

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1405

To improve the collection and publication of statistics relating to the
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself and Mr. SERRANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Reform, Education and Labor, Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve the collection and publication of statistics relating to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Puerto Rico Data Collection Equality Act”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MATTERS RELATED TO FEDERAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

- Sec. 101. Plan to include the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in Federal statistical programs.
- Sec. 102. Statistics to be collected and reported by the Census Bureau.
- Sec. 103. Bureau of Economic Analysis treatment of U.S. Territories.
- Sec. 104. National Center for Education Statistics treatment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 105. National Agricultural Statistics Service treatment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 106. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: National Survey on Drug Use and Health.
- Sec. 107. National Center for Health Statistics treatment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 108. Bureau of Justice inclusion of Puerto Rico in justice statistics.
- Sec. 109. Energy Information Administration treatment of Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 110. Bureau of Labor Statistics treatment of Puerto Rico.

TITLE II—MATTERS RELATED TO PUERTO RICO'S ECONOMY

- Sec. 201. Annual update of the Report on the Competitiveness of Puerto Rico's Economy.
- Sec. 202. Effect of electric power on the economic growth of Puerto Rico.

1 TITLE I—MATTERS RELATED TO 2 FEDERAL STATISTICAL PRO- 3 GRAMS

4 SEC. 101. PLAN TO INCLUDE THE COMMONWEALTH OF 5 PUERTO RICO IN FEDERAL STATISTICAL 6 PROGRAMS.

7 (a) PLAN.—The head of the Interagency Council on
8 Statistical Policy shall develop a plan to collect and pub-
9 lish statistics regarding the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
10 in the same manner as statistics are collected and reported
11 by Federal agencies for the several States.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The head of the Interagency
13 Council on Statistical Policy, in coordination with the

1 heads of appropriate Federal agencies, shall implement
2 the plan developed under subsection (a).

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, and every two years there-
5 after, the head of the Interagency Council on Statistical
6 Policy shall submit to Congress a report which shall in-
7 clude—

8 (1) a description of the plan developed under
9 subsection (a); and

10 (2) information on the implementation of such
11 plan.

12 **SEC. 102. STATISTICS TO BE COLLECTED AND REPORTED**
13 **BY THE CENSUS BUREAU.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of the
15 Census, in consultation with the heads of appropriate Fed-
16 eral agencies, shall include statistics regarding the Com-
17 monwealth of Puerto Rico collected and reported by the
18 Bureau as part of the statistical programs described in
19 subsection (b).

20 (b) STATISTICAL PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The sta-
21 tistical programs described in this subsection include the
22 following:

23 (1) Census of Governments.

24 (2) Survey of Business Owners and Self-Em-
25 ployed Persons.

1 (3) Building Permits Survey.

2 (4) Quarterly Workforce Indicators.

3 (5) American Housing Survey.

4 (6) Construction Progress Reporting Survey.

5 (7) Housing Vacancy Survey.

6 (8) Manufactured Housing Survey.

7 (9) Value of Construction Put in Place Survey.

8 (10) Current Population Survey.

9 (c) NATIONAL ECONOMIC CENSUS.—The Director of
10 the Bureau of the Census shall—

11 (1) collect and report statistics regarding the
12 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the Economic
13 Census of Island Areas in a manner consistent, in
14 terms of both substance and timing, with the collec-
15 tion and reporting of statistics for the National Eco-
16 nomic Census; and

17 (2) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
18 actment of this Act, submit to Congress a report
19 recommending whether statistics regarding the Com-
20 monwealth of Puerto Rico should be included in the
21 National Economic Census rather than in the Eco-
22 nomic Census of Island Areas.

23 (d) POPULATION OF TERRITORIES.—With respect to
24 any calculation or estimate of the total population of the
25 United States conducted by the Bureau of the Census, in-

cluding the decennial census of population under section 141 of title 13, United States Code, the Director of the Bureau of the Census shall include in any such calculation or estimate, and any report issued or published in connection with such calculation or estimate, the total population of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any other territory or possession of the United States.

