department of Labor within the two (2) days following the date of the termination of the minor’s employment. Failure to make such return shall be sufficient cause for the department to refuse other permits. No new employment certificate shall be issued to any minor until he submits a new statement from the employer. An employment certificate shall be valid only to the employer for whom the permit is issued and for the occupation designated in the employer’s statement. The employer shall obtain and keep on his files, accessible to any official, inspector, or other person authorized to

Article 9.—La certificación de capacidad física y mental exigida por esta Ley será firmada por un médico y expresará la talla y peso del menor; que éste ha sido sometido a un completo examen por dicho médico al hacer su solicitud de un certificado para trabajar; que ha alcanzado el estado de desarrollo normal en un menor de su edad; que goza de completa salud y que está física y mentalmente capacitado para el empleo especificado en la declaración presentada de acuerdo con las disposiciones de esta Ley.

Article 10.—Los registros escolares exigidos por esta Ley para la expedición de certificados de trabajo serán firmados por el principal de la escuela última a que asistió el niño o por alguna persona debidamente autorizada por dicho principal. Dichos registros contendrán el nombre, fecha de nacimiento, último grado cursado y dirección del menor; Disponiéndose, que en el caso de un certificado expedido para trabajar fuera de horas de clases, el recibo escolar contendrá una certificación manifestando que el niño asiste regularmente a la escuela y en la opinión del principal puede realizar la ocupación lucrativa sin que esto perjudique su progreso en la escuela, pero esta certificación del principal no será un requisito en el caso de certificaciones de empleo expedidas para trabajar durante las vacaciones.

Article 11.—A solicitud de cualquier menor entre diez y ocho (18) y veintiún (21) años el funcionario encargado de expedir los certificados de empleo podrá expedir un certificado de edad expreso de que tiene más de diez y ocho (18) años si dicho menor desea trabajar y el patrono le exige presentar su prueba de edad. Los patronos al recibir estos certificados de edad pueden recogerlos y archivarlos mientras el menor está trabajando con él. Al cesar en este empleo debe devolvérselo al mismo.

Article 12.—Todo patrono que reciba un certificado de empleo expedido a un menor entre las edades de catorce (14) y menos de diez y ocho (18) años deberá devolver dicho certificado a la oficina local del Departamento del Trabajo dentro de los dos (2) días siguientes a la fecha en que haya terminado el empleo del menor. El no hacer tal devolución será causa justificada para que el Departamento le niegue otros permisos. Un nuevo certificado de empleo no será expedido a ningún menor hasta tanto no presente una nueva declaración del patrono. Un certificado de empleo será válido únicamente para el patrono para quien se ha expedido el permiso y para la ocupación designada en la declaración del patrono. El patrono procurará y conservará en sus archivos y accesible para cualquier funcionario, inspector u otra persona autorizada para obligar
enforce or to assist in the enforcement of this Act, the employment
certificates issued to minors while they are working with said
employer. The refusal of any employer to produce, during an inspec-
tion, such employment certificate, or the presence of any minor under
eighteen (18) years of age in his establishment or in the surround-
ings of his establishment, without holding an employment certificate,
or at any hour not specified in the notice of hours referred to by
this Act, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions
governing the employment of minors. The presence of a minor under
eighteen (18) years of age in any working place shall be prima
facie evidence that the minor is employed.

Section 13.—No boy under fourteen (14) years of age, and no
girl under eighteen (18) years of age, shall engage in peddling, a
word which shall mean, according to this Act, the sale, offering for
sale, solicitation, collection, and distribution of, articles, products,
merchandise, circulars, newspapers or pamphlets, shoe shining, or any
other sale or business on the street, in any public place, or from
house to house.

Whenever a child between fourteen (14) and less than sixteen
(16) years of age wishes to engage in peddling outside class hours,
the parent, custodian, or other person having charge of the child
shall request from the officer authorized to issue employment cer-
tificates in the district where the child resides, a special permit to
do said work. Such application shall state the specific nature of
the work to be done by the child, and the hours, salary, and special
conditions under which the work is to be done.

If upon investigation it is found that the facts stipulated in
the application are true and that the work will not impair the
child’s health or progress in school, the authorized officer may, after
receiving the same proof of age required for an employment cer-
tificate, issue a special permit authorizing the employment of the
child during the hours in which public schools are closed, but such
work shall be subject to the maximum working hours stipulated
for minors between fourteen (14) and less than sixteen (16) years
of age in Section 3 of this Act.

