TO ESTABLISH THE WORKING DAY IN PUERTO RICO; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF DOUBLE TIME FOR HOURS WORKED IN EXCESS OF THE LEGAL WORKING DAY; TO FIX PERIODS OF REST; TO REGULATE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF LABOR CONTRACTS; TO IMPOSE CERTAIN DUTIES ON EMPLOYERS; TO FIX PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO REPEAL ACT NO. 40, OF AUGUST 7, 1935.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—Statement of Motives: This Act consecrates the principle of the limitation of the working day—one of the great labor vindications. It is a measure for the effective protection of the health, safety, and life of the laborer. Excessively long working days produce fatigue, increase the frequency of labor accidents, and weaken the vigour of the body, exposing it to ailments and disease. They also deprive the laborer of the time necessary for relaxation and for the cultivation of his mind and of his social and civic relations.

On the other hand, there is at present a technical basis supporting the advisability of the limitation of the working day; the output of labor is in inverse ratio to its length. Laboratory experiments confirm the fact that if work is prolonged immoderately, fatigue sets in, and this produces in the body a chemical process of actual intoxication which, in addition to the physical and spiritual damage that it does to the laborers, substantially lessens the productivity of his work.

The reduction of the working hours also contributes to alleviate the problem of unemployment, since, in diminishing the working hours of men and women who are working, additional employment opportunities are provided for the unemployed.

Upon the mechanization of work and the rationalization of industrial organization, production has considerably increased, but the effort of the laborer, now compelled to render his services with machines and under techniques that require the highest skill and unflagging attention, has also increased. Nothing more natural then that the benefits of mechanized agriculture and rationalization should reach the laborer in the form of a more humane working day.

It is the policy of this Act to limit to a maximum of eight hours the legal working day in Puerto Rico, and to provide payment of double time for the hours worked in excess of the legal working day.
Experience shows that a prohibitive provision is not sufficient to secure the limitation in question. The penalty imposed on the employer who violates the prohibitive provision, does not benefit the employee or recompense him for his effort when the day's work is extended. The payment, by act of law, of double time for the hours worked in excess of the legal working day is more effective and practical. Such measure, while discouraging employment during extra hours because of the additional financial burden which it imposes on the employer, carries with it a more equitable compensation for the man compelled to work for a longer period.

It is hereby declared that the policy of this Act is, through the exercise of the power of the Legislature of Puerto Rico, to enact laws for the protection of the life, health, and safety of employees and workmen, to correct, and as rapidly as possible to eliminate, the condition of labor exploitation on the basis of overlong working days, substantially to increase the opportunities for employment, and to provide better compensation for the employees in those cases where the employer extends the working day.

Section 2.—Eight hours of work constitute the legal working day in Puerto Rico.

Forty-eight hours of work constitute a working week.

Two hundred and eight hours of work constitute a working month.

Section 3.—Regular hours of work are eight hours during any period of twenty-four consecutive hours, forty-eight hours during any week, and two hundred and eight hours during any month; Provided, however, That the Commissioner of Labor shall cause to be published every year in newspapers of general circulation in the Island, a notice stating the exact number of regular hours of work during each month of the year, in conformity with the number of working days and hours according to the calendar and legislation in force as regards legal holidays; Provided, further, That the Commissioner of Labor shall cause to be published the notice referred to in this section within the five days following the effective date of this Act, and also each year, for the following year, during the second fortnight of the month of December.

Section 4.—Extra hours of work are:

(a) The hours that an employee works for his employer in excess of eight hours during any period of twenty-four consecutive hours;

nada legal. La experiencia demuestra que no basta una disposición prohibitiva para lograr la limitación interesada. La pena impuesta al patrono que viola el precepto prohibitivo no aprovecha al empleado ni recompensa su esfuerzo cuando la jornada se prolonga. De alcance más efectivo y práctico resulta el pago, por imperio de ley, de una doble retribución por las horas trabajadas en exceso de la jornada legal. Tal medida, a la par que desalienta el empleo en horas extras por razón de la carga económica adicional que impone al patrono, conlleva una compensación más justiciera para el hombre forzado a rendir una jornada mayor.

