

(S. B. 1568)

**(No. 269)**

(Approved December 14, 2006)

**AN ACT**

To declare the fourth Monday of September of each year as the “Family Dinner Day,” a day to eat dinner with your children in Puerto Rico.

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The family is considered by many cultures as the most important institution of society. By providing advice, support, and unconditional love, the family helps shape the character and the future of our people. It is family unity which continues to serve as the main resource in the preservation of hope, sharing love, and emotional stability. Family conversations and bonding at the dinner table provide the opportunity for parents to know more deeply about their children’s daily lives and to better understand the challenges they face in their lives, particularly in these times, when in many cases, both parents work outside their homes.

In a free society, the common good depends on the character of its citizens. This character is defined and shaped from the early days, through the love and advice of their families. As parents continue to raise healthy children, they shall contribute to the enjoyment of a brilliant and promising future for our youth.

Investigations conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, (CASA) at Columbia University have shown that children who eat dinner with their parents are less likely to smoke, abuse alcohol, and

use drugs. Recognizing that family intervention is the most valuable tool in the prevention of drug abuse, it is necessary for the people to promote continuous family activities and encourage all families to make the family dinner an important regular activity in their lives.

Last year, the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, together with the governors of the 47 states celebrated with delight the proclamation of the fourth Monday of September as Family Dinner Day.

For all of the above, the Senate of Puerto Rico deems it necessary and indispensable that the People of Puerto Rico join this movement and declare the fourth Monday of September as “Family Dinner Day, and to bond as a family unit in order to avoid and prevent many of the problems that concern our people today.

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

Section 1.- The fourth Monday of September of each year is hereby declared as “Family Dinner Day.”

Section 2.- The Governor of Puerto Rico, through a proclamation to such effect, shall exhort the People of Puerto Rico to commemorate the fourth Monday of September of each year as “Family Dinner Day.”

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. 269 (S.B. 1568) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to declare the fourth Monday of September of each year as the “Family Dinner Day,” a day to eat dinner with your children in Puerto Rico,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 16<sup>th</sup> of August of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director