

(S. B. 1131)
(Conference)

(No. 196-2010)

(Approved December 15, 2010)

AN ACT

To adopt the “Puerto Rico Medical Tourism Act”; to adopt definitions; to establish the public policy regarding the promotion and development of said industry; to provide that the Executive Director of the Tourism Company shall have the convenient and necessary powers and authorities to implement such Act; to list the powers and authorities of said official; to create a Consultative Board to make recommendations to the Executive Director of the Tourism Company in such area; to create an Advisory Council that shall be responsible for advising the Consultative Board in matters of health and tourism; to provide financial incentives to eligible businesses which are certified as providing medical tourism services; to provide procedures to issue certifications and licenses for activities, facilities, and premises; to establish parameters for the development of medical tourism in Puerto Rico; to provide that the Planning Board shall direct the Regulations and Permits Administration to give priority to any initiative from the public or private sector for the development of medical tourism infrastructure, facilities, and premises; to set forth provisions in connection with granting construction permits; to establish prohibitions, fines, and penalties; to repeal Act No. 52 of January 30, 2006; to add a paragraph (5) to subsection (c) of Section 22 of Act No. 139 of August 1, 2008, known as the “Medical Discipline and Licensure Board Act”; and for other related purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Historically, the development of the tourist industry in Puerto Rico has been contradictory and paradoxical: on the one hand, it cannot be denied that, in the last sixty (60) years, internationally renowned tourist facilities have been built in Puerto Rico, plenty of legislation has been approved to promote and foster the development of tourism, and many successful and memorable media campaigns

have been planned and carried out in international markets to promote our tourist offer, all of which have brought millions of tourists to the Island, thus contributing billions of dollars in benefits to our economy. On the other hand, numerous studies show, once and again, that tourism in Puerto Rico has never been developed to its full potential and that its contribution to our economy, both in terms of generated revenues and job creation, is and has always been far below what it could and should be when considering the possibilities inherent to our geographic location, weather, infrastructure, level of socioeconomic development, and political relations with the United States.

The so-called medical tourism, which centers in providing medical and health services for tourists and travelers from different destinations and markets, has shown incredible growth within the tourist industry at the global level. Fortunately, Puerto Rico has many first-rate medical facilities and institutions which are as good as those in other parts of the world. However, it lacks a defined, diversified public policy designed to promote and develop this type of tourism and obtain full benefit from our excellent hospital and health facilities so that medical tourism can become a substantial component of our tourist industry and significantly contribute to our economy, to an increase in our gross national product, and to the creation of jobs.

Currently in the United States, there is a trend towards an increase in costs incurred in the medical industry. In keeping with the foregoing, the cost of the United States healthcare system in 2008 was approximately two point three (2.3) trillion dollars and it is expected to reach the four (4) trillion-dollar mark by 2015. It is estimated that forty-five (45) million United States citizens do not have health insurance, ninety (90) million are self-insured, one hundred twenty (120) million have insufficient coverage for their needs, and, as a result, seventy-nine (79) million United States citizens have financial problems due to healthcare-related

debts. Given such situation, and as an alternative measure for receiving healthcare, residents of the continental United States are travelling to different parts of the world in search of quality healthcare services that are accessible in terms of cost.

Regarding the projections for growth of this market, in 2008, Dr. Paul H. Keckley, Executive Director of the Center for Health Solutions of the consulting firm Deloitte, identified a possible market of six (6) million patients by 2010, rising to ten (10) million United States patients by 2012. As can be appreciated, the bases and indicators for this market are very promising.

On the other hand, this opportunity for medical tourism might represent a huge boost for Puerto Rico in terms of economic impact and development. If we take the projection of six (6) million patients in 2010, and we assume a market share of only two percent (2%), we are talking about one hundred and twenty (120) thousand patients which, if accompanied by just one person, become two hundred forty (240) thousand visitors to our Island, considering all this entails in economic terms. It has been demonstrated that the average stay for this type of visitor is ten (10) to fourteen (14) days, spending an average of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) a day in direct expenses, without taking medical expenses into account, which would mean four hundred twenty (420) million dollars in economic activity in our economy. This does not include a direct impact on account of medical services, which could be estimated at one point eight (1.8) to two (2.0) billion dollars a year. As is evident, this is an economic growth opportunity not only for the tourism or healthcare sector in particular, but for Puerto Rico. Therefore, it is essential to convince people to invest adequately in the development of this market, even if patients do not flow in immediately. At the moment, the healthcare industry market segment is one of the few that register growth in the United States.

