

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2944

To enable the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to determine the political status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2023

Mr. WICKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To enable the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to determine the political status of 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 Status Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—PLEBISCITES

- Sec. 101. Initial plebiscite; runoff plebiscite.
- Sec. 102. Nonpartisan voter education campaign.
- Sec. 103. Oversight.
- Sec. 104. Funds for voter education, plebiscites.

TITLE II—TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
INDEPENDENCE STATUS

- Sec. 201. Definitions.
- Sec. 202. Constitutional convention.
- Sec. 203. Character of the constitution.
- Sec. 204. Submission; ratification.
- Sec. 205. Election of officers.
- Sec. 206. Conforming amendments to existing law.
- Sec. 207. Joint Transition Commission.
- Sec. 208. Proclamation by President.
- Sec. 209. Legal and constitutional provisions.
- Sec. 210. Judicial pronouncements.
- Sec. 211. Citizenship and immigration laws after Puerto Rican independence.
- Sec. 212. Individual rights to economic benefits and grants.

TITLE III—TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOVEREIGNTY
IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OPTION

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Sec. 302. Constitutional convention.
- Sec. 303. Character of the constitution.
- Sec. 304. Submission; ratification.
- Sec. 305. Election of officers.
- Sec. 306. Conforming amendments to existing law.
- Sec. 307. Proclamation by President; head of state of the nation Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 308. Legal and constitutional provisions.
- Sec. 309. Judicial pronouncements.
- Sec. 310. Citizenship and immigration laws after sovereignty through free association.
- Sec. 311. Bilateral Negotiating Commission.
- Sec. 312. Articles of free association approval, effective date, and termination.
- Sec. 313. Individual rights to economic benefits and grants.

TITLE IV—TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEHOOD
STATUS

- Sec. 401. Definitions.
- Sec. 402. Puerto Rico readiness for statehood; Presidential proclamation; admission into the Union of the United States.
- Sec. 403. Conforming amendments to existing law.
- Sec. 404. Territory and boundaries.
- Sec. 405. Constitution.
- Sec. 406. Elections of Senators and Representatives; certification; jurisdiction.
- Sec. 407. State title to land and property.
- Sec. 408. Continuity of laws, government, and obligations.
- Sec. 409. Judicial pronouncements.

TITLE V—TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
COMMONWEALTH STATUS

Sec. 501. Bilateral Negotiating Commission.

Sec. 502. Approval; effective date.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Application of Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.

Sec. 602. Severability.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) in 1898, the United States gained posses-
4 sion of Puerto Rico following the Spanish-American
5 War;

6 (2) Spain formally ceded Puerto Rico to the
7 United States of America under the Treaty of Peace
8 between the United States of America and the King-
9 dom of Spain, signed at Paris on December 10,
10 1898 (30 Stat. 1754);

11 (3) after a brief period of military rule, the Act
12 of April 12, 1900 (commonly known as the “Foraker
13 Act”) (31 Stat. 77, chapter 191), was enacted to es-
14 tablish a civil government in Puerto Rico, which—

15 (A) provided for—

16 (i) an executive branch headed by a
17 Governor and an executive council, to be
18 appointed by the President, with the advice
19 and consent of the Senate; and

20 (ii) a house of delegates, to be elected
21 by qualified voters of Puerto Rico; and

1 (B) was replaced in 1917 by a new organic
2 Act for Puerto, the Act of March 2, 1917 (com-
3 monly known as the “Jones-Shafroth Act”) (39
4 Stat. 951, chapter 145), which—

5 (i) established an elected Senate;

6 (ii) provided a bill of rights;

7 (iii) provided United States citizenship
8 to the people of Puerto Rico; and

9 (iv) in 1947, was amended to give
10 qualified voters of Puerto Rico the right to
11 elect a Governor;

12 (4) in 1950, Congress enacted the Act of July
13 3, 1950 (commonly known as the “Puerto Rico Fed-
14 eral Relations Act of 1950”) (64 Stat. 319, chapter
15 446), which—

16 (A) established that, “fully recognizing the
17 principle of government by consent”, the law
18 was “adopted in the nature of a compact so
19 that the people of Puerto Rico may organize a
20 government pursuant to a constitution of their
21 own adoption”; and

22 (B) on approval by the qualified voters of
23 Puerto Rico in a referendum, authorized the
24 Puerto Rico legislature to call a constitutional

1 convention to draft a constitution for Puerto
2 Rico;

3 (5) in a popular referendum held on June 4,
4 1951, 76.5 percent of the voters in Puerto Rico
5 voted in favor of drafting a constitution for Puerto
6 Rico;

7 (6) during the period beginning on September
8 17, 1951, and ending on February 6, 1952, a con-
9 stitutional convention was held in Puerto Rico;

10 (7) the constitution of the Commonwealth of
11 Puerto Rico produced by the constitutional conven-
12 tion was submitted to the people of Puerto Rico,
13 who approved the constitution with 81.9 percent of
14 the vote in a referendum held on March 3, 1952;

15 (8) after receiving the constitution of the Com-
16 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the President—

17 (A) declared that the constitution of the
18 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico—

19 (i) conformed fully with the applicable
20 provisions of—

21 (I) the Act of July 3, 1950 (com-
22 monly known as the “Puerto Rico
23 Federal Relations Act of 1950”) (64
24 Stat. 319, chapter 446); and

1 (II) the Constitution of the
2 United States;

3 (ii) contained a bill of rights; and

4 (iii) provided for a republican form of
5 government; and

6 (B) transmitted the constitution of the
7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to Congress for
8 approval;

9 (9) after receiving the constitution of the Com-
10 monwealth of Puerto Rico from the President, Con-
11 gress—

12 (A) considered the constitution of the
13 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

14 (B) found the constitution of the Common-
15 wealth of Puerto Rico to conform to the appli-
16 cable requirements; and

17 (C) with the approval of the Joint Resolu-
18 tion of July 3, 1952 (66 Stat. 327, chapter
19 567), conditionally approved the constitution of
20 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

21 (10) under Resolution number 34 of the con-
22 stitutional convention of Puerto Rico, the constitu-
23 tional convention of Puerto Rico accepted the condi-
24 tions of Congress “in the name of the people of
25 Puerto Rico”;

1 (11) the Governor of Puerto Rico subsequently
2 issued a formal proclamation accepting the condi-
3 tions of Congress on the constitution of the Com-
4 monwealth of Puerto Rico;

5 (12) the constitution of the Commonwealth of
6 Puerto Rico—

7 (A) was subsequently amended by the con-
8 stitutional convention; and

9 (B) became effective on July 25, 1952;

10 (13) the amendments to the constitution of the
11 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico were ratified by the
12 people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, with
13 87.8 percent of voters approving the constitution of
14 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in a referendum
15 held on November 4, 1952;

16 (14) the United States informed the United Na-
17 tions that, because the Commonwealth of Puerto
18 Rico had become a self-governing jurisdiction, the
19 United States would cease reporting on conditions in
20 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under article 73
21 of the United Nations Charter, which requires re-
22 ports from member states responsible “for the ad-
23 ministration of territories whose people have not yet
24 attained the full measure of self-government.”;

1 (15) in response to the United States, the
2 United Nations General Assembly acknowledged in
3 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 748
4 (1953) that “the people of the Commonwealth of
5 Puerto Rico, by expressing their will in a free and
6 democratic way, have achieved a new constitutional
7 status and have effectively exercised their right to
8 self-determination”;

9 (16) to bilaterally address the issue of Puerto
10 Rico self-determination, Public Law 88–271 (78
11 Stat. 17) established the United States-Puerto Rico
12 Commission on the Status of Puerto Rico, composed
13 of—

14 (A) 7 members from the United States, of

15 whom—

16 (i) 3 members were to be appointed
17 by the President;

18 (ii) 2 members were to be members of
19 the Senate, appointed by the President of
20 the Senate with the approval of the major-
21 ity and minority leaders of the Senate; and

22 (iii) 2 members were to be members
23 of the House of Representatives appointed
24 by the Speaker of the House of Represent-
25 atives, with the approval of the majority

1 and minority leaders of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives; and

3 (B) 6 members were to be from the Com-
4 monwealth of Puerto Rico;

5 (17) in the report entitled “Report of the
6 United States-Puerto Rico Commission on the Sta-
7 tus of Puerto Rico” and dated August 1966, the
8 United States-Puerto Rico Commission on the Sta-
9 tus of Puerto Rico found that—

10 (A) “all three forms of political status—
11 the Commonwealth, Statehood, and Independ-
12 ence—are valid and confer upon the people of
13 Puerto Rico equal dignity with equality of sta-
14 tus and national citizenship.”; and

15 (B) “it is inconceivable that either the
16 United States or Puerto Rico would, by an act
17 of unilateral revocation, undermine the very
18 foundation of their common progress: the fun-
19 damental political and economic relationships
20 which were established on the basis of mutu-
21 ality.”;

22 (18) pursuant to the findings and recommenda-
23 tions of the United States-Puerto Rico Commission
24 on the Status of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico legis-
25 lature enacted the Act of December 23, 1966 (Puer-

1 to Rico Act No. 1), which called for a plebiscite on
2 the status of Puerto Rico;

3 (19) in the July 23, 1967, plebiscite—

4 (A) 60.4 percent of voters in the Common-
5 wealth of Puerto Rico voted for commonwealth
6 status;

7 (B) 39 percent of voters in the Common-
8 wealth of Puerto Rico voted for statehood; and

9 (C) 0.6 percent of voters in the Common-
10 wealth of Puerto Rico voted for independence;

