



LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO

*Office of Legislative Services*

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 182 (S.B. 328) of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend the title and Sections 1, 5, 8 and 9 of Act No. 17 of June 7, 1997, in order to establish that the award granted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico for excellence in sports award shall be called the "Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo Excellence in Sports Medal of the Legislature of Puerto Rico.",

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 28<sup>th</sup> of June of 2004.

Elba Rosa Rodríguez-Euentes  
Director

(S. B. 328)

**(No. 182)**

(Approved August 16, 2003)

**AN ACT**

To amend the title and Sections 1, 5, 8 and 9 of Act No. 17 of June 7, 1997, in order to establish that the award granted by the Legislature of Puerto Rico for excellence in sports award shall be called the "Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo Excellence in Sports Medal of the Legislature of Puerto Rico."

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

Act No. 17 of June 7, 1997 established an award called "The Puerto Rico Legislature's Excellence in Sports Medal" to annually acknowledge the merits achieved by sportsmen in the state or international arena who have rendered exceptional and ennobling services to the sporting image of Puerto Rico.

This Legislature considers that the award must carry the name of attorney Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo, who dedicated his life to the promotion and organization of civic, cultural and sporting activities, always for the benefit of the best interests of Puerto Rican youth. This great gentleman reached important positions within different sporting organizations, local and international, such as the International Olympic Committee, the Caribbean and Central American Sporting Organization and the Olympic Committee of Puerto Rico. Also, he received the acknowledgement of the governments of Taiwan, Cuba, El Salvador, Colombia and the Dominican Republic which granted him the Duarte

Sánchez y Mella Order, the highest decoration granted by the government of this Republic, and he was honored with the Olympic Order, the highest award granted by the International Olympic Committee.

Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo, born in Vieques, was an attorney by profession with a singular vision of the future, dedicating his life to sports favoring youth, and he was the creating genius of the Olympic Village that today carries his name and of the Olympic Village Sports Technical School. His straightforwardness, dedication, and love for Puerto Rico and loyalty to the most elemental Olympian principles have been a source of inspiration for our young sportsmen. The people of Puerto Rico shall always appreciate the deeds of *Don* Germán and in memory of his patriotic deeds in favor of Puerto Rican sports, the Legislature of Puerto Rico Medal for Excellence is given the name of Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo.

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

Section 1.- Section 1 of Act No. 17 of June 7, 1997, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 1.- An award is established with the name of “Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo Excellence in Sports Medal of the Legislature of Puerto Rico” to annually acknowledge outstanding merits in the state or international arena of sportsmen who have rendered exceptional and ennobling services for the sporting image of Puerto Rico.

The activities during the ceremony for delivering the award shall be performed annually in a joint session of the Legislature and will be coordinated by the Presidents of both Bodies.”

Section 2.- Section 5 of Act No. 17 of June 7, 1997, is amended to read as follows:

“Section 5.- It is also established that the ‘Joint Commission of the Legislature for the Awarding of the Legislature of Puerto Rico Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo Excellence in Sports Medal,’ which shall be composed of nine (9) members, four (4) Senate members, four (4) members of the House of Representatives and one (1) whose legislative body of origin can be altered year after year, all designated by the President of each Body. Of these, one (1) shall be the President of the Commission of the Senate with jurisdiction over recreation and sports and one (1) shall be the President of the Commission of the House with jurisdiction over recreation and sports who shall be co-Presidents.

No more than three (3) members for each chamber can belong to the same political party.

Section 3.- Section 8 of Act No. 17 of June 7, 1977 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 8.- In cases presented before the Legislature for a Resolution in which it is proposed to grant this distinction to a person or persons in particular, this shall be referred to the Legislature’s Joint Commission for Awarding ‘Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo Excellence in Sports Medal of the Legislature of Puerto Rico’ which shall be considered and recommendations presented to both Bodies.”

Section 4.- Section 9 of Act No. 17 of June 7, 1997, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 9.- The Legislature shall arrange for the use and conservation of a registry where all matters related to the identity and the deeds of award winners to the ‘Germán Rieckehoff-Sampayo Excellence in Sports Medal of the Legislature of Puerto Rico’ shall be recorded with the purpose of preserving the ennobling deeds for posterity of such a select group. Said

registry will be kept in the place, hall, office or division of the Legislature determined by the Presidents of both Bodies.”

Section 5.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.