

(H. B. 1499)

(No. 197)

(Approved September 11, 2006)

## **AN ACT**

To amend Section 604 of the “Civil Code of Puerto Rico,” as amended, to update its wording with respect to the person.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The “Civil Code of Puerto Rico,” in its several amendments and additions, goes all the way back to a Spanish Civil Code that is more than a century-old. This is evinced, by the numerous and at times, obsolete juridical figures, language and references that are archaic in 2005.

Although in the literary sense of our language we use the word “man” to refer to humanity in general, it is necessary to clearly state to whom we are referring in a law that governs such vital aspects of our legal system. It is even more so when evidently referring to a specific person, rather than to the human race in general.

Phraseology such as that used in Section 604 of the Civil Code must be tempered to the clear sense that is now obtained from its meaning, which refers to the person or the persons who inherit an estate, rather than to all humanity. Therefore, this Section is hereby so amended.

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

Section 1.- Section 604 of the “Civil Code of Puerto Rico,” as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 604.- Succession as testamentary or legal

Succession is granted either by the will of the person as expressed in a will or, in its absence, by provision of law.

The first is called testamentary, the second legal succession.

It may also be bestowed partly by will of the person and partly by provision of law.”

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 197 (H.B. 1499) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend Section 604 of the “Civil Code of Puerto Rico,” as amended, to update its wording with respect to the person,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 30<sup>th</sup> of April of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director