



LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO

## *Office of Legislative Services*

### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 2 (S.B. 1897) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend the first paragraph of Section 2 of Act No. 85 of September 12, 1990, as amended, in order to authorize the components of the Protection and Strengthening of the Family Advisory Board to delegate their participation on the Board on a representative,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 15<sup>th</sup> of December of 2003.

Elba Rosa Rodríguez Fuentes  
Director

(S. B. 1897)

(No. 2)

(Approved January 1, 2003)

## **AN ACT**

To amend the first paragraph of Section 2 of Act No. 85 of September 12, 1990, as amended, in order to authorize the components of the Protection and Strengthening of the Family Advisory Board to delegate their participation on the Board on a representative.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

A family is the most important and oldest basic social unit to have been established throughout history. For such reason and importance, several government agencies render a diverse of services whose main objective is the conservation and preservation of the family unit. The Department of the Family, specifically, given its duties and functions established by law, has a great responsibility and a special interest in promoting, through its different programs and services, the protection, strengthening and development of Puerto Rican families.

In order to achieve these purposes of compelling interest for the social development of our families, the Protection and Strengthening of the Family Advisory Board was established. This Advisory Board is attached to the Department of the Family and its main objective is to eliminate the duplication of functions and services, giving emphasis to its function as the means to express the public policy on family, advising and coordinating all the efforts of the different government bodies in order to achieve the

protection, strengthening and the adequate development of the Puerto Rican family which vests it with a clear public interest.

The Advisory Board is composed of public officials of excellent reputation and public recognition, with vast experience in the development of the family unit, and the educational and social areas. These officials are: the Secretary of the Department of the Family, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Secretary of the Department of Housing, the Director of the Social Investigations Center, the Director of the Graduate School of Social Work of the University of Puerto Rico and five additional members designated by the Governor.

Nevertheless, it is of general knowledge that these public officials hold offices that take up much of their time and attention. Therefore, the time they devote to the Protection and Strengthening of the Family Advisory Board is limited, which entails that, very often, it is necessary to suspend or delay the meetings of its members.

Therefore, the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico deems it necessary and convenient to amend Act No. 85 of September 12, 1990, in order to authorize the public officials who are members of the Advisory Board, to delegate their participation on a representative.

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

Section 1.- The first paragraph of Section 2 of Act No. 85 of September 12, 1990, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2.- The Board shall be composed of eleven (11) members, of which six (6) shall be ex-officio members, to wit: The Secretaries of the Departments of the Family, Health, Education, Housing, or their designated representatives who shall have the capacity, knowledge and decision-making power to effectively represent the executive official they will substitute. The

persons thus designated shall answer directly to the Head of the Agency, who shall in turn, be responsible for the decisions made by the Board. The Directors of the Social Investigation Center and of the Graduate School of Social Work of the University of Puerto Rico shall also be part of the Board. The remaining five (5) members shall be designated by the Governor and shall be persons of recognized interest, professional good standing and experience in the field of family welfare. The first appointments shall be staggered, four (4) for a four (4) year term and the remaining three (3) members for two (2) years. Subsequent appointments shall all be for four (4) years. The members shall hold office until their successor are appointed and take office.

The Governor ..."

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