Furthermore, from five (5) to six (6) indirect jobs are generated for each direct job generated in the industry. The salaries paid are higher to those of other industries and the need to train and recruit specialized personnel is constant and real.

It is worth noting that, in the United States, there is no special visa for travelers in search of medical care and treatment. Foreigners that need to receive medical care and treatment within the territory of the United States have to request a B-2 Visa, except for the following countries: Germany, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Slovenia, Spain, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, San Marino, Singapore, Sweden, and Switzerland, insofar as they do not stay in the United States for more than ninety (90) days. To be eligible for a visa for medical care and treatment, the patient must show: detailed information on the nature of the illness, proof of the medical appointment in the U.S., proof of the projected costs of medical care and treatment in the U.S., proof of financial solvency of the person covering the costs of medical care and treatment, and proof thereof. Therefore, patients residing in the United States do not need a visa to come to Puerto Rico to receive medical care and treatment. Likewise, some residents of European and Western countries do not require a visa to receive medical care and treatment in the Island, which gives us an advantage over other jurisdictions.

Healthcare services in Puerto Rico meet the same quality and compliance requirements as those in the United States, but at a cost that has been estimated as fifty (50) to seventy (70) percent lower.

This Administration is committed to developing medical tourism, which was included as an economic development strategy in Governor Luis G. Fortuño Burset's Strategic Model for a New Economy. In page 25 of the Strategic Model for a New Economy, it is provided that:

- “Tourism and Entertainment – The plans of the Administration include the development of new brands, better quality controls, the promotion of the Golden Triangle, and the development of the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Base as a world-class tourist destination. Market and product diversification, the promotion of nautical, medical, and sports tourism, and the generation of places of interest outside the San Juan metropolitan area are part of the sector-based plan.” [Translation supplied]

Further, on page 26, it is provided that: “To be able to achieve Puerto Rico’s tourism potential, the following measures are proposed:

- To promote and develop medical tourism through partnerships with healthcare service providers, health insurance providers, and hotels.” [Translation supplied]

This Act sets the foundations to develop medical tourism to its maximum potential and to turn it into an important component of our offer to tourists from all parts of the world, thus promoting the change that the tourist sector needs to become an effective economic and social development tool. That way, Puerto Rico positions itself globally as a strong competitor in medical tourism, the common denominator being price, quality, and service. Likewise, this Act seeks interactive harmony among the sectors to ensure smooth processing, as well as to promote the economic development of this sector by granting tax incentives when, of course, the necessary conditions to grant them are met.

Evidently, we have the appropriate elements for medical tourism. However, we lack an essential component, that is, a public policy. To establish the public policy to provide infrastructure and promote medical tourism in Puerto Rico through legislation is the right way to go, with the goal of making it a substantial component of our tourist industry to significantly contribute to our economy,

increase its contribution to our gross national product, and create jobs. It is important to note that tax incentives are granted to incentivize sectors, and serve to significantly promote the economic development of Puerto Rico, so that the State can make such grants when the necessary conditions are met, and so that such incentives do not affect the State's finances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1. – Title. –

This Act shall be known and cited as the “Medical Tourism Act of Puerto Rico”.

Section 2. – Public Policy Statement. –

It is hereby stated as the public policy of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to incentivize the promotion and development of medical tourism in our jurisdiction, so that such activity may significantly contribute to our economy and so that our offer in this area reaches levels of excellence and achieve national and international recognition, as part of the strategies to diversify traditional tourist offers.

Section 3. – Definitions. –

For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the meaning stated below:

(a) Tourist Activity – Such facilities or premises that, due to a special attraction or feature, stimulate tourism.