11 (20) in 1989, on the joint request of the pro-
12 Commonwealth Governor of Puerto Rico and the
13 presidents of the pro-statehood and pro-independ-
14 ence parties, the Senate took up the issue of Puerto
15 Rico self-determination through S. 712 (101st Con-
16 gress) and S. 244 (102nd Congress), which recog-
17 nized that Commonwealth, statehood, and independ-
18 ence were valid options for the status of Puerto
19 Rico;

20 (21) the failure of the 1989 effort with respect
21 to statehood and the coming to power in the Com-
22 monwealth of Puerto Rico of a pro-statehood govern-
23 ment in 1992, 1996, 2008, and 2016 prompted a
24 string of locally legislated referenda, with each sub-
25 sequent referendum increasingly deviating from Fed-

1 eral policy, particularly with respect to an effort to
2 undermine the commonwealth status to the benefit
3 of statehood;

4 (22) the first referendum was held in 1993, al-
5 lowing each of the political parties to provide the
6 definition of the particular status option, under
7 which—

8 (A) 48.6 percent of voters in the Common-
9 wealth of Puerto Rico voted for commonwealth
10 status;

11 (B) 46.3 percent of voters in the Common-
12 wealth of Puerto Rico voted for statehood; and

13 (C) 4.4 percent of voters in the Common-
14 wealth of Puerto Rico voted for independence;

15 (23) during a second referendum held in
16 1998—

17 (A) the pro-statehood government—

18 (i) drafted the ballot language for all
19 status options; and

20 (ii) identified each status option by
21 number rather than by name;

22 (B) in protest for what the pro-Common-
23 wealth party considered to be an ill-defined
24 Commonwealth option, the pro-Commonwealth

1 party asked supporters to vote for “none of the
2 above”; and

3 (C) the results of the referendum were
4 that—

5 (i) 50.3 percent of voters in the Com-
6 monwealth of Puerto Rico voted for “none
7 of the above”;

8 (ii) 46.5 percent of voters in the Com-
9 monwealth of Puerto Rico voted for state-
10 hood;

11 (iii) 2.5 percent of voters in the Com-
12 monwealth of Puerto Rico voted for inde-
13 pendence; and

14 (iv) 0.3 percent of voters in the Com-
15 monwealth of Puerto Rico voted for free
16 association;

17 (24) on May 29, 2009, pro-statehood Resident
18 Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi introduced a bill in
19 the House of Representatives, H.R. 2499 (111th
20 Congress), which provided for—

21 (A) a 2-round vote on the status of the
22 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that provided for
23 a first vote to “continue to have its present
24 form of political status” or for “a different po-
25 litical status”; and

1 (B) if the “different political status” op-
2 tion received the most votes during the first
3 vote, a second vote with the options of—

4 (i) independence;

5 (ii) sovereignty in association with the
6 United States; and

7 (iii) statehood;

8 (25) an amendment to H.R. 2499 (111th Con-
9 gress) was approved by the House of Representa-
10 tives on April 29, 2010, to include the Common-
11 wealth option on the second vote, with the proponent
12 of the amendment stating that “Puerto Ricans’
13 views should be given equal and fair consideration.”;

14 (26) H.R. 2499 (111th Congress), as amended,
15 was approved by the House of Representatives, but
16 was not considered in the Senate;

17 (27) in April 2011, the White House published
18 a report of the Task Force on Puerto Rico Status
19 that found that—

20 (A) the permissible status options for the
21 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico include—

22 (i) statehood;

23 (ii) independence;

24 (iii) free association; and

25 (iv) commonwealth status; and

1 (B) “removing the Commonwealth option
2 would raise real questions about the vote’s legit-
3 imacy”;

4 (28) ignoring the amendment to H.R. 2499
5 (111th Congress) described in paragraph (25), the
6 pro-statehood government called for a locally legis-
7 lated plebiscite in 2012 that adopted the 2-vote
8 structure rejected by the House of Representatives
9 that excluded the Commonwealth option in the sec-
10 ond vote;

11 (29) to further stack the deck in the 2012 pleb-
12 iscite—

13 (A) the first vote would be in favor or
14 against the “current territorial status” (a ge-
15 neric term intended to downplay the constitu-
16 tional process of the Act of July 3, 1950 (com-
17 monly known as the “Puerto Rico Federal Rela-
18 tions Act of 1950”) (64 Stat. 319, chapter
19 446)); and

20 (B) a second vote would be for—

21 (i) statehood;

22 (ii) independence; or

23 (iii) free association (which was con-
24 fusingly referred to as “sovereign Com-
25 monwealth”);

1 (30) the voting structure in the 2012 plebiscite
2 had several evident defects, including that—

3 (A) the current commonwealth status could
4 lose even if commonwealth status had the high-
5 est voter preference; and

6 (B) by instructing individuals who voted
7 for the current commonwealth status on the
8 first question to answer the second question, re-
9 gardless, the votes for the options of the second
10 question would be inflated with those “second-
11 preference” votes, so it would not be known
12 how many voters actually preferred any of those
13 options;

14 (31) the results of the 2012 plebiscite were a
15 mixture of all the potential problems, as—

16 (A) the status quo received 828,077 votes
17 on question 1, and statehood received 834,191
18 votes on question 2, which is a difference of
19 6,114 votes;

20 (B) it is not known how many voters that
21 voted for the current status on question 1 voted
22 for statehood on question 2; and

23 (C) since the law authorizing the plebiscite
24 prohibited considering blank ballots for allo-
25 cating percentages, the commonwealth status

1 was said to have obtained 46 percent of the
2 vote in the first vote and statehood was said to
3 have obtained 61 percent of the vote in the sec-
4 ond vote;

5 (32) on May 15, 2013, the pro-statehood Resi-
6 dent Commissioner introduced H.R. 2000 (113th
7 Congress), which—

8 (A) stated that statehood had obtained
9 61.16 percent of the votes of “voters who chose
10 an option”;

11 (B) based on that characterization of the
12 results, called for a ratification vote that would
13 provide for a self-executing implementation of
14 the admission of the Commonwealth Puerto
15 Rico as a State of the Union of the United
16 States; and

17 (C) was not acted on by the House of Rep-
18 resentatives;

19 (33) instead, the Consolidated Appropriations
20 Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 5), appro-
21 priated \$2,500,000 “for objective, nonpartisan voter
22 education about, and a plebiscite on, options that
23 would resolve Puerto Rico’s future political status,
24 which shall be provided to the State Elections Com-

1 mission of Puerto Rico.”, with the accompanying re-
2 port stating that—

3 (A) the \$2,500,000 was “for objective,
4 nonpartisan voter education about, and a plebi-
5 scite on, options that would resolve Puerto
6 Rico’s future political status”;

7 (B) the “funds provided for the plebiscite
8 shall not be obligated until 45 days after the
9 Department of Justice notifies the Committees
10 on Appropriations that it approves of an ex-
11 penditure plan from the Puerto Rico Elections
12 Commission for voter education and plebiscite
13 administration, including approval of the plebi-
14 scite ballot”; and

15 (C) the “notification shall include a finding
16 that the voter education materials, plebiscite
17 ballot, and related materials are not incompat-
18 ible with the Constitution and laws and policies
19 of the United State.”;

20 (34) on February 3, 2017, with the pro-state-
21 hood party back in power locally, the Commonwealth
22 of Puerto Rico passed Law Number 7, which called
23 “for the immediate decolonization of Puerto Rico”
24 through a plebiscite to be held on June 11, 2017;

1 (35) claiming that the Commonwealth option
2 had been rejected in the 2012 plebiscite, the ballot
3 for the 2017 plebiscite would offer only 2 options
4 of—

5 (A) statehood; and

6 (B) free association or independence;

7 (36) on April 13, 2017, the Department of Jus-
8 tice denied certification of the plebiscite, stating:
9 “The Department has concluded that the plebiscite
10 ballot is not compatible with these policies, as it is
11 not drafted in a way that ensures that its result will
12 accurately reflect the current popular will of the peo-
13 ple of Puerto Rico. As transmitted, the ballot omits
14 Puerto Rico’s current territorial status as an avail-
15 able option and instead provides the people of Puer-
16 to Rico with only two choices: ‘Statehood’ or ‘Free
17 Association/Proclamation of Independence’. This
18 omission appears to be based on a determination
19 that the people of Puerto Rico definitively rejected
20 Puerto Rico’s current status in the plebiscite held on
21 November 6, 2012. See Act No. 7–2017, Art. III§
22 1(a). The Department does not believe that the re-
23 sults of the 2012 plebiscite justify omitting Puerto
24 Rico’s current status as an option on the ballot. For
25 a variety of reasons, the validity of the 2012 plebi-

1 scite’s results ‘have been the subject of controversy’
2 and debate. See Congressional Research Service,
3 Puerto Rico’s Political Status and the 2012 Plebi-
4 scite: Background and Key Questions, at 8 (June
5 25, 2013) (‘CRS Report’). Furthermore, nearly five
6 years have elapsed since that plebiscite, during
7 which significant political, economic, and demo-
8 graphic changes have occurred in Puerto Rico and
9 the United States. As a result, it is uncertain that
10 it is the present will of the people to reject Puerto
11 Rico’s current status. Accordingly, any plebiscite
12 that now seeks to ‘resolve Puerto Rico’s future polit-
13 ical status,’ as the Appropriations Act contemplates,
14 should include the current territorial status as an
15 option. See 2011 Task Force Report, at 26 (noting
16 that the current status ‘must be an available option
17 for the people of Puerto Rico’). Otherwise, there
18 would be ‘real questions about the vote’s legitimacy’
19 and its ability to reflect accurately the will of the
20 people. *Id.* Furthermore, the Department has deter-
21 mined that the plebiscite ballot language contains
22 several ambiguous and potentially misleading state-
23 ments, which may hinder voters’ ability to make a
24 fully informed choice as well as efforts to ascertain
25 the will of the people from the plebiscite results. The