Se declara por la presente que la política de esta Ley es, mediante el ejercicio de la facultad de la Asamblea Legislativa de Puerto Rico para decretar leyes para la protección de la vida, la salud y la seguridad de empleados y obreros, corregir y tan rápidamente como sea posible eliminar las condiciones de explotación del trabajador a base de jornadas excesivas, aumentar los empleos sustancialmente y proveer una mejor compensación al empleado en aquellos casos en que el patrono prolonga la jornada.

Artículo 2.—Ocho horas de labor constituyen la jornada legal de trabajo en Puerto Rico.

Cuarenta y ocho horas de labor constituyen una semana de trabajo.

Doscientas ocho horas de labor constituyen un mes de trabajo.

Artículo 3.—Son horas regulares de trabajo ocho horas durante cualquier período de veinticuatro horas consecutivas, cuarenta y ocho horas durante cualquier semana y doscientas ocho horas durante cualquier mes; Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que el Comisionado del Trabajo hará publicar en periódicos de general circulación en la isla todos los años un aviso expresando el número exacto de horas regulares de trabajo durante cada mes del año, conforme al número de días y horas laborables según el calendario y la legislación vigente, sobre días de fiesta; Disponiéndose, además, que el Comisionado del Trabajo hará publicar el aviso a que se refiere este Artículo dentro de los cinco días siguientes a la fecha de vigencia de esta Ley y también cada año durante la segunda quincena del mes de diciembre para el siguiente año.

Artículo 4.—Son horas extras de trabajo:

(a) Las horas que un empleado trabaja para su patrono en exceso de ocho horas durante cualquier período de veinticuatro horas consecutivas;
(b) The hours that an employee works for his employer in excess of forty-eight hours during any week, unless the hours worked daily in excess of eight are paid at double rates;

(c) The hours that an employee works for his employer in excess of the hours stipulated by the Commissioner of Labor in the public notice he shall give according to Section 3 hereof;

(d) The hours that an employee works for his employer during the days or hours when the establishment in which he renders services should remain closed to the public by provision of law; Provided, however, That the hours worked by an employee in the service of his employer during the days or hours in which the establishment must remain closed to the public shall not be considered extra hours of work, when the employer has obtained from the Commissioner of Labor the permit required by Act No. 80 of May 5, 1931, as heretofore or hereafter amended, and the total number of hours worked by the employee during said day does not exceed eight hours, and the total number of hours worked during the week does not exceed forty-eight hours;

(e) The hours that an employee works for his employer during the day of rest heretofore or hereafter fixed by law in the case of businesses and industries not subject to the closing of their establishments;

(f) The hours that an employee works for his employer in excess of such maximum working hours a day as the Minimum Wage Board may have fixed or may fix for the occupation, business, or industry in question;

(g) The hours that an employee works for his employer in excess of the maximum number of working hours a day fixed in a collective labor agreement.

Section 5.—Every employer who employs an employee to work during extra hours shall be obliged to pay him for each extra hour a wage rate equal to double the rate agreed upon for regular hours; Provided, however, That every employer in any industry in Puerto Rico covered by the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act enacted by the Congress of the United States of America on June 25, 1938, as heretofore or hereafter amended, shall be under obligation to pay only for each hour of work in excess of the legal eight-hour working day, or in excess of forty (40) hours a week, a wage at the rate of not less than time and a half the rate of wage agreed upon for regular hours, save when by a decree of

(b) Las horas que un empleado trabaja para su patrono en exceso de cuarenta y ocho horas durante cualquier semana, a menos que las horas trabajadas diariamente en exceso de ocho sean pagadas a tipo doble;

(c) las horas que un empleado trabaja para su patrono en exceso de las horas señaladas por el Comisionado del Trabajo en el aviso público que debe hacer conforme al artículo 3 de esta Ley;

(d) las horas que un empleado trabaja para su patrono durante los días u horas en que el establecimiento en que presta servicio deba permanecer cerrado al público por disposición legal; Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que no serán horas extras las horas que el empleado trabaja para su patrono durante los días u horas en que el establecimiento deba permanecer cerrado al público cuando el patrono ha obtenido del Comisionado del Trabajo el permiso requerido por la Ley Núm. 80, de 5 de mayo de 1931, según ha sido o fuere subsiguientemente emmendada, y la totalidad de horas trabajadas por el empleado durante ese día no exceda de ocho horas ni la totalidad de horas trabajadas durante la semana exceda de cuarenta y ocho horas;

(e) las horas que un empleado trabaja para su patrono durante el día de descanso que se haya fijado o se fijare por ley en el caso de industrias y negocios que no están sujetos al cierre de su establecimiento;

(f) las horas que el empleado trabaja para su patrono en exceso del máximo de horas de labor al día que la Junta de Salario Mínimo haya fijado o fijare para la ocupación, negocio o industria en cuestión;

(g) las horas que el empleado trabaja para su patrono en exceso del máximo de horas de labor al día fijado en un convenio colectivo de trabajo.

