

(S.B. 865)

(No. 148)

(Approved December 12, 2005)

AN ACT

To declare the building that houses the oldest Spiritual Retreats Institution in Puerto Rico, Casa Manresa, located in the Municipality of Aibonito, a historic monument.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The foundation of Casa Manresa in 1945 was prompted by the arrival of three Jesuit priests in the town of Aibonito to whom the Bishop of Ponce, Monsignor Willinger, gave a farm he had bought so that they would build, under his sponsorship and protection, a house for spiritual exercises. That same year, Casa Manresa of Aibonito began to offer spiritual services to the parishioners that came together there to nourish their spirit with the word of God. According to Father Aurelio Adán Espinosa, the greatest contribution of Casa Manresa to Puerto Rican society has been the reaffirmation of the faith and the Christian, moral, spiritual and community values.

Casa Manresa has been devoted to strengthening the family, helping thousands of persons to solve their problems, enlightening our young people, forming future happy homes and fostering religiousness through spiritual exercises. This foundation has been characterized by approaching the social problems the Island is facing in a different manner, through spiritual

workshops and retreats to married and engaged couples, and young and divorced people so as to enable them to create conscience about the existing situation while at the same time searching for possible solutions to them. The focus of these retreats and workshops has been changing year after year in order to adapt them to the social changes and problems that spring up in our society. To achieve these objectives and evangelizing goals, Casa Manresa has an excellent team of people who work under the direction of Father Aurelio Adán Espinosa and hundreds of volunteers who during every retreat or workshop contribute with their life experiences, knowledge and faith to show that there is a way and an option in the lives of all human beings that will allow them to make a difference.

After sixty (60) years of service, Casa Manresa of Aibonito is celebrating its anniversary and undertaking new challenges and goals for the benefit of our citizens.

Because of the above, this Legislature recognizes the enormous contribution this group of persons makes to our culture and society through the oldest Spiritual Retreats Institution in Puerto Rico, Casa Manresa, and believes it meritorious to declare the same a historic monument.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.-The building that houses the oldest Spiritual Retreats Institution in Puerto Rico, Casa Manresa, located in the Municipality of Aibonito, is hereby declared to be a historic monument.

Section 2.-The Planning Board, in coordination with and the advise of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the Commonwealth Office of Historic Preservation, shall take the steps needed to faithfully comply with the provisions of this Act and shall include the oldest Spiritual Retreats

Institution, Casa Manresa, in its list of Historic Sites and Places, pursuant to the provisions of the legislation and regulations in effect.

Section 3.-This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 148 (S.B. 865) of the 2nd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to declare the building that houses the oldest Spiritual Retreats Institution in Puerto Rico, Casa Manresa, located in the Municipality of Aibonito, a historic monument,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1st of March of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director