**SEC. 103. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TREATMENT OF
U.S. TERRITORIES.**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis shall include Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands in its quarterly calculation of real gross domestic product by State and include such calculations in its estimates of the gross domestic product of the Nation as a whole.

**SEC. 104. NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS
TREATMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PUERTO RICO.**

The Secretary of Education, acting through the National Center for Education Statistics, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, collect and publish data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the same manner as data is collected and published for the several States.

1 **SEC. 105. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**
2 **TREATMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF**
3 **PUERTO RICO.**

4 (a) SURVEYS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO
5 RICO.—The Administrator of the National Agricultural
6 Statistics Service shall—

7 (1) include, to the maximum extent practicable,
8 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the surveys
9 conducted by the Service; and

10 (2) in the case of agricultural data collection
11 that cannot be carried out under the surveys de-
12 scribed in paragraph (1), identify an alternative
13 method of collecting such data from the Common-
14 wealth of Puerto Rico.

15 (b) REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF SURVEYS IN THE
16 COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.—Not later than 1
17 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
18 ministrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
19 shall submit a report to Congress that includes rec-
20 ommendations on the feasibility of conducting surveys in
21 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

22 **SEC. 106. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERV-**
23 **ICES ADMINISTRATION: NATIONAL SURVEY**
24 **ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH.**

25 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
26 of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Assistant

1 Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use shall sub-
2 mit to each committee of the Congress a report on the
3 status of efforts to include the populations of the Com-
4 monwealth of Puerto Rico and the other territories of the
5 United States in the National Survey on Drug Use and
6 Health for fiscal year 2022 and subsequent fiscal years.

7 **SEC. 107. NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS**
8 **TREATMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF**
9 **PUERTO RICO.**

10 Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (42
11 U.S.C. 242k) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsection (n) as sub-
13 section (o); and

14 (2) by inserting after subsection (m) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(n) In carrying out this section, the Secretary, act-
17 ing through the Center, shall take all reasonable steps to
18 collect, evaluate, and make available information with re-
19 spect to the populations of the Commonwealth of Puerto
20 Rico and the other territories to the same extent as the
21 Secretary collects, evaluates, and makes available informa-
22 tion with respect to the populations of the several States.”.

1 **SEC. 108. BUREAU OF JUSTICE INCLUSION OF PUERTO**
 2 **RICO IN JUSTICE STATISTICS.**

3 Section 302(d) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
 4 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10132(d)) is amend-
 5 ed by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

6 “(3) INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICO IN JUSTICE
 7 STATISTICS.—To the extent practicable, the Director
 8 shall gather information from Puerto Rico in car-
 9 rying out the statistical collection, analysis, and dis-
 10 semination functions of the Bureau.”.

11 **SEC. 109. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION TREAT-**
 12 **MENT OF PUERTO RICO.**

13 The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Admin-
 14 istrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall
 15 annually update the data and information included on the
 16 website of the Energy Information Administration in order
 17 to ensure, to the extent practicable, that the data and in-
 18 formation included on the website with respect to Puerto
 19 Rico is as inclusive and complete as the data and informa-
 20 tion included on the website with respect to any State.

21 **SEC. 110. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS TREATMENT OF**
 22 **PUERTO RICO.**

23 (a) UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.—The Bureau of Labor
 24 Statistics shall calculate the unemployment rate of Puerto
 25 Rico and include such calculation when calculating and re-
 26 porting the Nation’s unemployment rate.

(b) INFLATION.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics shall calculate the rate of inflation in Puerto Rico and include such calculation when calculating and reporting the rate of inflation of the Nation.

TITLE II—MATTERS RELATED TO PUERTO RICO’S ECONOMY

SEC. 201. ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE REPORT ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF PUERTO RICO’S ECONOMY.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York shall annually update the report titled “Report on the Competitiveness of Puerto Rico’s Economy” (published June 29, 2012).

SEC. 202. EFFECT OF ELECTRIC POWER ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF PUERTO RICO.

The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall annually submit to Congress a report on the cost and unreliability of electric power in Puerto Rico and how such cost and unreliability affects the economic growth of Puerto Rico.

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