(b) Advisory Council – An entity created under the provisions of this Act, attached to the Tourism Company, and responsible for advising the Consultative Board in aspects related to health and tourism, among others. The Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Tourism Company, and shall be composed of, but not limited to representatives from the Puerto Rico College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Puerto Rico Medical Association, the

Puerto Rico Hospitals Association, the Puerto Rico Hotels Association, the Medical Sciences Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, the College of Nursing Professionals, and the Department of State, as well as the Department of the Treasury and the Director of the Puerto Rico Infrastructure Financing Authority, as the Executive Director deems fit.

(c) Executive Director – The Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company.

(d) Medical Endorsement – A certification issued by the Secretary of Health recognizing a facility or premise as having complied with the applicable criteria, standards, and procedures established by the Department of Health as well as with this Act and the regulation promulgated thereunder.

(e) Tourist Endorsement – A certification issued by the Executive Director of the Tourism Company recognizing a tourist activity as having complied with applicable criteria, standards, and procedures pursuant to this Act, Act No. 53 of June 2, 1993, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Tourist Development Act,” the regulations promulgated thereunder, and successor laws.

(f) Consultative Board – An entity created under the provisions of this Act, attached to the Tourism Company, and responsible for the implementation and development of the public policy, parameters, criteria, certifications, licenses, evaluations, reports, and regulations to enforce the provisions of this Act, including the formulation of recommendations to the Executive Director, the appropriation of resources for the development of the industry, and the supervision of the implementation of the provisions of this Act. It shall be composed of the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Economic Development and Commerce, and the Executive Director of the Tourism Company, who shall be the Chair.

(g) Eligible Business – Any new or existing business engaged in a medical tourism activity and which is duly certified and accredited.

(h) Secretary – The Secretary of Health of Puerto Rico.

(i) Medical Tourism – Any trip by patients from other jurisdictions to Puerto Rico with the intent of obtaining medical care and treatment in or through certified and accredited medical facilities or premises in Puerto Rico.

Section 4. – Terms Used. –

Any word used herein in the singular form shall also be understood to include the plural form when so justified by its use, and likewise shall the masculine form include the feminine form, or vice versa.

Section 5. – Powers and Authorities. –

The Executive Director shall have all the powers and authorities as are necessary and convenient to develop and carry out the public policy stated in this Act. Said official shall have the powers and responsibilities provided hereinbelow, without losing any other power or authority conferred on such official, and on any other officials, agencies, departments, public corporations, and instrumentalities of the State's Government, by any other laws:

(a) To develop a strategic plan that shall serve as a coherent platform to boost the medical tourism industry in Puerto Rico, which plan shall outline and integrate the active participation of the State's agencies that bear a relationship with such industry, as well as with the private sector of the economy and the community in general; it shall promote an integrative vision of the industry, ensure the continuity of the Government's programs and efforts in order to guarantee the continuous viability of the industry as a sustainable and self-financing economic activity; and establish short-, medium-, and long-term goals for the development thereof.

(b) To determine the criteria, indicators, parameters, requirements, and implications of establishing and developing programs and facilities for medical tourism that promote the objectives of this Act and the public policy established for the industry.

(c) To coordinate a media campaign to promote Puerto Rico as a world-class center for medical tourism, and to keep the Consultative Board up to date on the implementation and effectiveness thereof, as well as of market trends and the implications of fluctuations in such trends for such industry in Puerto Rico.

(d) To periodically evaluate and review all the facilities, premises, and activities certified as pertaining to medical tourism so as to determine their compliance with the objectives and provisions of this Act and the public policy established for the industry.

(e) To promote and foster cooperation and the coordination of efforts among government agencies, the private sector, and the community in general for the development of medical tourism and the implementation of the objectives and provisions of this Act and the public policy established for the industry.

(f) To evaluate applications and issue licenses, certifications, endorsements, and permits for facilities, premises, and activities that comply with the norms, parameters, and requirements established by the laws and regulations applicable to medical tourism.

(g) To impose fines and penalties in accordance with the regulation approved to such effect.

(h) To establish one or more regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

(i) To acquire, transfer, build, keep custody, and operate the infrastructure needed to facilitate and promote the development of medical tourism in Puerto Rico.