1 statements of concern are as follows: The ballot’s de-
2 scription of the ‘Statehood’ option contains the fol-
3 lowing statement: ‘I am aware that Statehood is
4 [the] only option that guarantees the American citi-
5 zenship by birth in Puerto Rico’. This statement is
6 inaccurate when considered in the context of all
7 available status options, as under current law, Puer-
8 to Ricans have an unconditional statutory right to
9 birthright citizenship. The sentence therefore is po-
10 tentially misleading and reinforces the ballot’s
11 flawed omission of an option for retaining Puerto
12 Rico’s current territorial status.”;

13 (37) the local government amended the bill pur-
14 portedly to comply with the Department of Justice
15 demands, but did not allow for Department of Jus-
16 tice certification, provoking a massive boycott by the
17 Commonwealth supporters and independence sup-
18 porters;

19 (38) in the plebiscite of June 11, 2017—

20 (A) there was a historically low participa-
21 tion rate of 23 percent of registered voters in
22 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

23 (B) 508,862 voters in the Commonwealth
24 of Puerto Rico voted for statehood, which was
25 97 percent of votes cast;

1 (39) the same pro-statehood administration in
2 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico called for a new
3 plebiscite in 2020 that would include an up-or-down
4 statehood vote;

5 (40) by letter of July 29, 2020, addressed to
6 the Chairman of the Puerto Rico Elections Commis-
7 sion, the Department of Justice again rejected cer-
8 tification, stating that—

9 (A) the United States has consistently re-
10 mained neutral about the legally permissible
11 status options for the Commonwealth of Puerto
12 Rico, of which the current status is 1; and

13 (B) a plebiscite that asks voters if the
14 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico should be admit-
15 ted immediately into the Union of the United
16 States as a State is regarded as a pro-statehood
17 initiative that departs from that policy of neu-
18 trality;

19 (41) Executive Order 13183 (48 U.S.C. 731
20 note; relating to establishment of the President’s
21 Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status), states that the
22 policy of the executive branch is “to work with lead-
23 ers of the Commonwealth and the Congress to clar-
24 ify the options to enable Puerto Ricans to determine
25 their preference among options for the islands’ fu-

1 ture status that are not incompatible with the Con-
2 stitution and basic laws and policies of the United
3 States; and to implement such an option if chosen
4 by a majority.”; and

5 (42) the status options for the Commonwealth
6 of Puerto Rico that are not incompatible with the
7 Constitution and basic laws and policies of the
8 United States are—

- 9 (A) commonwealth status;
- 10 (B) statehood;
- 11 (C) independence; and
- 12 (D) free association.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.—The term
16 “Commonwealth government” means the govern-
17 ment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (includ-
18 ing any department, agency, or instrumentality of
19 the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto
20 Rico).

21 (2) ELECTIONS COMMISSION.—The term “Elec-
22 tions Commission” means the Puerto Rico State
23 Commission on Elections.

24 (3) ELIGIBLE VOTER.—The term “eligible
25 voter” means a bona fide resident of the Common-

1 wealth of Puerto Rico who is otherwise qualified to
 2 vote in a general election in the Commonwealth of
 3 Puerto Rico.

4 (4) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means
 5 the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

6 (5) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigra-
 7 tion laws” has the meaning given the term in section
 8 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
 9 U.S.C. 1101).

10 (6) INITIAL PLEBISCITE.—The term “initial
 11 plebiscite” means the plebiscite required by section
 12 101(a)(1).

13 (7) LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—The term “Leg-
 14 islative Assembly” means the Legislative Assembly
 15 of Puerto Rico.

16 (8) RUNOFF PLEBISCITE.—The term “runoff
 17 plebiscite” means the plebiscite required by section
 18 101(a)(4).

19 (9) STATUS OPTION.—The term “status op-
 20 tion” means an option described in section
 21 101(a)(2).

22 **TITLE I—PLEBISCITES**

23 **SEC. 101. INITIAL PLEBISCITE; RUNOFF PLEBISCITE.**

24 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

1 (1) INITIAL PLEBISCITE.—A plebiscite to re-
2 solve the political status of the Commonwealth of
3 Puerto Rico shall be held on August 4, 2024.

4 (2) OPTIONS.—The initial plebiscite shall offer
5 eligible voters a choice of 1 of the following 4 op-
6 tions on the ballot:

7 (A) Independence.

8 (B) Sovereignty in Free Association with
9 the United States.

10 (C) Statehood.

11 (D) Commonwealth.

12 (3) MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED.—Approval of a
13 status option shall be by a majority of the valid
14 votes cast by eligible voters.

15 (4) RUNOFF PLEBISCITE.—If there is not a ma-
16 jority vote in favor of 1 of the status options in the
17 initial plebiscite, a runoff plebiscite shall be held on
18 March 16, 2025, which shall offer eligible voters a
19 choice on the ballot of the 2 status options that re-
20 ceived the most votes in the initial plebiscite.

21 (b) BALLOT LANGUAGE.—A ballot for a plebiscite re-
22 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following lan-
23 guage:

24 “INSTRUCTIONS.—Mark the status option you choose
25 as each is defined below. A ballot with more than 1 option

1 marked will not be counted. A ballot with no option
2 marked will not be counted.

3 “(1) INDEPENDENCE.—If you agree, mark here
4 _____.

5 “(A) Puerto Rico is a sovereign nation
6 that has full authority and responsibility over
7 its territory and population under a constitution
8 of its own adoption which shall be the supreme
9 law of the nation.

10 “(B) Puerto Rico is vested with full powers
11 and responsibilities consistent with the rights
12 and responsibilities that devolve upon a sov-
13 ereign nation under international law, including
14 its own fiscal and monetary policy, immigration,
15 trade, and the conduct in its own name and
16 right of relations with other nations and inter-
17 national organizations.

18 “(C) Puerto Rico has full authority and re-
19 sponsibility over its citizenship and immigration
20 laws. Birth in Puerto Rico or relationship to
21 persons with statutory United States citizenship
22 by birth in the former territory shall cease to
23 be a basis for United States nationality or citi-
24 zenship, except that persons who have such
25 United States citizenship have a right to retain

1 United States nationality and citizenship for
2 life, by entitlement or election, as provided by
3 United States law.

4 “(D) Puerto Rico will no longer be a pos-
5 session of the United States for purposes of the
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or any suc-
7 cessor code). United States citizens and United
8 States businesses in Puerto Rico will be subject
9 to United States Federal tax laws (as is the
10 case with any other United States citizen or
11 United States business located abroad) and to
12 Puerto Rican tax laws. The status of Puerto
13 Rico as an independent, sovereign nation will be
14 the controlling factor in the taxation of Puerto
15 Rican taxpayers.

16 “(E) The Constitution and laws of the
17 United States no longer apply in Puerto Rico,
18 and United States sovereignty in Puerto Rico is
19 ended.

20 “(2) SOVEREIGNTY IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH
21 THE UNITED STATES.—If you agree, mark here

22 _____.

23 “(A) Puerto Rico is a sovereign nation
24 that has full authority and responsibility over
25 its territory and population under a constitution

1 of its own adoption, which shall be the supreme
2 law of the nation.

3 “(B) Puerto Rico is vested with full powers
4 and responsibilities consistent with the rights
5 and responsibilities that devolve upon a sov-
6 ereign nation under international law, including
7 its own fiscal and monetary policy, immigration,
8 trade, and the conduct in its own name and
9 right of relations with other nations and inter-
10 national organizations, except as otherwise pro-
11 vided for in the Articles of Free Association to
12 be negotiated by Puerto Rico and the United
13 States.

14 “(C) Puerto Rico has full authority and re-
15 sponsibility over its citizenship and immigration
16 laws. Persons who have United States citizen-
17 ship have a right to retain United States na-
18 tionality and citizenship for life by entitlement
19 or election as provided by United States law.

20 “(D) Birth in Puerto Rico shall cease to be
21 a basis for United States nationality or citizen-
22 ship, except that children born in Puerto Rico
23 to parents, both of whom are United States citi-
24 zens, shall be eligible to acquire United States
25 citizenship. The application process for United

1 States citizenship for such children shall be
2 similar to the process for descendants of citi-
3 zens born in a foreign country, since the chil-
4 dren would be born outside the jurisdiction of
5 the United States, despite being children of
6 United States citizens.

7 “(E) Puerto Rico enters into Articles of
8 Free Association with the United States, with
9 such devolution and reservation of governmental
10 functions and other bilateral arrangements as
11 may be agreed to by the United States and
12 Puerto Rico under the Articles of Free Associa-
13 tion, which shall be terminable at will by either
14 the United States or Puerto Rico at any time.

15 “(F) Puerto Rico will no longer be a pos-
16 session of the United States for purposes of the
17 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or any suc-
18 cessor code). United States citizens and United
19 States businesses in Puerto Rico will be subject
20 to United States Federal tax laws (as is the
21 case with any other United States citizen or
22 United States business located abroad) and to
23 Puerto Rican tax laws. The status of Puerto
24 Rico as an independent, sovereign nation will be
25 the controlling factor in the taxation of Puerto

1 Rican taxpayers. Puerto Rico will enter into an
2 agreement with the United States to provide for
3 ‘Sovereignty in Free Association’ that may
4 modify the otherwise-applicable tax rules, sub-
5 ject to negotiation and ratification by Puerto
6 Rico and the United States.

7 “(G) The Constitution and the laws of the
8 United States no longer apply in Puerto Rico,
9 except as otherwise provided in the Articles of
10 Free Association, and United States sovereignty
11 in Puerto Rico is ended.

12 “(H) All matters pertaining to the govern-
13 ment-to-government relationship between Puer-
14 to Rico and the United States, which may in-
15 clude foreign affairs, trade, finance, taxation,
16 security, defense, dispute resolution, and termi-
17 nation, shall be provided for in the Articles of
18 Free Association.

