

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO  
LA FORTALEZA  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Administrative Bulletin Number: OE-2017-57

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, HON. RICARDO  
ROSSELLÓ-NEVARES, TO ALLOW ACTIVE DUTY NATIONAL GUARD  
PHYSICIANS OR OSTEOPATHIC DOCTORS TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN PUERTO  
RICO, AND TO GRANT STATE IMMUNITY TO ALL PUERTO RICO NATIONAL  
GUARD PHYSICIANS, AS WELL AS TO NATIONAL GUARD PHYSICIANS FROM  
OTHER STATES**

WHEREAS: The Government of Puerto Rico is taking all necessary measures to safeguard public order and protect the life, security, and property of our citizens.

WHEREAS: On September 19 and 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, becoming the most devastating weather event in eighty (80) years, both for the local infrastructure and for the provision of essential services to the citizens.

WHEREAS: On September 17, 2017, the Governor of Puerto Rico signed Executive Order No. 2017-047, Administrative Bulletin No. OE-2017-047, declaring a state of emergency in the face of the impending strike of Hurricane Maria.

WHEREAS: Article 15 of Law No. 211-1999, as amended ("Law No. 211-1999") authorizes the Governor to enforce such measures as may be necessary to handle the emergency during the emergency period, after declaring a state of emergency, in order to protect the security, health, and property of all the residents of Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS: Moreover, Subsection (b) of Article 15 of Law No. 211-1999, provides that the Governor of Puerto Rico may dictate, amend, or repeal any rules,

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as well as issue, amend, or cancel any orders that he may deem appropriate during the state of emergency or disaster.

WHEREAS: Under Subsection (c) of the aforementioned Article 15 of Law 211-1999, the Governor of Puerto Rico may also enforce any state regulations, orders, plans, or measures for emergency or disaster situations, and may change said regulations, orders, plans, or measures as he may deem fit.

WHEREAS: As provided in Article 19 of Law 211-1999, any rules or orders issued during a state of emergency or disaster shall have the force of law for the duration of said state of emergency or disaster.

WHEREAS: Due to the extent of the emergency caused by Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico has implemented Law No. 178-1996, known as the "Emergency and Disaster Management Assistance Act," for the first time since its enactment. This Law adopts the provisions of the federal law known as "Emergency Management Assistance Compact" (EMAC).

WHEREAS: Article 6 of Law No. 178-1996 provides that: "When the holder of a license, certificate, or other permit issued by any state who is part of the Agreement [EMAC], which proofs that the individual meets all professional, mechanical, or other qualifications, and when said assistance is requested by the recipient state, it shall be understood that said person has a license, certificate, or permit from the state requesting assistance to provide the assistance related to said skills in a declared emergency or disaster, subject to the limitations and conditions that may be through an executive order or by any other means."

WHEREAS: The situation in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria poses an impending risk to the health and general wellbeing of citizens.

THEREFORE: I, RICARDO A. ROSSELLÓ-NEVARES, Governor of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of Puerto Rico, hereby DECLARE and ORDER the following:

SECTION 1: All National Guard physicians or osteopathic doctors who are in active military duty in Puerto Rico under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) are exempted from the requirements set forth in Law No. 139-2008, as amended, known as the "Licensing and Medical Discipline Board Act," and may practice medicine in Puerto Rico without having to request a license issued by the Licensing and Medical Discipline Board, provided that they are duly accredited or licensed in other jurisdiction of the United States of America.

SECTION 2: All National Guard physicians and other health professionals, as well as any other national guard physicians from other states, who are in active state military duty in accordance with the state of emergency declared by means of Executive Order 2017-47 and the provisions of an EMAC, shall be considered as employees of the Government of Puerto Rico and shall be covered by the immunity granted under Article 41.050 of Law No. 77 of June 19, 1957, as amended, known as the "Puerto Rico Insurance Code," while acting in compliance of their duties and functions for the Government of Puerto Rico.

SECTION 3: VALIDITY. This Executive Order shall come into force immediately and shall be adopted with retroactive effect from September 17, 2017, the date when the Executive Order declaring a state of emergency in Puerto Rico due to the impending strike of Hurricane Maria was signed.

SECTION 15 PUBLICATION. This Executive Order must be filed immediately with the Department of State and the widest possible publication is hereby ordered.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Government of Puerto Rico to be affixed, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October of 2017.



  
RICARDO ROSSELLÓ NEVARES  
GOBERNADOR

Enacted in accordance with the law, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October of 2017.



LUIS GERARDO RIVERA MARÍN  
SECRETARIO DE ESTADO