

(S.B. 601)

(No. 220)

(Approved September 29, 2006)

AN ACT

To amend Section 37 of Act No. 75 of July 2, 1987, as amended, known as the Puerto Rico Notarial Act, in order to increase from thirteen (13) to fourteen (14) inches the length of the paper used for writing public notarial documents.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

From the lack of the same to the inconvenience of working with paper different in size to that used for other documents, notarial paper is a motive for controversy in the notarial practice. In the preparation of the protocol the paper presently used is impractical due to the difference between its size and the paper size used for other documents which at times must be part of the protocol. When a notary must make immediate changes in a deed, he/she is faced with the problem of not having access to the proper paper and must then use legal paper which is generally more accessible. It is also a known fact that in practice a great number of deeds have been executed in legal paper and not in notarial paper.

Notaries, as custodians of the public faith, must be flexible entities, capable of adapting to diverse situations. Their services are generally rendered outside their offices and under conditions whereby they do not have available all the resources they would have there; although in spite of

this they are required to fulfill their duties. The purpose of this amendment is to give notaries the flexibility they need to concentrate on their duties and not in technical matters which are often impossible to achieve. This is why we believe it prudent to amend the Notarial Act in order to increase from thirteen to fourteen inches the length of the paper notaries use as well as to allow that said paper be of any quality or type.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.-Section 37 of Act No. 75 of July 2, 1987, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 37.-Public notarial documents shall be written on sheets of paper or folios fourteen inches long by eight and a half inches wide, and on the side by which they are to be bound they shall have a blank margin of twenty millimeters plus another on the left side of the deed of sixty millimeters and on the right a strip or margin of three millimeters. If the reverse side of the sheet is used, the margins on it shall completely coincide with those on the face of the document.”

Section 2.-This Act shall take effect January 1, 2007.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 220 (S.B. 601) of the 4th Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to amend Section 37 of Act No. 75 of July 2, 1987, as amended, known as the Puerto Rico Notarial Act, in order to increase from thirteen (13) to fourteen (14) inches the length of the paper used for writing public notarial documents,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 8th of December of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director