19 “(3) STATEHOOD.—If you agree, mark here
20 _____.

21 “(A) The State of Puerto Rico shall re-
22 quest admission into the Union of the United
23 States on an equal footing with the other States
24 in all respects and as a part of the permanent
25 Union of the United States, subject to the Con-

1 stitution of the United States, with powers not
2 prohibited by the Constitution of the United
3 States to the States reserved to the State of
4 Puerto Rico.

5 “(B) The residents of Puerto Rico shall,
6 on admission, be fully self-governing with the
7 rights of the residents secured under the Con-
8 stitution of the United States, which shall be
9 fully applicable in Puerto Rico and which, with
10 the laws and treaties of the United States, is
11 the supreme law and has the same force and ef-
12 fect in Puerto Rico as in the other States of the
13 Union of the United States.

14 “(C) United States citizenship of individ-
15 uals born in Puerto Rico is recognized, pro-
16 tected, and secured under the Constitution of
17 the United States in the same way citizenship
18 is recognized, protected, and secured for all
19 United States citizens born in the other States.
20 Such rights shall be accompanied by the same
21 responsibilities, including the immediate initi-
22 ation of full payment of Federal taxes in the
23 same manner as residents of the other States.
24 In the event that Puerto Rico becomes a State
25 of the United States, the provisions of chapter

1 2205 of title 36, United States Code, relating
 2 to the exclusive existence of a single United
 3 States Olympic Committee shall apply to Puer-
 4 to Rico.

5 “(D) On admission, Puerto Rico will no
 6 longer be considered to be a possession of the
 7 United States for purposes of the Internal Rev-
 8 enue Code of 1986 (or any successor code). In
 9 lieu of such consideration as a possession, the
 10 State of Puerto Rico will become a State on
 11 equal footing with each of the 50 States in the
 12 United States. Individuals and businesses resid-
 13 ing in the State of Puerto Rico will be subject
 14 to United States Federal tax laws and to tax
 15 laws of the State of Puerto Rico.

16 “(4) COMMONWEALTH-ESTADO LIBRE
 17 ASOCIADO.—If you agree, mark here
 18 _____.

19 “(A) A vote for Commonwealth-Estado
 20 Libre Asociado shall be a mandate to empower-
 21 ment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in
 22 accordance with the principles and parameters
 23 described in subparagraphs (B) through (E).

24 “(B) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
 25 shall be united to the United States by a formal

1 compact of political autonomy. The compact
2 shall have the character of a permanent rela-
3 tionship and shall establish, as public policy of
4 the United States, that any modification to the
5 relationship shall be approved by the people of
6 Puerto Rico by referendum.

7 “(C) United States citizenship of individ-
8 uals born in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
9 shall be guaranteed and protected as provided
10 in the United States Constitution. The applica-
11 tion, protections, and rights associated with
12 citizenship shall be equal to the protections and
13 rights of citizens born in the States of the
14 United States of America.

15 “(D) Federal laws and programs shall
16 apply to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in
17 accordance with the provisions of the autono-
18 mous compact. However, if the government of
19 Puerto Rico determines that the enactment of
20 a Federal law or a specific provision of a stat-
21 ute or regulation of the United States modifies
22 or affects the powers granted to the people of
23 Puerto Rico with respect to self-government,
24 fiscal autonomy, or cultural identity, the gov-
25 ernment of Puerto Rico may request an exemp-

1 tion from the application of the statute or regu-
2 lation. The compact shall include an expedited
3 mediation mechanism to address such claims.

4 “(E) The compact shall replace the cor-
5 responding provisions of the Act of July 3,
6 1950 (commonly known as the ‘Puerto Rico
7 Federal Relations Act of 1950’) (64 Stat. 319,
8 chapter 446), regarding the application of cer-
9 tain Federal laws that, due to the scope of the
10 Federal laws, could unilaterally modify the na-
11 ture of the political autonomy relationship.”.

12 (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLEBISCITE.—The plebi-
13 scites authorized by this section shall be implemented by
14 the Elections Commission, consistent with—

15 (1) the laws of Puerto Rico; and

16 (2) applicable Federal law.

17 (d) RESULTS.—The Elections Commission shall sub-
18 mit to the President, the President pro tempore of the
19 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
20 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
21 ate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the
22 House of Representatives—

23 (1) not later than 30 calendar days after the
24 date on which the initial plebiscite is held, the re-
25 sults of the initial plebiscite; and

1 (2) not later than 30 calendar days after the
2 date on which a runoff plebiscite is held, if applica-
3 ble, the results of the runoff plebiscite.

4 (e) JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURT.—The United
5 States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall
6 have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil ac-
7 tion alleging a dispute or controversy relating to a plebi-
8 scite conducted under this section.

9 **SEC. 102. NONPARTISAN VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 103, the Elec-
11 tions Commission shall—

12 (1) carry out a nonpartisan voter education
13 campaign with respect to the plebiscites to be con-
14 ducted under section 101 through traditional paid
15 media; and

16 (2) make available at all voting locations in the
17 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico voter education mate-
18 rials relating to the plebiscites to be conducted
19 under section 101.

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER EDUCATION MATE-
21 RIALS.—At a minimum, the voter education materials
22 made available under subsection (a)(2) shall address, for
23 each status option—

24 (1) international representation;

25 (2) citizenship and immigration; and

1 (3) access and treatment under Federal law
2 and programs.

3 (c) BILINGUAL VOTER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
4 AND BALLOTS.—All voter educational materials and bal-
5 lots made available for a plebiscite required by section 101
6 shall be made available in English and Spanish.

7 **SEC. 103. OVERSIGHT.**

8 (a) SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS.—The Elections
9 Commission shall submit to the Attorney General for re-
10 view—

11 (1) not later than 60 days after the date of en-
12 actment of this Act—

13 (A) the ballot design for the initial plebi-
14 scite; and

15 (B) any voter education materials for the
16 initial plebiscite to be made available in accord-
17 ance with section 102; and

18 (2) not later than 30 days after the date on
19 which an initial plebiscite is held in which there is
20 not a majority vote in favor of 1 of the status op-
21 tions—

22 (A) the ballot design for the runoff plebi-
23 scite; and

1 (B) any voter education materials for the
2 runoff plebiscite to be made available in accord-
3 ance with section 102.

4 (b) REVIEW.—Not later than 45 days after receiving
5 ballot design and voter education materials under sub-
6 section (a), the Attorney General shall—

7 (1) review the ballot design and voter education
8 materials to ensure—

9 (A) consistency with this Act; and

10 (B) that each of 4 status options are rep-
11 resented fairly, particularly if any of the 4 op-
12 tions are not represented on the Elections Com-
13 mission by a member of a political party that
14 supports the status option; and

15 (2)(A) return the ballot design and voter edu-
16 cation materials to the Elections Commission with
17 comments and instructions for changes, as applica-
18 ble; or

19 (B) inform the Elections Commission that—

20 (i) no instructions or requests for changes
21 shall be made under subparagraph (A); but

22 (ii) the Attorney General reserves the right
23 to submit instructions for changes in accord-
24 ance with this section if additional information

1 comes to the attention of the Attorney General
2 during the remainder of the 45-day period.

3 (c) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If the Attor-
4 ney General fails to comply with the requirements of sub-
5 section (b) within the 45-day period described in that sub-
6 section, the ballot design and voter education materials
7 submitted under subsection (a) shall be considered to be
8 approved.

9 (d) REVISION.—Not later than 45 days after receiv-
10 ing comments and instructions for changes from the At-
11 torney General under subsection (b)(2), the Elections
12 Commission shall revise the ballot design and voter edu-
13 cation materials in accordance with the comments and in-
14 structions submitted by the Attorney General.

15 **SEC. 104. FUNDS FOR VOTER EDUCATION, PLEBISCITES.**

16 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
18 essary for the Elections Commission to carry out—

19 (1) a nonpartisan voter education campaign
20 under section 102; and

21 (2)(A) an initial plebiscite; and

22 (B) if necessary, a runoff plebiscite.

23 (b) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any
24 other provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
25 2014 (Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 5), the unobligated

1 balance of funds made available to carry out a plebiscite
 2 on the status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under
 3 paragraph (1) under the heading “STATE AND LOCAL LAW
 4 ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE” under the heading “OFFICE
 5 OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPART-
 6 MENT OF JUSTICE” in title II of division B of that
 7 Act (Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 61) shall be made
 8 available to carry out this Act.

9 **TITLE II—TRANSITION AND IM-**
 10 **PLEMENTATION OF INDE-**
 11 **PENDENCE STATUS**

12 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this title:

14 (1) **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**—The term
 15 “constitutional convention” means a constitutional
 16 convention established under section 202(d)(2).

17 (2) **PROCLAMATION.**—The term “Proclama-
 18 tion” means a Presidential proclamation issued
 19 under section 208(a).

20 **SEC. 202. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

21 (a) **ELECTION OF DELEGATES.**—Not later than 180
 22 days after the effective date of certification of a plebiscite
 23 under this Act that favors independence, the Legislative
 24 Assembly shall provide for the election of delegates to a

1 constitutional convention to formulate and draft a con-
 2 stitution for the nation of Puerto Rico.

3 (b) ELIGIBLE VOTERS.—All eligible voters may vote
 4 in the election of delegates to the constitutional convention
 5 under subsection (a).

6 (c) GENERAL APPLICABILITY OF ELECTORAL
 7 LAW.—The laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico re-
 8 lating to the electoral process shall apply to an election
 9 held under subsection (a).

10 (d) INITIAL MEETING.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
 12 after the date of the election of delegates to the con-
 13 stitutional convention under subsection (a), the
 14 elected delegates shall meet at such time and place
 15 as the Legislative Assembly shall determine.

