

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4766

To require the Secretary of Education to conduct a study and submit a report regarding the availability of educational instruction in the English language to student citizens in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to conduct a study and submit a report regarding the availability of educational instruction in the English language to student citizens in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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 “English Empowerment
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

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

1 (1) The Government provides more than
2 \$10,000,000,000 to the Commonwealth of Puerto
3 Rico (referred to in this Act as “Puerto Rico”) an-
4 nually with a significant portion of such amount pro-
5 vided through Federal assistance for education.

6 (2) The Government should ensure that it is
7 not subsidizing an education system in which stu-
8 dent citizens of the United States in Puerto Rico
9 (referred to in this Act as “student citizens”) who
10 want greater access to English language education
11 are denied that opportunity.

12 (3) Local government officials, educators, and
13 parents in Puerto Rico who want to make English
14 language education available to all student citizens
15 need to be aware that Congress is in support of their
16 efforts.

17 (4) Regardless of Puerto Rico’s political status,
18 English is a universal language of economic and so-
19 cial empowerment and student citizens should have
20 open and equal access to English education without
21 becoming inadvertent victims of the debate regard-
22 ing the political status of Puerto Rico.

23 (5) If Puerto Rico opts to become a State at
24 some future date, it will have to comply with the na-
25 tional English language policy, and if independence

1 is the ultimate status of Puerto Rico, then English
2 should be strongly promoted as a universal language
3 of economic and social empowerment.

4 (6) It is imperative for Congress, which pre-
5 sides over the present commonwealth system, to pro-
6 mote English for the student citizens of Puerto Rico.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this legislation is to
8 require the Secretary of Education to develop policy rec-
9 ommendations throughout the next decade to address the
10 unique language education problems in Puerto Rico with-
11 out delay to ensure that student citizens there have an
12 opportunity to learn, master, use, and promote the
13 English language to obtain an equal footing with global
14 competitors.

15 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
17 date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter
18 for the next 10 years, the Secretary of Education shall
19 conduct a study and submit, to the Speaker of the House
20 of Representatives and the President of the Senate, a re-
21 port regarding the availability of educational instruction
22 in the English language to student citizens in public
23 schools in Puerto Rico.

24 (b) REPORT.—The report shall include comprehen-
25 sive, specific, and complete recommendations for measures

1 that can be implemented if Congress adopts legislation
2 that provides conditions and restrictions on the availability
3 and use of Federal assistance for education in Puerto
4 Rico, including English instruction requirements for Fed-
5 eral Pell grant recipients.

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