

(H.B. 675)

(No. 140)

(Approved July 18, 1998)

### **AN ACT**

To authorize the Secretary of the Department of Housing to create a Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Programs in Puerto Rico; provide for their periodic updating and establish the mechanisms for the exchange of information and the coordination with the municipalities of Puerto Rico.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The Government of Puerto Rico has always acknowledged the fact that housing is a fundamental part of the right of its inhabitants to enjoy an adequate way of life. Thus, it has implemented wide-ranging and forceful programs destined to foster the economic and social development of Puerto Rico in order to achieve a better quality of life, in which each family shall have a safe and healthy home in a proper environment.

The Government has sponsored the construction a low-cost housing by the private sector, by establishing the means by which said homes may be acquired according to conditions compatible with the family income. Likewise, it has stimulated the creation of cooperatives for the construction of housing projects, it has developed various types of housing and lots for lease or sale; has freely transferred the usufruct of lots, free of charge, granted property titles on homes and lots to eligible families, established plans for government subsidies at affordable interest rates and mortgage

guarantees to moderate-income families, and undertaken innumerable other programs.

However, there have been cases in which persons benefiting from such a program transfer their rights to other unqualified persons, and apply anew for similar benefits provided by the affordable housing programs. In order to prevent any beneficiary from profiting or undermining the purpose of the program by transferring to a subsequent acquirer that to which he/she is ineligible, the Legislature hereby provides for the establishment of a Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Programs in Puerto Rico.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1.- This Act shall be known as the "Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Programs in Puerto Rico Act".

Section 2.- The Secretary of the Department of Housing is hereby authorized to establish a Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Programs in Puerto Rico.

Section 3.- The inscription in said Register of every person who receives or has received benefits from any affordable housing program is hereby ordered so that the Department of Housing may have an updated Register of all these beneficiaries to determine in a more expeditious and efficient manner the eligibility of the applicants.

Section 4.- The Department of Housing is hereby directed to create, establish and coordinate the necessary mechanisms for the exchange of information between the municipal governments throughout the Island and said Department in order to include in said Register all the beneficiaries of affordable housing programs granted by said municipal entities.

Section 5.- The Secretary of the Department of Housing shall be responsible for preserving and updating the Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Projects in Puerto Rico.

Section 6.- The Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Projects in Puerto Rico shall include information about the beneficiary such as: full name, pseudonyms, date of birth, residential address, driver's license number as well as such data and information which is essential to achieve the purposes of this Act.

Section 7.- Regulations - The Secretary of the Department of Housing shall adopt, within a term not to exceed six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the rules and regulations needed for the implementation of this Act, which should establish the specific information and procedures that shall be included in the Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Projects in Puerto Rico.

Section 8.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

August 5, 1999

Luis G. Hidalgo, Director of the Office of Legislative Services of the Legislature of Puerto Rico, hereby certifies to the Secretary of State that he has duly compared the English and Spanish texts of Act No. 140 (H.B. 675) of the 3rd Session of the 13th Legislature of Puerto Rico, entitled:

**AN ACT** to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Housing to create a Computerized Register of Beneficiaries of Affordable Housing Programs in Puerto Rico; provide for their periodic updating and establish the mechanisms for the exchange of information and the coordination with the municipalities of Puerto Rico,

and finds the same are complete, true and correct versions of each other.

Luis G. Hidalgo