16 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The initial meeting of
 17 the elected delegates to the constitutional convention
 18 under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be the
 19 establishment of the constitutional convention.

20 **SEC. 203. CHARACTER OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

21 The constitutional convention shall formulate and
 22 draft a constitution for the nation of Puerto Rico that
 23 guarantees the protection of fundamental human rights,
 24 including—

1 (1) due process and equal protection under the
2 law;

3 (2) freedom of speech, press, assembly, associa-
4 tion, and religion;

5 (3) the rights of the accused;

6 (4) any other economic, social, and cultural
7 rights as the constitutional convention may deter-
8 mine to be necessary; and

9 (5) provisions to ensure that no individual born
10 in the nation of Puerto Rico shall be stateless at
11 birth.

12 **SEC. 204. SUBMISSION; RATIFICATION.**

13 (a) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of establishment of the constitutional convention, the
15 Elections Commission shall submit the constitution formu-
16 lated and drafted by the delegates to the constitutional
17 convention to the eligible voters for ratification or rejec-
18 tion in a special election.

19 (b) MANNER OF ELECTION.—The special election
20 held under subsection (a) shall be held in the manner pre-
21 scribed by the Legislative Assembly.

22 (c) REJECTION.—If the constitution of the nation of
23 Puerto Rico is rejected in a special election held under
24 subsection (a), the process provided for under sections 202
25 and 203 and subsections (a) and (b) shall be repeated,

1 except that section 202(a) shall be applied by sub-
2 stituting—

3 (1) “the special election” for “a plebiscite”; and

4 (2) “rejects the Constitution” for “favors inde-
5 pendence”.

6 **SEC. 205. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of ratification of the constitution of the nation of
9 Puerto Rico under section 204, the Governor shall issue
10 a proclamation calling for the election of any officers of
11 the nation of Puerto Rico that may be required by the
12 ratified constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico.

13 (b) DEADLINE; PROCEDURES.—The election of the
14 officers under subsection (a) shall be held—

15 (1) not later than 180 days after the date of
16 ratification of the constitution of the nation of Puer-
17 to Rico; and

18 (2) in accordance with the procedures and re-
19 quirements established by the constitution of the na-
20 tion of Puerto Rico.

21 (c) CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS.—Not later than 10
22 days after the date of the election of officers under sub-
23 section (a), the Elections Commission shall certify the re-
24 sults of the election under that subsection.

1 (d) NOTICE.—As soon as practicable after the date
2 of the certification under subsection (c), the Governor
3 shall submit notice of the results of the election certified
4 under that subsection to—

5 (1) the President;

6 (2) the President pro tempore of the Senate;

7 (3) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
8 tives;

9 (4) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
10 sources of the Senate; and

11 (5) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
12 House of Representatives.

13 **SEC. 206. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAW.**

14 (a) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the initial
15 meeting of the constitutional convention under section
16 202(d), the President shall initiate a review of Federal
17 laws with respect to Puerto Rico, including Federal laws
18 relating to—

19 (1) taxation of persons and businesses;

20 (2) health care;

21 (3) housing;

22 (4) transportation;

23 (5) education; and

24 (6) entitlement programs.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date on which the President initiates a review
3 under subsection (a), the President shall submit to Con-
4 gress recommendations for changes to Federal laws identi-
5 fied during the review, as the President determines to be
6 appropriate.

7 **SEC. 207. JOINT TRANSITION COMMISSION.**

8 (a) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of establishment of the constitutional convention,
10 a Joint Transition Commission shall be established, with
11 the President and the presiding officer of the constitu-
12 tional convention appointing an equal number of members
13 to the Joint Transition Commission.

14 (b) DUTIES.—The Joint Transition Commission es-
15 tablished under subsection (a) shall—

16 (1) be responsible for expediting the orderly
17 transfer to the nation of Puerto Rico of all functions
18 exercised by the Federal Government in the Com-
19 monwealth of Puerto Rico or with respect to the
20 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

21 (2) develop procedures relating to the oper-
22 ations and governance of the Joint Transition Com-
23 mission; and

24 (3) provide to the appropriate committees of
25 Congress recommendations for any appropriate leg-

1 islation to carry out the transfer under paragraph
2 (1).

3 (c) COLLABORATION.—The Commonwealth govern-
4 ment and Federal agencies shall collaborate with the Joint
5 Transition Commission and the officers of the nation of
6 Puerto Rico to provide for the orderly transfer of the func-
7 tions under subsection (b)(1).

8 **SEC. 208. PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT.**

9 (a) PROCLAMATION.—Not later than 30 days after
10 the date of certification of the elected officers of the nation
11 of Puerto Rico under section 205(c), the President shall,
12 by proclamation—

13 (1) withdraw and surrender all rights of posses-
14 sion, supervision, jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty
15 exercised by the United States over the Common-
16 wealth of Puerto Rico and residents of the Common-
17 wealth of Puerto Rico on the day before the date of
18 issuance of the Proclamation;

19 (2) recognize, on behalf of the United States,
20 the independence of the nation of Puerto Rico and
21 the authority of the government of the nation of
22 Puerto Rico adopted by eligible voters under the
23 constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico; and

24 (3) state that the effective date of withdrawal
25 of the sovereignty of the United States and recogni-

1 tion of independence of the nation of Puerto Rico
2 shall be the date of issuance of the Proclamation.

3 (b) TRANSMISSION OF PROCLAMATION.—Not later
4 than 7 days after the date of issuance of the Proclamation,
5 the President shall transmit a copy of the Proclamation
6 to each of—

7 (1) the presiding officer of the constitutional
8 convention;

9 (2) the officer elected as head of state of the
10 nation of Puerto Rico;

11 (3) the President pro tempore of the Senate;

12 (4) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
13 tives;

14 (5) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
15 sources of the Senate; and

16 (6) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
17 House of Representatives.

18 (c) DATE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OFFICE.—Not
19 later than 7 days after the date of receipt of the Proclama-
20 tion under subsection (b) and with the advice of the officer
21 elected as head of state of the nation of Puerto Rico, the
22 presiding officer of the constitutional convention shall—

23 (1) determine the date on which the govern-
24 ment of the nation of Puerto Rico shall take office;
25 and

1 (2) submit notice of the date determined under
2 paragraph (1) to—

3 (A) the Governor;

4 (B) the President;

5 (C) the President pro tempore of the Sen-
6 ate; and

7 (D) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives.

9 **SEC. 209. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.**

10 On the date of issuance of the Proclamation and ex-
11 cept as otherwise provided in this title or in any agree-
12 ments between the United States and the nation of Puerto
13 Rico—

14 (1) all property, rights, and interests that the
15 United States may have acquired in the Common-
16 wealth of Puerto Rico under the Treaty of Peace be-
17 tween the United States of America and the King-
18 dom of Spain, signed at Paris on December 10,
19 1898 (30 Stat. 1754), and otherwise by cession, pur-
20 chase, or eminent domain, with the exception of land
21 and other property, rights, or interests that may
22 have been sold or otherwise legally disposed of before
23 the date of issuance of the Proclamation, shall vest
24 in the nation of Puerto Rico; and

1 (2) except as provided in section 212, all laws
2 of the United States applicable to the Common-
3 wealth of Puerto Rico on the day before the date of
4 issuance of the Proclamation shall no longer apply
5 in the nation of Puerto Rico.

6 **SEC. 210. JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS.**

7 (a) **JUDGMENTS BEFORE PROCLAMATION.**—The na-
8 tion of Puerto Rico shall recognize and give effect to all
9 orders and judgments rendered by courts of the United
10 States or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the day
11 before the date of issuance of the Proclamation pursuant
12 to the laws of the United States applicable to the Com-
13 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

14 (b) **CONTINUITY OF PENDING PROCEEDINGS.**—All
15 judicial proceedings pending in the courts of the Common-
16 wealth of Puerto Rico on the date of issuance of the Proc-
17 lamation shall be continued in the corresponding courts
18 under the constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico.

19 (c) **TRANSFER OF JUDICIAL POWER.**—

20 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of
21 issuance of the Proclamation—

22 (A) the judicial power of the United States
23 shall no longer extend to the nation of Puerto
24 Rico;

1 (B) any proceeding pending in the United
2 States District Court for the District of Puerto
3 Rico as of that date shall be transferred to the
4 applicable court in the nation of Puerto Rico or
5 other competent judicial authority under the
6 constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico for
7 disposition in accordance with laws applicable
8 on the date on which the controversy that is the
9 subject of the proceeding arose; and

10 (C) any proceeding pending in the United
11 States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit or
12 in the Supreme Court of the United States as
13 of that date that initiated in, or that could have
14 been initiated in, the courts of the Common-
15 wealth of Puerto Rico or in the United States
16 District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
17 shall—

18 (i) continue until the date of final dis-
19 position; and

20 (ii) be submitted to the competent au-
21 thority of the nation of Puerto Rico for
22 proper execution.

23 (2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph
24 (1), if the United States or any officer of the United
25 States is a party to a proceeding described in sub-

1 paragraph (B) or (C) of that paragraph, any final
2 judgment in that proceeding shall be properly exe-
3 cuted by the competent authority of the United
4 States.

5 **SEC. 211. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION LAWS AFTER**
6 **PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE.**

7 (a) CITIZENSHIP STATUS.—

8 (1) PUERTO RICAN NATIONALITY.—Beginning
9 on the date of issuance of the Proclamation, the citi-
10 zenship status of each individual born in Puerto
11 Rico shall be determined in accordance with the con-
12 stitution and laws of the nation of Puerto Rico.

13 (2) UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION LAWS.—Ex-
14 cept as provided in this section, beginning on the
15 date of issuance of the Proclamation, a citizen of
16 Puerto Rico seeking to enter into the United States
17 or obtain citizenship in the United States shall be
18 subject to the immigration laws.

