

McV ALERT
April 14, 2010

Plastic Bags Elimination Bill Passed by Puerto Rico Senate

On April 12, 2010, the Senate of Puerto Rico approved an amended version of Senate Bill 1251 to establish a public policy intended to eliminate the use of disposable plastic bags. The version of the Bill passed by the Senate includes a public policy pronouncement to completely eliminate the use and inventories of disposable plastic bags within 3years, and also directs businesses to make available to customers compostable or reusable bags within 210 days after the bill is signed into law. The approved Bill also directs the Puerto Rico Solid Waste Authority, the Environmental and Natural Resources Department, and the Environmental Quality Board to adopt related regulations within 180 days after the effectiveness of the law. Infringements to the proposed Act would be considered misdemeanors punishable with a fine no less than \$500.00 and no more than \$1,000.00. Second offenses will be punished with fines between \$2,000.00 and \$5,000.00. Community service related to the environment may also be imposed by courts as an additional punishment.

The Puerto Rico House of Representatives is considering the approval of House Bill 2415, which intends to establish a prohibition of the manufacturing, import, and use of non biodegradable plastic bags as of January 1, 2011.

If you have any questions or comments, or wish additional information regarding the matters discussed herein, please contact any of the attorneys listed below.

Dora M. Peñagaricano	787.250.5657	dmp@mcvpr.com
Samuel T. Céspedes Jr.	787.250.2610	scs@mcvpr.com
Iván G. Marrero	787.250.2606	igm@mcvpr.com
José R. Nadal Power	787.250.2634	jnp@mcvpr.com
Eunice Candelaria	787.250.5800	ecd@mcvpr.com

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