Artículo 5.—Todo patrono que emplee o permita que trabaje un empleado durante horas extras vendrá obligado a pagarle por cada hora extra un tipo de salario igual al doble del tipo convenido para las horas regulares; Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que todo patrono de una industria de Puerto Rico cubierta por las disposiciones de la Ley de Normas Razonables de Trabajo (Fair Labor Standards Act), aprobada por el Congreso de Estados Unidos de América en 25 de junio de 1938, según ha sido o fuere subsiguientemente emmendada, sólo vendrá obligado a pagar por cada hora de trabajo en exceso de la jornada legal de ocho (8) horas o en exceso de cuarenta (40) horas a la semana un tipo de salario a razón de, por lo menos, tiempo y medio del tipo de salario convenido para las horas regu-
the Minimum Wage Board or by a collective labor agreement, other working and/or compensation standard is heretofore or hereafter fixed. To determine the wage rate agreed upon for regular hours of work, the daily, weekly, or monthly wages, or wages otherwise stipulated, shall be divided by the number of regular hours worked during that same period in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 6.—In every labor contract in which wages are stipulated by the day, it shall be understood that eight hours constitute a working day, save in those cases where, by custom, nature of the work, provision of law, decree of the Minimum Wage Board, or collective agreement, the maximum working hours are less than eight hours a day.

Every decree, agreement, clause, or stipulation, that fixes a working day of more than eight hours, shall be null.

Section 7.—If an employee works for a weekly wage, the wage stipulated shall cover solely the payment of the regular working hours during each week.

Section 8.—If an employee works for a monthly wage, the wage stipulated shall cover solely the payment of the regular working hours during each month.

Section 9.—If the contract is on the basis of piece work or any other unit of work, the employee shall be entitled to receive double compensation for the pieces or units made during extra hours.

Section 10.—In building, reconstruction, repair works, or works for the improvement of property, done by the job and in any other work in which contractors, subcontractors, ajustadores, foremen, or any agent or representative of the employer intervenes, the employee shall also be entitled to additional compensation on the basis of the double wages that this Act fixes for extra hours of work.

In these cases the owner, or the person for whom the works are constructed or the work is done, shall be liable jointly with the contractor, subcontractor, ajustador, foreman, agent or representative of the employer, for the payment of the wages earned in regular hours and extra hours of work; Provided, That no action or claim may be filed against the owner or grantee of the works one year after the work for which payment is claimed has been finished.

lares, salvo el caso en que por decreto de la Junta de Salario Mínimo o convenio colectivo de trabajo se haya fijado o fijare otra norma de trabajo o de compensación, o de ambas. Para determinar el tipo de salario convenido para horas regulares de trabajo, se dividirá el salario diario, semanal, mensual o en otra forma estipulado, por el número de horas regulares que se trabajó durante ese mismo período de acuerdo con las disposiciones de esta Ley.

Artículo 6.—En todo contrato de trabajo en que se estipule el salario por día, se entenderá que ocho horas constituyen un día de trabajo, salvo los casos en que, por costumbre, naturaleza del trabajo, disposición de ley, decreto de la Junta de Salario Mínimo o convenio colectivo, el máximo de horas de labor sea menor de ocho horas diarias.

Será nulo todo decreto, convenio, cláusula o estipulación que fije una duración mayor de ocho horas a la jornada de trabajo.

Artículo 7.—Si el empleado trabaja por un salario semanal el salario estipulado cubrirá únicamente el pago de las horas regulares de trabajo durante cada semana.

Artículo 8.—Si el empleado trabaja por un salario mensual, el salario estipulado cubrirá únicamente el pago de las horas regulares de trabajo durante cada mes.

Artículo 9.—Si el contrato es a base de trabajo por pieza o por cualquiera otra unidad de obra, el empleado tendrá derecho a recibir doble compensación por las piezas o unidades hechas durante horas extras.