19 (b) EFFECT OF PUERTO RICAN CITIZENSHIP.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
21 graph (2), nothing in this title precludes or limits
22 the applicability of section 349 of the Immigration
23 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1481).

24 (2) EXCEPTION.—The provision of citizenship
25 by the laws of the nation of Puerto Rico under sub-

1 section (a)(1) shall not constitute, or otherwise serve
2 as the basis of, loss or relinquishment of United
3 States citizenship under section 349 of the Immigra-
4 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1481).

5 (c) CITIZENSHIP AT BIRTH AFTER INDEPEND-
6 ENCE.—An individual born in the nation of Puerto Rico
7 after the date of issuance of the Proclamation to at least
8 1 parent who became a United States citizen under section
9 302 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
10 1402) shall not be considered to be a United States citizen
11 at birth under subsection (c), (d), or (g) of section 301
12 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1401).

13 (d) TRAVEL AND WORK AUTHORIZATION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual in any of the
15 following categories may enter, lawfully engage in
16 occupations, and establish residence as a non-
17 immigrant in the United States and territories and
18 possessions of the United States without regard to
19 paragraphs (5)(A) and (7) of section 212(a) of the
20 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
21 1182(a)):

22 (A) An individual who acquires citizenship
23 of Puerto Rico at birth, on or after the date of
24 issuance of the Proclamation.

1 (B) A naturalized citizen of Puerto Rico
2 who—

3 (i) has been an actual resident of
4 Puerto Rico for not fewer than 5 years
5 after attaining naturalization; and

6 (ii) holds a proof of that residence.

7 (2) EMPLOYMENT PERMISSION.—An individual
8 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
9 (1) shall be considered to have the permission of the
10 Secretary of Homeland Security to accept employ-
11 ment in the United States.

12 (3) LIMITATIONS.—The right of an individual
13 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
14 (1) to establish habitual residence in a territory or
15 possession of the United States may be subjected to
16 nondiscriminatory limitations provided for—

17 (A) in laws or regulations of the United
18 States; or

19 (B) in laws or regulations of the applicable
20 territory or possession that are authorized by
21 Federal law.

22 (4) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—This
23 subsection shall expire on the date that is 25 years
24 after the date of issuance of the Proclamation.

25 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a) of the Immi-
2 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is
3 amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (36), by striking “Puerto
5 Rico,”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (38), by striking “Puerto
7 Rico,”.

8 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
9 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of
10 issuance of the Proclamation.

11 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
12 tion limits the authority of the United States to change
13 any requirement for United States citizenship.

14 **SEC. 212. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
15 **AND GRANTS.**

16 (a) RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any vested rights and bene-
18 fits that accrue to residents of the Commonwealth of
19 Puerto Rico under the laws of the United States
20 from past services or contributions, such as rights
21 and benefits for veterans of the Armed Forces or eli-
22 gible relatives of veterans of the Armed Forces, re-
23 tired Federal Government employees, or beneficiaries
24 of old age, disability, or survivor benefits under the
25 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), shall

1 not be interrupted after the date of issuance of the
2 Proclamation, but shall continue until the date on
3 which the rights and benefits are extinguished ac-
4 cording to applicable Federal law.

5 (2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—All services to be
6 provided as part of the rights and benefits described
7 in paragraph (1) shall be made available through the
8 government of the nation of Puerto Rico in accord-
9 ance with agreements entered into by the govern-
10 ment of the nation of Puerto Rico and the Govern-
11 ment of the United States.

12 (b) SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
14 (a) and subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of
15 the Treasury shall transfer all contributions made by
16 employees and employers in the Commonwealth of
17 Puerto Rico to the Social Security system under the
18 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) with re-
19 spect to individuals who, as of the date of issuance
20 of the Proclamation, are residents of the nation of
21 Puerto Rico and are not yet eligible for old age, dis-
22 ability, or survivor benefits under the Social Security
23 system to the government of the nation of Puerto
24 Rico on the date on which the government of the na-

1 tion of Puerto Rico establishes a social security sys-
2 tem for the nation of Puerto Rico.

3 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The government of the
4 nation of Puerto Rico may not use the amounts
5 transferred under paragraph (1) for any purpose
6 other than the establishment and operation of a so-
7 cial security system for the nation of Puerto Rico.

8 (3) OBLIGATIONS.—On the transfer of the
9 amounts under paragraph (1), the obligations of the
10 Federal Government under the Social Security Act
11 (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) with respect to the residents
12 of the nation of Puerto Rico shall cease.

13 (c) OTHER FEDERAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS.—

14 (1) BLOCK GRANTS.—Any Federal transfer
15 payments to individuals and to the Commonwealth
16 government not described in subsection (a) or (b)
17 shall be maintained in the form of annual block
18 grants to be used by the government of the nation
19 of Puerto Rico at the discretion of the government
20 of the nation of Puerto Rico.

21 (2) ANNUAL AGGREGATE FUNDING.—During
22 the 10-fiscal-year period beginning on the date of
23 issuance of the Proclamation, the amount of an an-
24 nual block grant described in paragraph (1) shall be
25 equal to the greater of—

1 (A) the annual aggregate funding of all
2 programs described in that paragraph that ex-
3 tend to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico dur-
4 ing the applicable fiscal year; and

5 (B) the annual aggregate funding of all
6 programs described in that paragraph that were
7 extended to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
8 during the fiscal year immediately prior to the
9 date of issuance of the Proclamation.

10 (3) DECREASE IN AMOUNT.—Beginning in the
11 11th fiscal year after the date of issuance of the
12 Proclamation, the amount of the annual block
13 grants described in paragraph (1), as calculated
14 under paragraph (2), shall decrease at the rate of 10
15 percent each year.

16 (4) MODIFICATION OF TERMS.—The terms of
17 this subsection may be modified by agreement be-
18 tween the United States and the nation of Puerto
19 Rico.

1 **TITLE III—TRANSITION AND IM-**
2 **PLEMENTATION OF SOV-**
3 **EREIGNTY IN FREE ASSOCIA-**
4 **TION WITH THE UNITED**
5 **STATES OPTION**

6 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this title:

8 (1) **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**—The term
9 “constitutional convention” means a constitutional
10 convention established under section 302(d)(2).

11 (2) **PROCLAMATION.**—The term “Proclama-
12 tion” means a Presidential proclamation issued
13 under section 307(a).

14 **SEC. 302. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

15 (a) **ELECTION OF DELEGATES.**—Not later than 180
16 days after the effective date of certification of a plebiscite
17 under this Act that favors sovereignty in free association
18 with the United States, the Legislative Assembly shall pro-
19 vide for the election of delegates to a constitutional con-
20 vention to formulate and draft a constitution for the na-
21 tion of Puerto Rico.

22 (b) **ELIGIBLE VOTERS.**—All eligible voters may vote
23 in the election of delegates to the constitutional convention
24 under subsection (a).

1 (c) GENERAL APPLICABILITY OF ELECTORAL
2 LAW.—The laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico re-
3 lating to the electoral process shall apply to an election
4 held under subsection (a).

5 (d) INITIAL MEETING.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the election of delegates to the con-
8 stitutional convention under subsection (a), the
9 elected delegates shall meet at such time and place
10 as the Legislative Assembly shall determine.

11 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The initial meeting of
12 the elected delegates to the constitutional convention
13 under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be the
14 establishment of the constitutional convention.

15 **SEC. 303. CHARACTER OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

16 The constitutional convention shall formulate and
17 draft a constitution for the nation of Puerto Rico that
18 guarantees the protection of fundamental human rights,
19 including—

20 (1) due process and equal protection under the
21 law;

22 (2) freedom of speech, press, assembly, associa-
23 tion, and religion;

24 (3) the rights of the accused;

1 (4) any other economic, social, and cultural
2 rights as the constitutional convention may deter-
3 mine to be necessary; and

4 (5) provisions to ensure that no individual born
5 in the nation of Puerto Rico shall be stateless at
6 birth.

7 **SEC. 304. SUBMISSION; RATIFICATION.**

8 (a) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 2 years after the
9 date of establishment of the constitutional convention, the
10 Elections Commission shall submit the constitution formu-
11 lated and drafted by the delegates to the constitutional
12 convention to the eligible voters for ratification or rejec-
13 tion in a special election.

14 (b) MANNER OF ELECTION.—The special election
15 held under subsection (a) shall be held in the manner pre-
16 scribed by the Legislative Assembly.

17 (c) REJECTION.—If the constitution of the nation of
18 Puerto Rico is rejected in a special election held under
19 subsection (a), the process provided for under sections 302
20 and 303 and subsections (a) and (b) shall be repeated,
21 except that section 302(a) shall be applied by sub-
22 stituting—

23 (1) “the special election” for “a plebiscite”; and

24 (2) “rejects the Constitution” for “favors sov-
25 ereignty in free association with the United States”.

1 **SEC. 305. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
3 date of ratification of the constitution of the nation of
4 Puerto Rico under section 304, the Governor shall issue
5 a proclamation calling for the election of any officers of
6 the nation of Puerto Rico that may be required by the
7 ratified constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico.

8 (b) DEADLINE; PROCEDURES.—The election of the
9 officers under subsection (a) shall be held—

10 (1) not later than 180 days after the date of
11 ratification of the constitution of the nation of Puer-
12 to Rico; and

13 (2) in accordance with the procedures and re-
14 quirements established by the constitution of the na-
15 tion of Puerto Rico.

16 (c) CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS.—Not later than 10
17 days after the date of the election of officers under sub-
18 section (a), the Elections Commission shall certify the re-
19 sults of the election under that subsection.