The employment of minors between fourteen (14) and less than
sixteen (16) years of age as peddlers shall be prohibited after seven
o’clock in the evening and before six o’clock in the morning; minors
between sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) years of age shall abide by
the provisions governing night work, established in Section 3.
The special permit shall state the name, address and date of birth of the minor for whom it is issued, the proof of age accepted, the nature of the occupation he is to engage in, and any other information which the Child Bureau of the Department of Labor may request.

Section 14.—No minor under sixteen (16) years of age shall be employed, or permitted, or suffered to work in, or in connection with, any of the following occupations which are declared injurious to health and life:

In establishments engaged in mirror silvering;
In shops or factories operated by power machinery;
In diamond-polishing shops;
In pearl factories;
In perfumery and medicine factories in which poisonous substances are handled;
In public or private garages;
In restaurants, cafeterias, or places where meals are served;
As store clerks;
As helpers in filling stations or motor-vehicle parking places;
As messengers for the distribution or delivery of merchandise or messages after six (6) o’clock in the evening or before eight (8) o’clock in the morning.

Section 15.—No minor under eighteen (18) years of age shall be employed, or permitted, or suffered to work in, or in connection with, any of the following occupations which are declared injurious to health and life:

Handling of acids or poisonous or dangerous tinctures and fertilizers;
Dangerous quantities of toxic or noxious powders, or gasses;
Work involving exposition to benzol or any compound of benzol which is volatile or penetrating;
Manufacture, transportation, or use of explosive or inflammable substances;
Lubricating, cleaning, or handling machinery while in movement, or helping in this work;
In cardboard-cutting machines;
In kneading machines in bakeries or biscuit factories;
In centrifugal extractors or mangles in laundries or dry-cleaning plants;
In foundries, smitheries, or any other place where metals are heated, melted, or in any form submitted to treatment by heat;
In mines or quarries;
In boilers with more than fifteen-pound pressure;
In rough construction works and works on or related with scaffolds;
Operation or repair of elevators or other similar apparatus for hauling up merchandise or persons;
In stone crushers;
In tunnels or excavations;
In tobacco warehouses;
In cigar factories or other factories where tobacco is manufactured or prepared, including stripping and classification of tobacco;
As jockeys;
In tanneries;
Washing of persons suffering from contagious diseases;
In sawmills;
In any establishment where alcoholic beverages are distilled, fermented, rectified, processed, filtered, manufactured, or bottled or sold for consumption in the same establishment;
In billiard-rooms and like gambling places;
As driver or helper of a motor vehicle, meaning by helper any person riding in the vehicle who does any work in connection with the distribution of merchandise;
Handling, operating, or in any manner helping or working near saws or wood-work machinery;
Occupations requiring the carrying of bundles, merchandise, goods, wood, or other articles weighing more than fifty (50) pounds for boys between sixteen (16) and less than eighteen (18) years of age, more than forty (40) pounds for boys between fourteen (14) and less than sixteen (16) years of age, and twenty-five (25) pounds for girls between fourteen (14) and less than eighteen (18) years of age.
Working on roads and highways;
In piers, ships, motor boats, and other vehicles engaged in the transportation of passengers or merchandise by water;
In works connected with electric wire, and in the installation and repair of electric wires;
In the installation and removal of interior electric meters and wires;
In dangerous experiment laboratories;
In meat-cutting machines;
In the handling of film projectors;
In or near railway tracks, railroads, tramways, and bus stations;
In pistol painting with duco or other similar paints;
In the manufacture of cement, ceramics, and tiles;
In electric and acetylene welding;
In button factories;
In rug factories;
In lime ovens and factories;
In match factories.

Section 16.—No girl under eighteen (18) years of age shall be employed, or permitted, or suffered to work at any hour as messenger in the distribution or delivery of merchandise or messages, for any person, firm, or corporation; nor shall any girl be employed, or permitted, or suffered to work in any store, restaurant, or cafeteria where alcoholic beverages are retailed, or in any hotel or boarding house, except when she is employed in any such place as cashier or telephone operator.

Section 17.—Every person having in his custody a minor under eighteen (18) years of age who employs, exhibits, apprentices, sells, gives away, or in any way disposes of such child with a view to employing him as an acrobat, or a gymnast, or a contortionist, or rope dancer, or in any exhibition of like character, or as a beggar, or street singer or musician, or as a blind’s or invalid’s guide, and any person causing or procuring said minor to be so engaged, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and sentenced to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty (250) dollars, or to imprisonment for not less than ten (10) days nor more than one (1) year, or to both penalties, in the discretion of the court.