Artículo 10.—En las obras de construcción, reconstrucción, reparación o mejora de propiedad, por ajuste o precio alzado, y en cualquier trabajo en que intervengan contratistas, subcontratistas, ajustadores, maestros de obra o cualquier agente o representante del patrono, el empleado también tendrá derecho a la compensación adicional a base de tipo doble de salario que fija esta Ley para horas extras de trabajo.

En estos casos, el propietario, o la persona para quien se haga la obra o realice el trabajo, con el contratista, subcontratista, ajustador, maestro de obra, agente o representante del patrono, serán solidariamente responsables del pago de los salarios devengados en horas regulares y horas extras de trabajo; Disponiéndose, que ninguna acción o reclamación podrá establecerse contra el propietario o cesionario de la obra un año después de haber concluido el trabajo cuyo pago se reclama.
Section 11.—No provision of this Act shall justify any employer to reduce the wage paid by him during the month of January, 1948, for one working day, one working week, or one working month, or to pay any employee a lower wage than the one paid by him to the same employee as of said date.

Any clause or stipulation of a labor contract in which the compensation of the employee is fixed at a rate of wages by the day, by the week, or by the month, which consolidates the payment of regular hours and the extra hours of work, shall be null.

Section 12.—It is hereby declared that the additional compensation on the basis of double time fixed by this Act for extra hours of work may not be waived.

Any clause or stipulation by virtue of which the employee agrees to waive the payment of the additional compensation for extra hours, fixed by this Act, shall be null.

Section 13.—Any employee who receives a compensation less than that fixed by this Act for regular hours and extra hours of work shall be entitled to recover from his employer, through civil action, the sums unpaid, plus an equal sum as liquidation of damages, in addition to the costs, expenses, and attorney’s fees of the proceeding.

These claims may be handled in accordance with the regular procedure, or the complaint procedure established in Act No. 10 of November 14, 1917, as heretofore or hereafter amended.

The judicial claim may be filed by one or several employees, in his or their names, and that of other employees who are in similar circumstances; Provided, That after the claim has been judicially instituted, it may be settled by compromise between the parties with the intervention of the Commissioner of Labor and the approval of the court.

Every extra judicial compromise in regard to the payment of the wages for regular hours, extra hours of work, or the payment of the sum equal to that claimed which this Act fixes as liquidation of damages, shall be null; Provided, however, That for the purposes of this Act a compromise made before the Commissioner of Labor or any of the attorneys of the Department of Labor, appointed by said Commissioner, shall be valid.

Section 14.—Every employer shall affix in a conspicuous place in the establishment, shop, factory, plantation, farm, office, or place

Artículo 11.—Ninguna disposición de esta Ley justificará a ningún patrono a rebajar el salario pagado por él durante el mes de enero de 1948 por un día, una semana o un mes de trabajo, ni a pagar a ningún empleado suyo un salario menor que el pagado por él al mismo empleado en esa fecha.

Será nula toda cláusula o estipulación de un contrato de trabajo en que la compensación del empleado se fije en un tipo de salario por día, por semana, o por mes, que incluya conjuntamente el pago de las horas regulares y las horas extras de trabajo.

Artículo 12.—Por la presente se declara irrenunciable la compensación adicional a base de tipo doble de salario que fija esta Ley para las horas extras de trabajo.

Será nula toda cláusula o estipulación en virtud de la cual convenga el empleado en renunciar al pago de la compensación adicional por horas extras que fija esta Ley.

Artículo 13.—Todo empleado que reciba una compensación menor que la fijada en esta Ley para horas regulares y horas extras de trabajo, tendrá derecho a recobrar de su patrono mediante acción civil las cantidades no pagadas, más una suma igual por concepto de liquidación de daños y perjuicios, además de las costas, gastos y honorarios de abogado del procedimiento.

Estas reclamaciones podrán tramitarse de acuerdo con el procedimiento ordinario o el procedimiento de querella establecido en la Ley Núm. 10 de 14 de noviembre de 1917, según ha sido o fuere subsiguientemente enmendado.

La reclamación judicial podrá establecerla uno o varios empleados por y a nombre suyo o de ellos y de otros empleados que están en circunstancias similares; Disponiéndose, que después de iniciada judicialmente la reclamación, ésta podrá ser transigida entre las partes, con la intervención del Comisionado del Trabajo y la aprobación de la Corte.