20 (d) NOTICE.—As soon as practicable after the date
21 of the certification under subsection (c), the Governor
22 shall submit notice of the results of the election certified
23 under that subsection to—

24 (1) the President;

25 (2) the President pro tempore of the Senate;

1 (3) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
2 tives;

3 (4) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
4 sources of the Senate; and

5 (5) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 306. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAW.**

8 (a) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the initial
9 meeting of the constitutional convention under section
10 302(d), the President shall initiate a review of Federal
11 laws with respect to Puerto Rico, including Federal laws
12 relating to—

13 (1) taxation of persons and businesses;

14 (2) health care;

15 (3) housing;

16 (4) transportation;

17 (5) education; and

18 (6) entitlement programs.

19 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year
20 after the date on which the President initiates a review
21 under subsection (a), the President shall submit to Con-
22 gress recommendations for changes to Federal laws identi-
23 fied during the review, as the President determines to be
24 appropriate.

1 **SEC. 307. PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT; HEAD OF STATE**
2 **OF THE NATION PUERTO RICO.**

3 (a) PROCLAMATION.—Not later than 30 days after
4 the date of certification of the elected officers of the nation
5 of Puerto Rico under section 305(c), the President shall,
6 by proclamation—

7 (1) withdraw and surrender all rights of posses-
8 sion, supervision, jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty
9 exercised by the United States over the Common-
10 wealth of Puerto Rico and residents of the Common-
11 wealth of Puerto Rico on the day before the date of
12 issuance of the Proclamation;

13 (2) recognize, on behalf of the United States,
14 the international sovereignty through free associa-
15 tion of the nation of Puerto Rico and the authority
16 of the government of the nation of Puerto Rico insti-
17 tuted by eligible voters under the constitution of the
18 nation of Puerto Rico; and

19 (3) state that the effective date of withdrawal
20 of the sovereignty of the United States and recogni-
21 tion of international sovereignty through free asso-
22 ciation shall be the date of issuance of the Proclama-
23 tion.

24 (b) TRANSMISSION OF PROCLAMATION.—Not later
25 than 7 days after the date of issuance of the Proclamation,

1 the President shall transmit a copy of the Proclamation
2 to—

3 (1) the presiding officer of the constitutional
4 convention;

5 (2) the officer elected as head of state of the
6 nation of Puerto Rico;

7 (3) the President pro tempore of the Senate;

8 (4) the Speaker of the House of Representa-
9 tives;

10 (5) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
11 sources of the Senate; and

12 (6) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
13 House of Representatives.

14 (c) DATE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OFFICE.—Not
15 later than 7 days after the date of receipt of the Proclama-
16 tion under subsection (b) and with the advice of the officer
17 elected as head of state of the nation of Puerto Rico, the
18 presiding officer of the constitutional convention shall—

19 (1) determine the date on which the govern-
20 ment of the nation of Puerto Rico shall take office;
21 and

22 (2) submit notice of the date determined under
23 paragraph (1) to—

24 (A) the Governor;

25 (B) the President;

1 (C) the President pro tempore of the Sen-
2 ate; and

3 (D) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives.

5 **SEC. 308. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.**

6 On the date of issuance of the Proclamation and ex-
7 cept as otherwise provided in this title or in any agree-
8 ments between the United States and the nation of Puerto
9 Rico—

10 (1) all property, rights, and interests that the
11 United States may have acquired in and to the Com-
12 monwealth of Puerto Rico under the Treaty of Peace
13 between the United States of America and the King-
14 dom of Spain, signed at Paris on December 10,
15 1898 (30 Stat. 1754), and otherwise by cession, pur-
16 chase, or eminent domain, with the exception of land
17 and other property, rights, or interests that may
18 have been sold or otherwise legally disposed of before
19 the date of issuance of the Proclamation, shall vest
20 in the nation of Puerto Rico; and

21 (2) except as provided in section 313, all laws
22 of the United States applicable to the Common-
23 wealth of Puerto Rico on the day before the date of
24 issuance of the Proclamation shall no longer apply
25 in the nation of Puerto Rico.

1 **SEC. 309. JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS.**

2 (a) JUDGMENTS BEFORE PROCLAMATION.—The na-
3 tion of Puerto Rico shall recognize and give effect to all
4 orders and judgments rendered by courts of the United
5 States or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the day
6 before the date of issuance of the Proclamation pursuant
7 to the laws of the United States applicable to the Com-
8 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

9 (b) CONTINUITY OF PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—All
10 judicial proceedings pending in the courts of the Common-
11 wealth of Puerto Rico on the date of issuance of the Proc-
12 lamation shall be continued in the corresponding courts
13 under the constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico.

14 (c) TRANSFER OF JUDICIAL POWER.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of
16 issuance of the Proclamation—

17 (A) the judicial power of the United States
18 shall no longer extend to the nation of Puerto
19 Rico;

20 (B) any proceeding pending in the United
21 States District Court for the District of Puerto
22 Rico as of that date shall be transferred to the
23 applicable court in the nation of Puerto Rico or
24 other competent judicial authority under the
25 constitution of the nation of Puerto Rico for
26 disposition in accordance with laws applicable

1 on the date on which the controversy that is the
2 subject of the proceeding arose; and

3 (C) any proceeding pending in the United
4 States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit or
5 in the Supreme Court of the United States as
6 of that date that initiated in, or that could have
7 been initiated in, the courts of the Common-
8 wealth of Puerto Rico or in the United States
9 District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
10 shall—

11 (i) continue until the date of final dis-
12 position; and

13 (ii) be submitted to the competent au-
14 thority of the nation of Puerto Rico for
15 proper execution.

16 (2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph
17 (1), if the United States or any officer of the United
18 States is a party to a proceeding described in sub-
19 paragraph (B) or (C) of that paragraph, any final
20 judgment in that proceeding shall be properly exe-
21 cuted by the competent authority of the United
22 States.

23 **SEC. 310. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION LAWS AFTER**
24 **SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH FREE ASSOCIATION.**

25 (a) CITIZENSHIP STATUS.—

1 (1) PUERTO RICAN NATIONALITY.—Beginning
2 on the date of issuance of the Proclamation, the citi-
3 zenship status of each individual born in Puerto
4 Rico shall be determined in accordance with the con-
5 stitution and laws of the nation of Puerto Rico.

6 (2) UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION LAWS.—Ex-
7 cept as provided in this section, beginning on the
8 date of issuance of the Proclamation, a citizen of
9 Puerto Rico seeking to enter into the United States
10 or obtain citizenship in the United States shall be
11 subject to the immigration laws.

12 (b) EFFECT OF PUERTO RICAN CITIZENSHIP.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), nothing in this title precludes or limits
15 the applicability of section 349 of the Immigration
16 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1481).

17 (2) EXCEPTION.—The provision of citizenship
18 by the laws of the nation of Puerto Rico under sub-
19 section (a)(1) shall not constitute, or otherwise serve
20 as the basis of, loss or relinquishment of United
21 States citizenship under section 349 of the Immigra-
22 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1481).

23 (c) CITIZENSHIP AT BIRTH AFTER SOVEREIGNTY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
25 graph (2), an individual born in the nation of Puerto

1 Rico after the date of issuance of the Proclamation
2 to at least 1 parent who became a United States citi-
3 zen under section 302 of the Immigration and Na-
4 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1402) shall not be considered
5 to be a United States citizen at birth under sub-
6 section (c), (d), or (g) of section 301 of that Act (8
7 U.S.C. 1401).

8 (2) TRANSITION PERIOD.—During the period
9 beginning on the effective date of certification of a
10 plebiscite under this Act that favors sovereignty in
11 free association with the United States and ending
12 on the date of issuance of the Proclamation, an indi-
13 vidual born in the nation of Puerto Rico to 2 par-
14 ents who are citizens of the United States shall be
15 considered to be a United States citizen at birth
16 under section 301(c) of the Immigration and Na-
17 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401(c)) if the individual is
18 otherwise eligible for United States citizenship.

19 (d) TRAVEL AND WORK AUTHORIZATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual in any of the
21 following categories may enter, lawfully engage in
22 occupations, and establish residence as a non-
23 immigrant in the United States and territories and
24 possessions of the United States without regard to
25 paragraphs (5)(A) and (7) of section 212(a) of the

1 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
2 1182(a)):

3 (A) An individual who acquires citizenship
4 of Puerto Rico at birth, on or after the date of
5 issuance of the Proclamation.

6 (B) A naturalized citizen of Puerto Rico
7 who—

8 (i) has been an actual resident of
9 Puerto Rico for not fewer than 5 years
10 after attaining naturalization; and

11 (ii) holds a proof of that residence.

12 (2) EMPLOYMENT PERMISSION.—An individual
13 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
14 (1) shall be considered to have the permission of the
15 Secretary of Homeland Security to accept employ-
16 ment in the United States.

17 (3) LIMITATIONS.—The right of an individual
18 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
19 (1) to establish habitual residence in a territory or
20 possession of the United States may be subjected to
21 nondiscriminatory limitations provided for—

22 (A) in laws or regulations of the United
23 States; or

1 (B) in laws or regulations of the applicable
2 territory or possession that are authorized by
3 Federal law.

4 (4) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—This
5 subsection shall expire on termination of the articles
6 of free association in accordance with section 312(e).

7 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a) of the Immi-
9 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is
10 amended—

11 (A) in paragraph (36), by striking “Puerto
12 Rico,”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (38), by striking “Puerto
14 Rico,”.

15 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
16 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of
17 issuance of the Proclamation.

18 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion limits the authority of the United States to change
20 any requirement for United States citizenship.

21 **SEC. 311. BILATERAL NEGOTIATING COMMISSION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—If a plebiscite held under this Act
23 results in a majority vote for sovereignty in free associa-
24 tion with the United States, there shall be established, in
25 accordance with this section, a commission, to be known

1 as the “Bilateral Negotiating Commission”, which shall
2 conduct negotiations on articles of free association with
3 the United States.