Section 18.—No minor under eighteen (18) years of age shall be employed, or permitted, or suffered to work in any establishment, factory, or occupation injurious to his health, life, safety and welfare, whenever said occupation is so declared by the Insular Industrial Safety Board, after a public hearing and after said board so determines by regulation. None of the provisions of this section shall apply to work done by minors in public or private schools in Puerto Rico under the direct supervision and instruction of school officers or teachers.

Section 19.—Whoever employs, procures, or permits a minor to be employed in violation of any provision of this Act, or of an
order issued by the Insular Industrial Safety Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 hereof, or refuses entry or inspection as authorized in Section 25, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than twenty-five (25) dollars nor more than one hundred (100) dollars. For each violation of this Act, or of any section or provision hereof, after the first violation, the employer shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than one hundred (100) dollars nor more than one thousand (1,000) dollars, or in default thereof, to imprisonment in jail for a term of not more than ninety (90) days; Provided, That no complaint charging a violation of this Act shall be set aside upon the plea of accumulation of offenses or defect of form, whenever the offense or offenses charged are included within the provisions of this Act. Whoever continues to employ a minor in violation of the provisions of this Act, after being notified by an official or other person authorized to enforce this Act or to assist in its enforcement, shall for every day thereafter while such illegal employment of each minor continues, be sentenced to a fine not exceeding two hundred (200) dollars, or to imprisonment for a term of not more than sixty (60) days, or to both penalties, fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court; and whoever forges or procures to be forged, or who assists in forging or, with intent to evade any of the provisions of this Act, alters a birth certificate or other evidence of the age of any child, and whoever presents or assists in presenting a forged or altered certificate or evidence of age, and whoever misrepresents the age of such child for the purpose of fraudulently securing an employment certificate, shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five hundred (500) dollars, or to imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or to both penalties, fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

Section 20.—Every parent, tutor, or guardian having charge of a minor under sixteen (16) years of age shall cause such minor to be instructed in a public or private school and to attend regularly such school during the period of each year the public schools of the Island are in session, on the customary days and during the regular hours of the school term.

Section 21.—The record of school attendance shall be open to the inspection of the officers or other persons duly authorized to enforce this Act, who may inspect or copy the same.

las disposiciones de esta Ley o de una orden dictada por la Junta Insular de Seguridad Industrial, de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en el Artículo 18 de la misma, o que niegue la entrada o inspección autorizadas en el Artículo 25, será culpable de misdemean or y castigado con multa que no será menor de veinticinco (25) dólares, ni mayor de cien (100) dólares. Por toda infracción de esta Ley o a cualquiera de los artículos o disposiciones de la misma, después de haberse cometido la primera, será el patrono culpable de misdemean or y castigado con multa que no será menor de cien (100) dólares, ni mayor de mil (1,000) dólares, o en su defecto prisión por un período que no exceda de noventa (90) días de cárcel; Disponiéndose, que toda denuncia por infracciones de esta Ley no podrá desestimarse alegando acumulación de falta cometida ni por defecto de forma, siempre que la falta o faltas denunciadas estén comprendidas dentro de los términos de esta Ley. Cualquier persona que después de notificada por un funcionario u otra persona autorizada para obligar al cumplimiento de esta Ley, o para ayudar en dicha obligación, que continúe con un menor en su empleo infringiendo las disposiciones de esta Ley, será castigado, por cada día después de dicha notificación que continúe tal empleo ilegal de cada menor, con multa que no excederá de doscientos (200) dólares, o con cárcel por un término que no excederá de sesenta (60) días, o con ambas penas, multa y cárcel, a discreción del tribunal; y cualquier persona que falsifique o procure la falsificación o que ayude a falsificar o que con intento de evadir cualquiera de las disposiciones de esta Ley, altere una certificación de nacimiento u otra prueba de la edad de un niño; cualquier persona que presente o ayude a presentar una certificación o prueba de edad falsa o alterada; y cualquier persona que falsamente altere la edad de dicho niño con el propósito de obtener fraudulentamente un certificado para trabajar, será castigado con multa que no excederá a quinientos (500) dólares, o con prisión por un término no mayor de un (1) año, o con ambas penas, multa y prisión, a discreción del tribunal.

Artículo 20.—Todo padre, tutor, encargado de un menor de diez y seis (16) años de edad, se ocupará de que dicho niño reciba instrucción en una escuela pública o particular y que asista regularmente a dicha escuela durante el período de cada año en que estén abiertas las escuelas de la Isla, y en los días y horas de costumbre.