Será nula toda transacción extrajudicial sobre el pago del salario correspondiente a las horas regulares, a las horas extras de trabajo o sobre el pago de la suma igual a la reclamada que fija esta Ley por concepto de liquidación de daños y perjuicios; Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que será válida a los propósitos de esta Ley toda transacción que se verifique ante el Comisionado del Trabajo o cualquiera de los abogados del Departamento del Trabajo, designado por dicho Comisionado.

Artículo 14.—Todo patrono fijará en un lugar visible del establecimiento, taller, fábrica, plantación, finca, oficina o sitio de tra-
of work, as the case may be, a printed notice setting forth the number of hours of work required daily from the employees during each day of the week, the hours of beginning and ending work, and the hour when the period for taking food begins and ends; Provided, That the time fixed for taking food shall not be less than one (1) hour, unless for the convenience of the employee, and by stipulation of said employee and his employer, with the approval of the Commissioner of Labor, a shorter period is fixed.

In the commercial, industrial, and agricultural establishments and those devoted to other gainful businesses where persons are employed at alternate hours during all the days of the week, a special notice shall be affixed, stating the name of each one of the employees and the hours he works on each day of the week.

The hours fixed in the notice shall constitute prima facie evidence that such hours of work in each establishment constitute the division of the legal working day.

Every employer is obliged to ask for the printed models of these notices from the Department of Labor, which shall furnish them gratis.

Section 15.—Every employer shall be obliged to make, keep, and preserve the payrolls of the persons employed by him, stating the salaries earned and the regular hours and extra hours worked by each one, and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by him. The payrolls shall be kept in accordance with such reasonable rules as the Commissioner of Labor may prescribe and shall be kept for such time as the rules may determine.

The Commissioner of Labor or any of his duly authorized agents may examine during working hours the payrolls of any employer for the purpose of taking data and information for the statistics, surveys, and investigations in connection with the enforcement of this Act.

Section 16.—The provisions of this Act shall govern in every commercial, industrial, and agricultural establishment; in every shop, factory, central, mill, and manufactory; in every ranch, property, farm, estate, and plantation; in every public-service enterprise; in every gainful business, including printeries, publishing houses, newspaper enterprises, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, teaching institutions, boarding houses, hotels, eating houses, restaurants, stores, groceries, warehouses, depots, markets, garages, bakeries, theatres, etc.
casinos y otros similares; en toda oficina o establecimiento de negocio, bufete, consultorio y despacho profesional y en todo sitio destinado a la prestación de servicio de cualquiera índole mediante paga.

También se aplicarán las disposiciones de esta Ley a todos los chóferes y conductores de vehículos de motor públicos y privados con excepción de aquellos que trabajan a comisión.

Las disposiciones de esta Ley no se aplicarán a personas empleadas en el servicio doméstico; Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que éstas tendrán derecho a un día de descanso por cada seis de trabajo.

No se aplicarán las disposiciones de esta Ley a los empleados del Gobierno Insular, de los Gobiernos Municipales, ni del Gobierno de la Capital ni a los de las agencias o instrumentalidades de dichos gobiernos, con excepción de aquellas agencias o instrumentalidades que se dediquen a empresas agrícolas, industriales, comerciales o de servicio público.

Artículo 17.—El Comisionado del Trabajo preparará reglas y reglamentos necesarios para el mejor cumplimiento de esta Ley. Tales reglas y reglamentos, una vez aprobados por el Gobernador y promulgados debidamente, tendrán fuerza de ley.

Artículo 18.—Todo patrono que deje de pagar el tipo de salario estipulado en esta Ley para horas regulares u horas extras de trabajo, o que permita, induzca u oblige a un empleado a renunciar, o a aceptar, o convenir en renunciar, la compensación a base de tipo doble de salario por horas extras, o que no lleve las nóminas de pago de los salarios como determine el Comisionado del Trabajo, o no rinda los informes sobre salarios que éste solicite, o impida el examen de dichas nóminas de pago por el Comisionado del Trabajo o sus agentes autorizados, o a sabiendas consigne datos falsos en dichas nóminas o informes, o que viole cualquiera disposición de esta Ley o de las órdenes, reglas o reglamentos que dicta el Comisionado del Trabajo según aquí se determina, o que desinda o a cualquier otra forma discrimine contra cualquiera empleado porque éste haya incoado o hecho incoar cualquier procedimiento de acuerdo con esta Ley o relacionado con la misma, o que se valga de cualquier recurso, fraude, simulación o subterfugio para no pagar, burlar, negar o privar a cualquier empleado del derecho a recibir un tipo de doble salario por las horas extras de trabajo, incurrirá en un delito menos grave y, convicto que fuere, será castigado con una multa no menor de cincuenta (50) dólares o cáreel por un período no menor de quince (15) días, o ambas penas a discreción del tri-
court. In case of a subsequent offense, he shall be punished by a fine of from one hundred (100) to five hundred (500) dollars, or by imprisonment in jail for a term of from thirty (30) to ninety (90) days, or by both penalties, in the discretion of the court.

