POTESTAS AGENDI (FREEDOM TO DO)

DEFINITION Let x be an animal, and y a change in some thing (which may be x itself). Then x is free to do y iff

(i) there is a (natural or social) law, or set of laws, relating x and y;

(ii) there are no constraints on either x or y that prevent x from doing y or, if there are any such constraints, x has the ability and means to remove them;

(iii) x is not forced to do y: i.e., it is possible for x not do do y .

Remark 1 The laws mentioned in (i) can be causal, probabilistic, or mixed; and they are natural or social, not legal. Remark 2 Reichenbach (1959 Ch. VII) attempted to define free will in probabilistic terms. But the concept of probability can be used only within the context of a definite

stochastic theory (e.g. a future probabilistic theory of human action); frequencies (or percentages) can be stray, probabilities are always systemic.