Artículo 21.—Los records de asistencia escolar estarán abiertos a la inspección de los funcionarios y las personas debidamente autorizados para obligar al cumplimiento de esta Ley, pudiendo éstos inspeccionarlos o copiarlos.
Section 22.—As may be determined by the Commissioner of Education, it shall be the duty of every principal or teacher of a public or private school to report to the Commissioner of Labor the name of any minor under sixteen (16) years of age enrolled in said school who has been absent therefrom for a week during any school month for the purpose of working, and such notice shall be sent to the Department of Labor immediately after such absence. The School Supervisor may issue a certificate excusing from attendance at school any minor who, after the required examination, is found to be mentally unfit to attend; Provided, That if said examination shows that the minor may benefit from instruction in an ungraded or special class, he shall attend such class.

Section 23.—Every parent, guardian, or other person in charge of a minor under sixteen (16) years of age, who causes or permits said minor to be unlawfully absent from school, shall be notified in writing by the proper officer to cause said minor to attend as herein provided. If, after service of such notice, said minor is again unlawfully absent from school, proceedings may be instituted against the parent, guardian, or other person having charge of said minor, who, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed twenty-five (25) dollars, or by imprisonment in jail for a term of not to exceed twenty (20) days, or by both penalties, in the discretion of the court; Provided, That where a person is convicted for a first offense, judgment may, upon payment of costs, be stayed until said person shall commit again the same offense with respect to the same minor.

Section 24.—Every parent, guardian, or other person who, with the intent to violate the provisions of this Act, makes a false statement concerning the age or school attendance of a minor under sixteen (16) years of age who is in his custody, shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not to exceed fifty (50) dollars. Any person who induces or attempts to induce any minor under sixteen (16) years of age to be absent unlawfully from school, or who knowingly employs or harbors, while school is in session, any minor unlawfully absent from school, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not to exceed fifty (50) dollars.

Section 25.—In order to enforce the provisions of this Act, the Commissioner of Labor, the chief of the Child Bureau, the supervisors of the Department of Labor, and other officers duly appointed in ac-
CORDANCE WITH THIS ACT, SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ENTER ANY PLACE OR ESTABLISHMENT MENTIONED HEREIN, AND SHALL HAVE POWER TO EXAMINE THE EMPLOYMENT OR AGE CERTIFICATES FILED BY THE EMPLOYER AND ALL OTHER RECORDS THAT MAY AID IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ACT. THE PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE THE AFORESAID EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES ARE HEREBY EMPowered TO ADMINISTER ALL NECESSARY OATHS; PROVIDED, THAT NO FEE WHATSOEVER SHALL BE CHARGED FOR SUCH CERTIFICATES.

SECTION 26.—THE DISTRICT COURTS SHALL HAVE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION IN ALL CASES OF VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; PROVIDED, THAT SAID CASES SHALL BE HEARD BEFORE A COURT WITHOUT A JURY.

SECTION 27.—ALL LAWS OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH ARE HEREBY REPEALED.

SECTION 28.—IF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT OR THE APPLICATION OF SUCH PROVISION TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES BE HELD INVALID, THE RESTAINDER OF THE ACT AND THE APPLICATION OF SUCH PROVISION TO CIRCUMSTANCES OTHER THAN THOSE TO WHICH IT IS HELD TO BE INVALID, SHALL NOT BE AFFECTED THEREBY.

SECTION 29.—THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT NINETY DAYS AFTER ITS APPROVAL.

APPROVED, MAY 12, 1942.

[NO. 231]

AN ACT

TO DECLARE THE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE, THE USE OF PUBLIC MEAT TO THE PUBLIC IN PUERTO RICO, FREE OF ALL FEES, EXCISE, EDITION 46 OF ACT NO. 59, APPROVED APRIL 28, 1928, AS AMENDED BY ACT 46 OF ACT NO. 49, APPROVED MAY 15, 1931; TO REPEAL SUBDIVISION 9 OF CLAUSE 9 OF SECTION 46 OF ACT NO. 49, APPROVED MAY 15, 1931; TO REPEAL SUBDIVISION 10 OF CLAUSE 7 OF SECTION 46 OF ACT NO. 59, APPROVED MAY 15, 1931; TO REPEAL SUBDIVISION 10 OF ACT NO. 59, APPROVED APRIL 28, 1928, AS AMENDED BY ACT 46 OF ACT NO. 49, APPROVED MAY 15, 1931; TO REPEAL ALL FEES, EXCISES, TAXES, OR IMPOSTS ON THE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE, ON THE USE OF PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSES, ON THE TRANSPORTATION OF MEAT, OR ON THE SALE OF MEAT TO THE PUBLIC IN PUERTO RICO, IN FORCE ON THE DATE THIS ACT TAKES EFFECT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

SECTION 1.—STATEMENT OF MOTIVES.—IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT TO DECLARE FREE OF ALL FEES, EXCISES, TAXES, OR IMPOSTS, THE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE, THE USE OF PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSES, AND THE SALE OF MEAT TO THE PUBLIC IN PUERTO RICO. THIS MEASURE MEANS THE PURPOSE OF CHEAPENING THE PRICE OF A BASIC PRODUCT IN THE FEEDING OF THE PUBLIC.