(j) To contract, train, prepare, employ, and supervise the personnel needed to implement the provisions of this Act and to comply with the objectives of the same and the public policy established for the industry.

(k) To encourage, promote, and facilitate scientific and academic exchanges with other jurisdictions that lead to the development of the industry and to keep Puerto Rico at the forefront of the global scientific and technological developments that impact the industry and its growth and development in the Island.

(l) To delegate or transfer, through partnerships or agreements, the planning, development, maintenance, and operation of the infrastructure and facilities needed to foster and develop the industry and what it has to offer, thus ensuring, in cases of assignment or transfer through public title deeds, that the property reverts to the State at the end of the term specified or, in case that the assignor violates any provision of law or regulation applicable to or in violation of the conditions and requirements specified in the agreement or title deed.

(m) To coordinate all aspects related to health with the Secretary of Health.

(n) To coordinate all aspects related to financial incentives, tax exemption, and any other benefit or responsibility provided with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(o) To design and publish Puerto Rico's public policy on the Internet so as to promote medical tourism services and products in our jurisdiction.

Section 6. – Consultative Board. –

To ensure that Puerto Rico's offer in the area of medical tourism is excellent and able to successfully compete with similar offers at the national and international level, a Consultative Board to foster medical tourism is hereby created and attached to the Tourism Company, which shall be its Chair. Said

Board shall be charged with the implementation and development of the public policy, parameters, criteria, certifications, licenses, evaluations, reports, and regulation to enforce the provisions of this Act. Likewise, the Board shall gather information on patients, such as: origin, type of service rendered, cost, time of stay, and number of companions, insofar as the Board complies with the requirements of the HIPPA [sic]. Moreover, the Board shall be responsible for establishing metrics to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of services. The Consultative Board shall arrange for hospitals to grant privileges, insofar as the Licensure Board has issued a provisional license to the physician coming from the United States. The metrics shall include a patient satisfaction survey and it shall be the responsibility of the Board to carry out the pertinent arrangements with hospitals, so that they may grant privileges to physicians from the United States who accompany their patients for medical care and treatment [sic]. The Board shall make recommendations to the Executive Director about priorities, resource appropriation for the development of the industry, and implementation of the powers and duties contained herein. The Board shall be composed of the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Economic Development and Commerce, and the Executive Director of the Tourism Company. The Board shall be constituted not later than ninety (90) days after this Act takes effect and shall hold its first meeting within such term to draft and approve a work plan for implementing the provisions of this Act. Not later than one hundred and eighty (180) days from having been duly constituted, the Board shall recommend the parameters for the development of the industry; requirements, standards, and criteria required from the activities, facilities, and premises to be certified as pertaining to medical tourism; the proposed regulation; and requirements to grant licenses and authorization to service providers and activity, facility, and premise operators of the industry. Not later than ninety (90)

days after such one hundred and eighty (180)-day term has elapsed, the Executive Director shall render a report to the Legislative Assembly on the compliance with the provisions of Section 5 of this Act.

Section 7. – Financial Incentives for Medical Tourism Activities and Facilities. –

Any duly certified eligible medical tourism business shall qualify for the benefits and incentives of Act No. 78 of September 10, 1993, as amended, or similar successor laws, Act No. 168 of July 30, 1968, as amended, known as the “Hospital Facilities Tax Exemption Act,” Act No. 120 of October 31, 1994, as amended, known as the “Internal Revenue Code of 1994,” for the eligible incentive activities that under any of such laws, at the choice of the eligible business, and such incentives as may be set forth through regulations [sic]. Provided, that the eligible business may only avail itself of benefits from one of these laws for each incentivized activity. To such effect, it is established that, though one duly certified eligible medical tourism business may benefit from several of the aforementioned laws for the different incentivized activities it may carry out, one eligible activity may not enjoy the benefits of more than one of the aforementioned laws that provide such benefits.

Furthermore, all duly certified eligible medical tourism businesses shall be exempt from the payment of any tax, levy, excise tax, fee, license fee, franchise fee, or any other imposition of the State; or by the municipalities, directly or indirectly related with the construction of or addition to new facilities or premises intended for medical tourism or to the import or acquisition of medical equipment meant to operate in such industry.

