

(S. B. 650)

(No. 124-2013)

(Approved October 23, 2013)

AN ACT

To renumber current Articles 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, and 305 as Articles 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, and 308 of Act No. 146-2012, as amended, known as the “Penal Code of Puerto Rico,” in order to restore the corresponding codification in accordance with the initial structure created during the approval of this statute.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Upon the elimination of Articles 200, 247, and 297 of Act No. 146-2012, as amended (hereinafter the Penal Code), and the approval of Act No. 10-2013, it was proposed that the subsequent Sections thereof be renumbered.

Although there is no formal rule, some pundits on the matter have stated that in lengthy and complex bodies of laws, such as the Penal Code, when repealing one or several Articles the best practice is to leave such Articles blank in order to maintain the original sequence of the piece. This bill intends to conform the current Penal Code to said practice.

In the Court's communications culture, lawyers, prosecutors, and judges refer to the Articles of the Penal Code by their original approval number for purposes of procedural economy, statutory certainty and stability, and the briefs filed with the Court. Changing the number of an Article, as the aforementioned amendment does, changes the Article to which it refers and may cause confusion. Therefore, this Legislative Assembly concludes that it is preferable to leave the number of the repealed Article blank and to adopt the practice most recommended by pundits in this matter.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Current Articles 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, and 305 are hereby renumbered as Articles 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, and 308 of Act No. 146-2012, as amended.

Section 2.- The renumbering adopted in this measure shall have no effect on active cases or proceedings in the General Court of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico due to the Articles object of the renumbering.

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. 124-2013 (S. B. 650)** of the **2nd Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to renumber current Articles 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, etc.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 31st day of October, 2016.

Juan Luis Martínez Martínez
Director