

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2000

To set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State of
the Union.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2013

Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KIND, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GARCIA, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted
as a State of the Union.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Status
5 Resolution Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In 1898, Puerto Rico became a United
4 States territory and persons born in Puerto Rico
5 have been granted United States citizenship by law
6 since March 2, 1917.

7 (2) Puerto Rico has been granted authority
8 over local matters that is similar to the authority
9 that the several States possess, but Puerto Rico re-
10 mains subject to the powers of Congress under the
11 Territory Clause of the Constitution of the United
12 States.

13 (3) The approximately 3,700,000 residents of
14 Puerto Rico do not have a democratic form of gov-
15 ernment at the national level, because United States
16 citizens residing in the territory are disenfranchised
17 in the election for the President and the Vice Presi-
18 dent of the United States, are not represented in the
19 United States Senate, and their one representative
20 in the United States House of Representatives can
21 only vote in committees of the United States House
22 of Representatives.

23 (4) The Federal Government may—and often
24 does—treat Puerto Rico and its residents unequally
25 under Federal program, tax, and other laws relative

1 to the several States and the District of Columbia
2 and their residents.

3 (5) On November 6, 2012, the Government of
4 Puerto Rico held a two-part referendum. The first
5 question asked voters if Puerto Rico “should con-
6 tinue to have its present form of territorial status”.
7 Of the 1,798,987 voters who chose an option, 53.97
8 percent voted against continued territorial status.

9 (6) The second question asked voters to express
10 their preference among the three possible alter-
11 natives to territorial status: statehood, independence,
12 and nationhood in free association with the United
13 States. Of the 1,363,854 voters who chose an option,
14 61.16 percent voted for statehood.

15 (7) The number of votes cast in favor of state-
16 hood exceeded the number of votes cast in favor of
17 continued territorial status.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
19 for a federally authorized ratification vote in Puerto Rico
20 on the admission of Puerto Rico into the Union as a State
21 and, if a majority of voters ratify Puerto Rico’s desire for
22 statehood, to describe the steps that the President and
23 Congress shall take to enable the admission of Puerto Rico
24 as a State of the Union.

1 **SEC. 3. RATIFICATION VOTE.**

2 The State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico is
3 authorized to provide for a ratification vote on the admis-
4 sion of Puerto Rico into the Union as a State, in accord-
5 ance with rules and regulations determined by the Com-
6 mission, including qualifications for voter eligibility, with
7 the following on the ballot:

8 “As a State:

9 “(A) Puerto Rico would be permanently
10 united to the other States of the Union.

11 “(B) All provisions of the Constitution of
12 the United States that apply to the States
13 would apply to Puerto Rico.

14 “(C) Individuals born in Puerto Rico
15 would be United States citizens by virtue of the
16 Constitution of the United States, instead of by
17 virtue of laws of the United States.

18 “(D) Puerto Rico would be treated equally
19 with the other States in all Federal laws of gen-
20 eral application.

21 “(E) There would be a period of transition
22 to statehood, during which equal treatment of
23 Puerto Rico in program and tax laws would be
24 phased in.

25 “(F) Puerto Rico would be represented in
26 the United States Senate by two Senators, in

1 the United States House of Representatives by
2 a number of Representatives in proportion to
3 its share of the national population (and the
4 number of Members of the House of Represent-
5 atives would be increased by the same number),
6 and for the election of the President and the
7 Vice President of the United States by a num-
8 ber of votes in the Electoral College equal to
9 the number of its Senators and Representatives.

10 “(G) The Government of Puerto Rico, like
11 the governments of the other States, would
12 have permanent authority over all matters not
13 delegated to the Federal Government or the
14 people by the Constitution of the United States.

15 Do you want Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State
16 of the United States? Yes_____ No_____”.

17 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION.**

18 (a) **PRESIDENTIAL ACTION.**—If a majority of votes
19 cast in the ratification vote held under section 3 are for
20 the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union,
21 the President, not later than 180 days after the certifi-
22 cation of the vote, shall submit to Congress legislation to
23 admit Puerto Rico as a State of the Union on an equal
24 footing with the several States in all respects, consistent
25 with the terms of this Act.

1 (b) LEGISLATIVE ACTION.—If a majority of votes
2 cast in the ratification vote held under section 3 are for
3 the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union,
4 this Act constitutes a commitment by Congress to act,
5 through legislation, to admit Puerto Rico as a State of
6 the Union on an equal footing with the several States in
7 all respects, consistent with the terms of this Act.

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