Section 8. – Certifications, Licenses, and Endorsements. –

The Executive Director shall have the power to certify and issue licenses and permits for facilities or premises related to the medical tourism industry; to set

forth the rules and requirements for the evaluation of applications and the issuance of such licenses and permits; to supervise the industry's operators and service providers; and to suspend or revoke licenses and permits in case of noncompliance with the established rules and regulations.

Only those activities, facilities, and premises that comply with the rules, criteria, and requirements established by the Executive Director shall be certified as medical tourism activities, facilities, and premises, and only those may call and advertise themselves as pertaining to medical tourism.

The Secretary of Health shall issue a medical endorsement recognizing an activity as having complied with the quality criteria, the standards set forth by the Department of Health, and the applicable procedures regarding quality and excellence in rendering medical services, and making such facility and premise eligible for the benefits established in this Act.

The Executive Director shall issue a tourist endorsement recognizing an activity as having complied with the applicable criteria, standards, and procedures regarding quality and excellence in rendering tourist services, and making such activity eligible for the benefits established in this Act.

None of the provisions of this Act waive such facilities or premises from the processes of accreditation and licensing at the State or Federal level. Moreover, it does not exempt professionals from obtaining the licenses needed to practice health-related professions. Among the minimum requirements for certifying an activity, facility, or premise as pertaining to medical tourism are, without being limited to: accreditation by the Joint Commission, Board Certified medical providers, medical and tourist endorsements, program personnel who command the Spanish and English languages.

Section 9. – Infrastructure. –

The Executive Director shall have the necessary authorities and powers to build, improve, and manage infrastructure in order to facilitate the promotion and development of the medical tourism industry in Puerto Rico, as defined herein. The Executive Director shall coordinate with other government agencies the implementation of the provisions of this Act and may establish partnerships, agreements, and contracts with government agencies, public corporations, municipalities, cooperative unions, individuals from the private sector, and for-profit or non-profit private corporations for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act. Entirely private investments shall be permitted for the construction and development of medical tourism facilities and premises, insofar as these comply with the rules, requirements, and parameters established for the same.

Section 10. – Duties of the Planning Board. –

The Planning Board shall instruct the Regulations and Permits Administration to give priority to any initiative from the public or private sector for the development of medical tourism infrastructure, facilities, or premises when granting construction permits, according to the parameters for the same. In case of a public emergency, the State may request that the Board examine and issue the necessary permits according to the law to carry out any urgent public work related to medical tourism infrastructure, facilities, and premises. In case that the Governor declares an emergency, the State's agencies may overlook the provisions of this Act when granting permits, certifications, and licenses related to medical tourism infrastructure, facilities, and premises.

Section 11. – Parameters for the Development of Medical Tourism in Puerto Rico. –

For the purposes of this Act and in order for a world-class medical tourism industry to be established and developed in Puerto Rico, the Executive Director and the Consultative Board shall be guided by the following parameters, among others:

(a) The planning and marketing of medical tourism activities shall have as their main goal to achieve excellence in offering products and services in Puerto Rico and to meet the expectations of current and potential tourists from international markets who seek offers in such industry, as well as to take into consideration the existing and emerging trends in the local, national, and international markets for this type of tourism.

(b) The certification and development of medical tourism infrastructure, facilities, and premises shall aim for efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness when offering products and services to current and potential tourists seeking services of this kind, without disregarding other tourist and recreational activities that may complement such offer.

(c) Medical tourism activities and offers shall aim for the best and most efficient use of available resources in Puerto Rico for this type of tourism, combined with other offers and activities of a tourist, cultural, recreational, and educational nature, and shall include an educational program to promote knowledge of the resources and offers available in this area, as well as the best and most efficient use thereof. The Medical Sciences Campus may participate in these initiatives according to its availability of resources to such effect.

(d) Any development of medical tourism activities, facilities, and premises shall take into consideration the needs of the local community, and the evaluation and granting of certifications, licenses, endorsements, and permits for the same shall include, as part of such processes, a series of consultations to gauge the community's opinion.