Section 19.—The following definitions of words and phrases in this Act shall be accepted, unless it is otherwise deduced from the context hereof:

"Employee" includes every employee, workman, day laborer, artisan, laborer, clerk, shop clerk, and every person employed for wages, salary, day wages, or any other form of compensation in any occupation, establishment, business, or industry, excepting travelling agents and peddlers. The word "employee" shall not include executives, administrators, or professionals.

"Employer" includes every natural or artificial person and every person who represents such natural or artificial person or who exercises authority in the name thereof.

"To employ" is to allow or permit a person to work.

"Wage" includes salary, day wages, payment, and any other form of cash compensation.

"Occupation" includes every service, work, labor, help, or toil that an employee performs for his employer.

"Establishment" includes every building, house, factory, shop, property, estate, store, warehouse, office, public-service enterprise, place, and site where work is executed, labor done, or any service rendered for pay.

"Labor contract" means every oral or written agreement by which the employee binds himself to execute a work, perform labor, or render a service for the employer for a wage or any other pecuniary remuneration. If there is no express stipulation as to wages, the employer shall be obliged to pay the minimum wage fixed for the occupation, industry, or business in question, and, in default of such determination, the wages that are customarily paid in the locality for similar work.

The terms included in this section shall not exclude any other term covering agricultural, industrial, or commercial activities.

Section 20.—If any clause, paragraph, section, article, or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, said decision shall not affect, prejudice, or invalidate the remainder of this Act, but its effect shall be limited to the clause, paragraph, section, article, or part of the Act so declared unconstitutional.
Section 21.—Act No. 49, approved August 7, 1935; entitled “An Act to regulate the working hours of persons employed in commercial and industrial establishments and in other lucrative businesses, and for other purposes,” is hereby expressly repealed.

Section 22.—All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed; Provided, however, that all the terms of Act No. 8, entitled “An Act to create a Minimum Wage Board in the Department of Labor; to define the powers thereof; to establish the procedure for determining the minimum wage to be paid in the different occupations, the maximum working hours and the labor conditions necessary for the maintenance of the health, safety, and well-being of workers; to give a mandatory character to such decrees on minimum wages, working hours, and labor conditions as said Board may promulgate in the discharge of its duties; to establish the procedure for appealing from the decisions of the Board; to fix penalties for the violations of the provisions of this Act, and for other purposes,” approved April 5, 1941, and amended by Act No. 1 of November 12, 1941; by Act No. 9 of March 20, 1942; by Act No. 44 of April 23, 1942; by Act No. 217 of May 11, 1945, and by Act No. 451 of May 14, 1947, as heretofore or hereafter amended; and the mandatory decrees promulgated by the Minimum Wage Board created by said Act, Act No. 73, entitled “An Act to regulate the work of women and children and to protect them against dangerous occupations,” approved June 21, 1919, and amended by Act No. 28 of April 24, 1930, and by Act No. 6, of December 4, 1947; by Act No. 230, entitled “An Act to regulate the employment of minors and to provide for compulsory public school attendance of children in Puerto Rico; to repeal Act No. 75, approved June 20, 1921, as subsequently amended, and for other purposes,” approved May 12, 1942; of Section 553 of the Penal Code, generally known as the “Closing Law for Commercial and Industrial Establishments,” as amended by Act No. 64, of April 28, 1930, by Act No. 110 of May 13, 1937, by Act No. 306 of May 15, 1938, and by Act No. 3, of December 3, 1947, as heretofore or hereafter amended, and by Act No. 289, approved April 9, 1946, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 23.—This Act, being of an urgent and necessary character, shall take effect immediately after its approval.

Approved, May 15, 1948.