BIDADAMENTE NOMBRADOS, DE ACUERDO CON ELLA QUEDAN POR LA PRESENTE AUTORIZADOS PARA ENTRAR EN CUALQUIER SITIO, O ESTABLECIMIENTO MENCIONADO EN ESTA LEY Y TENDRÁN FACULTAD PARA LA INSPECCIÓN DE LOS CERTIFICADOS DE EMPLEO O LOS CERTIFICADOS DE EDAD ARCHIVADOS POR EL PATRONO Y A TODAS LAS DEMÁS CONSTANCIA QUE PUEDAN AYUDAR A OBLIGAR AL CUMPLIMIENTO DE ESTA LEY. LAS PERSONAS AUTORIZADAS PARA EXTENDER LOS PRECITADOS CERTIFICADOS DE EMPLEO, QUEDAN POR LA PRESENTE FACULTADAS PARA TOMAR LOS JUZGAMIENTOS QUE SEAN NECESARIOS; DISPOSIÉNDOSE, QUE NO SE COBRARÁ DERECHO ALGUNO POR TALES CERTIFICADOS.

ARTÍCULO 26.—LAS CORTEZ DE DISTRITO TENDRÁN JURISDICCIÓN EXCLUSIVA EN CASOS DE VIOLACIONES DE ESTA LEY; DISPOSIÉNDOSE, QUE LOS CASOS SERÁN VISTOS POR TRIBUNAL DE DERECHO.

ARTÍCULO 27.—TODA LEY O PARTE DE LEY QUE SE OPONGA A LA PRESENTE, QUEDA POR ESTA DEROGADA.

ARTÍCULO 28.—SI ALGUNA DISPOSICIÓN DE ESTA LEY O LA APlicación DE TAlish disposición en ciertas circunstancias fuese inválida, el resto de la ley y la aplicación de la referida disposición en circunstancias distintas, a las que se declaró inaplicable no quedarán afectadas por dicha declaración.

ARTÍCULO 29.—ESTA LEY EMPRENDERA A REGIR A LOS NOVENTA DÍAS DESPUÉS DE SU APROBACIÓN.

APROBADA EN 13 DE MAYO DE 1942.

[NO. 231]

LEY

PARA DECLARAR LIBRE DE TODO DERECHO, ARBITRIO, CONTRIBUCIÓN O IMPUESTO LA MATANZA DE GANADO, EL USO DE MATADEROS PÚBLICOS, LA CONDUCCIÓN DE CARNES Y LA VENTA DE CARNES AL PÚBLICO EN PUERTO RICO; PARA DEROGAR EL APARTADO 10 DEL INCISO F, DEL ARTÍCULO 46 DE LA LEY NUM. 59, APROBADA EL 28 DE ABRIL DE 1928, SIGUIEN QUEDO EMENDADA POR LA LEY NUM. 68, APROBADA EL 15 DE MAYO DE 1931; PARA DEROGAR EL APARTADO (9) DEL INCISO (4) DEL ARTÍCULO 40 DE LA LEY NUM. 49, APROBADA EL 15 DE MAYO DE 1921; PARA DEROGAR TODO DERECHO, ARBITRIO, CONTRIBUCIÓN O IMPUESTO SOBRE MATANZA DE GANADO, USO DE MATADEROS PÚBLICOS, CONDUCCIÓN DE CARNES O VENTA DE CARNES AL PÚBLICO EN PUERTO RICO, QUE ESTUVIDIEREN EN VIGOR EN LA VEZ DE VIGENCIA DE ESTA LEY, Y PARA OTROS Fines.

DECtÉASE POR LA ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA DE PUERTO RICO:

SECCIÓN 1.—EXPOSICIÓN DE MOTIVOS.—ESTA LEY TIENE POR OBJETO DECLARAR LIBRE DE TODO DERECHO, ARBITRIO, CONTRIBUCIÓN O IMPUESTO LA MATANZA DE GANADO, EL USO DE MATADEROS PÚBLICOS Y LA VENTA DE CARNES AL PÚBLICO EN PUERTO RICO. RESPONDE ESTA MEDIDA AL PROPÓSITO DE ABARATAR EL PRECIO DE UN PRODUCTO BÁSICO EN LA ALIMENTACIÓN DEL