(e) Any development of medical tourism activities, facilities, and premises shall include a periodic evaluation, supervision, and follow-up process in order to determine its impact on and benefit to the community

Section 12. – Advisory Council. –

An Advisory Council is hereby created, which shall be attached to the Consultative Board. The Advisory Council shall deal with health and tourism matters, among others, and its members shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Tourism Company. Among the members to be appointed by the Executive Director are, without being limited to: representatives from the Medical Discipline and Licensure Board, the Puerto Rico College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Puerto Rico Medical Association, the Puerto Rico Hospitals Association, the Puerto Rico Hotels Association, the Medical Sciences Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, the College of Nursing Professionals, and the Department of State, as well as the Department of the Treasury and the Director of the Puerto Rico Infrastructure Financing Authority, as the Executive Director deems fit.

Section 13. – Prohibitions, Fines, and Penalties. –

Any person who violates the provisions of this Act or the regulation created for its implementation, in addition to being imposed any administrative fine, may be prosecuted for a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or forty (40) hours of community service, or

both punishments, at the discretion of the Court. Community service shall be carried out under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and the administrative offenses and procedures shall be subject to the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended.

Section 14. – Funds for the Implementation of this Act. –

For the implementation of this Act and its public policy, the Tourism Company shall use its own annual funds and resources, without disregarding any other additional contributions made through special appropriations, fund transfers, and contributions or gifts from government agencies, public corporations, municipalities, and natural and juridical persons from the private sector. Any appropriated funds for the implementation of this Act, regardless of their origin, may be matched with funds from any other source from the public or private sector without major limitations other than those imposed by applicable laws and regulations.

Provided, further, that the Executive Director shall be authorized to use the human and fiscal resources of the Tourism Company, recognizing medical tourism as a niche market to which priority shall be given when resources are appropriated.

Section 15. – Severability Clause. –

If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, phrase, or part of this Act were declared invalid or unconstitutional by a Court with competent jurisdiction, the ruling to such effect shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, being limited only to such section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, phrase, or part thus declared invalid or unconstitutional. Section headings in this Act are included for reference and convenience only and do not constitute any part of this Act.

Section 16. – A paragraph (5) is hereby added to subsection (c) of Section 22 of Act No. 139 of August 1, 2008, known as the “Medical Discipline and Licensure Board Act,” to read as follows:

“Section 22. – Medical Discipline and Licensure Board – Kinds of License.–

- a. Regular license ...
- b. Special license ...
- c. Provisional license:

- 1. ...
- 2. ...
- 3. ...
- 4. ...

5. The Board may issue provisional licenses for a period of time not to exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days at the request of the Secretary of Health to physicians or osteopaths who practice medicine legally in any state of the United States of America and its territories and possessions, insofar as they comply with the eligibility criteria set forth by the Board, so that said physicians may accompany their patients to undergo medical care and treatment procedure in Puerto Rico in facilities, premises, or activities that have been duly certified and accredited under the “Medical Tourism Act of Puerto Rico.” The Department of Health shall approve a regulation to such effect.

Section 17. – Repeal of Act No. 52 of January 30, 2006. –

Act No. 52 of January 30, 2006, known as the “International Medical Care Council Act,” is hereby repealed.

Section 18. – Effectiveness. –

This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 196-2010 (S. B. 1131)** (**Conference**) of the **4th Session of the 16th Legislature** of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to adopt the “Puerto Rico Medical Tourism Act”; to adopt definitions; to establish the public policy regarding the promotion and development of said industry; to provide that the Executive Director of the Tourism Company shall have the convenient and necessary powers and authorities to implement such Act; to list the powers and authorities of said official; to create a Consultative Board to make recommendations to the Executive Director of the Tourism Company in such area; to create an Advisory Council that shall be responsible for advising the Consultative Board in matters of health and tourism; to provide financial incentives to eligible businesses which are certified as providing medical tourism services; to provide procedures to issue certifications and licenses for activities, etc.

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the 28th day of September, 2012.

María del Mar Ortiz Rivera