4 (b) MEMBERS.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of establishment of the constitutional convention—

6 (1) the constitutional convention shall elect, by
7 majority vote of the delegates to the constitutional
8 convention, 5 members from among the delegates of
9 the constitutional convention to join the Bilateral
10 Negotiating Commission on behalf of Puerto Rico;
11 and

12 (2) the President shall appoint 5 members to
13 the Bilateral Negotiating Commission, 1 of whom
14 shall be nominated as ambassador, to negotiate on
15 behalf of the United States.

16 (c) INITIAL MEETING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the election and appointment of the
19 members to the Bilateral Negotiating Commission
20 under subsection (b), the members of the Bilateral
21 Negotiating Commission shall meet at such time and
22 place as the Legislative Assembly determines to be
23 appropriate.

24 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The initial meeting
25 under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be the

1 establishment of the Bilateral Negotiating Commis-
2 sion.

3 (d) DUTIES.—The Bilateral Negotiating Commission
4 shall—

5 (1) be responsible for expediting the orderly
6 transfer to the nation of Puerto Rico of all functions
7 exercised on the day before the date of the Procla-
8 mation by the Government of the United States in
9 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

10 (2) provide to Congress recommendations on
11 any appropriate legislation to carry out the transfer
12 under paragraph (1), including such appropriate en-
13 abling legislation as may be required by the articles
14 of free association;

15 (3) negotiate all matters pertaining to the gov-
16 ernment-to-government relationship between Puerto
17 Rico and the United States through the development
18 of the articles of free association, including foreign
19 affairs, trade, finance, taxation, security, and de-
20 fense, dispute resolution, immigration, economic ben-
21 efits (including grants), and termination of the free
22 association status; and

23 (4) to the maximum extent practicable, com-
24 plete the articles of free association not later than

1 2 years after the date of establishment of the con-
2 stitutional convention.

3 (e) COLLABORATION.—The Commonwealth govern-
4 ment and Federal agencies shall collaborate with the Bi-
5 lateral Negotiating Commission to provide for the orderly
6 transfer of the functions of government as required by the
7 articles of free association completed under this section.

8 **SEC. 312. ARTICLES OF FREE ASSOCIATION APPROVAL, EF-**
9 **FECTIVE DATE, AND TERMINATION.**

10 (a) APPROVAL.—The articles of free association com-
11 pleted by the Bilateral Negotiating Commission under sec-
12 tion 311 shall take effect on mutual agreement between
13 the Government of the United States and the Government
14 of Puerto Rico after approval by—

15 (1) a separate ratification vote on the articles
16 of free association by the eligible voters in the spe-
17 cial election held under section 304; and

18 (2) the Government of the United States, in ac-
19 cordance with procedures under the Constitution of
20 the United States.

21 (b) REJECTION.—If a special election under sub-
22 section (a)(1) results in rejection of the articles of free
23 association, the process provided for in section 311 and
24 subsection (a) shall be repeated.

1 (c) TERMINATION.—The articles of free association
2 between the United States and the nation of Puerto Rico
3 approved under this section may be terminated at will by
4 the United States or the nation of Puerto Rico at any
5 time.

6 **SEC. 313. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
7 **AND GRANTS.**

8 (a) RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any vested rights and bene-
10 fits that accrue to residents of the Commonwealth of
11 Puerto Rico under the laws of the United States
12 from past services or contributions, such as rights
13 and benefits for veterans of the Armed Forces or
14 relatives of veterans of the Armed Forces, retired
15 Federal Government employees, or beneficiaries of
16 old age, disability, or survivor benefits under the So-
17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), shall not
18 be interrupted after the date of issuance of the Proc-
19 lamation, but shall continue until the date on which
20 the rights and benefits are extinguished according to
21 applicable Federal law.

22 (2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—All services to be
23 provided as part of the rights and benefits described
24 in paragraph (1) shall be made available through the
25 government of the nation of Puerto Rico in accord-

1 ance with agreements entered into by the govern-
2 ment of the nation of Puerto Rico and the Govern-
3 ment of the United States.

4 (b) SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
6 (a) and subject to paragraph (2), on the date on
7 which the government of the nation of Puerto Rico
8 establishes a social security system for the nation of
9 Puerto Rico, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
10 transfer to the government of the nation of Puerto
11 Rico all contributions made by employees and em-
12 ployers in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the
13 Social Security system under the Social Security Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) with respect to individuals
15 who, as of the date of issuance of the Proclamation,
16 are residents of the nation of Puerto Rico and are
17 not yet eligible for old age, disability, or survivor
18 benefits under the Social Security system under the
19 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

20 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The government of the
21 nation of Puerto Rico may not use the amounts
22 transferred under paragraph (1) for any purpose
23 other than the establishment and operation of a so-
24 cial security system for the nation of Puerto Rico.

1 (3) OBLIGATIONS.—On the transfer of the
2 amounts under paragraph (1), the obligations of the
3 United States Government under the Social Security
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) with respect to residents
5 of the nation of Puerto Rico shall cease.

6 (c) OTHER FEDERAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any Federal transfer pay-
8 ments to individuals and to the Commonwealth gov-
9 ernment not described in subsection (a) or (b) shall
10 be maintained in the form of annual block grants to
11 be used by the government of the nation of Puerto
12 Rico at the discretion of the government of the na-
13 tion of Puerto Rico.

14 (2) ANNUAL AGGREGATE FUNDING.—During
15 the 10-fiscal-year period beginning on the date of
16 issuance of the Proclamation, the amount of an an-
17 nual block grant described in paragraph (1) shall be
18 equal to the greater of—

19 (A) the annual aggregate funding of all
20 programs described in that paragraph that ex-
21 tend to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico dur-
22 ing the applicable fiscal year; and

23 (B) the annual aggregate funding of all
24 programs described in that paragraph that have
25 been extended to the Commonwealth of Puerto

1 Rico during the fiscal year immediately prior to
2 the date of issuance of the Proclamation.

3 (3) DECREASE IN AMOUNT.—Beginning in the
4 11th fiscal year after the date of issuance of the
5 Proclamation, the amount of the annual block
6 grants described in paragraph (1), as calculated
7 under paragraph (2), shall decrease at the rate of 10
8 percent each year.

9 (4) MODIFICATION OF TERMS.—The terms of
10 this subsection may be modified by agreement be-
11 tween the United States and the nation of Puerto
12 Rico.

13 (d) REVISION.—The terms and conditions of sub-
14 sections (a) and (b) may be revised as part of an agree-
15 ment under the articles of free association approved under
16 section 312.

17 **TITLE IV—TRANSITION AND IM-**
18 **PLEMENTATION OF STATE-**
19 **HOOD STATUS**

20 **SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this title:

22 (1) ADMISSION DATE.—The term “admission
23 date” means the date on which the Commonwealth
24 of Puerto Rico is admitted as a State of the Union

1 of the United States, as established under section
2 402(b)(1).

3 (2) PROCLAMATION.—The term “Proclama-
4 tion” means a Presidential proclamation issued
5 under section 402(b)(1).

6 **SEC. 402. PUERTO RICO READINESS FOR STATEHOOD;**
7 **PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION; ADMISSION**
8 **INTO THE UNION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

9 (a) ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR STATEHOOD.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of a certification
11 of the plebiscite results of the Elections Commission
12 pursuant to section 101(d) in which the statehood
13 status option is favored, the Comptroller General of
14 the United States shall conduct a study on the read-
15 iness of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for state-
16 hood, under which the Comptroller General of the
17 United States shall examine—

18 (A) whether the majority of eligible voters
19 that voted for statehood in the plebiscite re-
20 flects a sufficiently stable majority such that it
21 is likely that the majority of the eligible votes
22 would not revert to a minority of eligible voters
23 in a future plebiscite;

24 (B) whether the proposed new State, with
25 a per capita income of \$13,318, according to

1 the 2020 decennial census, has sufficient re-
2 sources—

3 (i) to support the State government;

4 (ii) to meet the restructured debt pay-
5 ment obligations, as set forth in the appli-
6 cable plan of adjustment filed under sec-
7 tion 312 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2172);
8 and

9 (iii) to provide the applicable State
10 share of the costs of the Federal Govern-
11 ment, including demonstrating the capacity
12 to comply with full payment of Federal
13 taxes and other contributions in the same
14 manner as existing States of the United
15 States; and

16 (C) the impact on existing States of the
17 United States and the United States as a whole
18 of—

19 (i) the fact that the population of the
20 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico—

21 (I) is greater than the population
22 of 29 other States; and

23 (II) is greater than the popu-
24 lation of any State as of the date on

1 which the State entered the Union of
2 the United States;

3 (ii) the fact that, of the 98.7 percent
4 of the population of the Commonwealth of
5 Puerto Rico that is Hispanic, a substantial
6 proportion considers Puerto Rico to be a
7 Spanish-speaking, Latino nation; and

8 (iii) the fact that 43.4 percent of the
9 population of the Commonwealth of Puerto
10 Rico is below the poverty line, according to
11 the 2020 decennial census.

12 (2) DEADLINE.—Not later than 2 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
14 General of the United States shall submit to the ap-
15 propriate committees of Congress a report describing
16 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

17 (3) VOTE.—As soon as practicable after the
18 date of submission of the study under paragraph
19 (2), the Senate and the House of Representatives
20 shall each hold a vote on the admission of the Com-
21 monwealth of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union
22 of the United States.

23 (b) PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION; DATE OF ADMIS-
24 SION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of notice of a ma-
2 jority vote in the Senate and the House of Rep-
3 resentatives in favor of the admission of the Com-
4 monwealth of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union
5 of the United States under subsection (a)(3), the
6 President shall issue a proclamation declaring the
7 date on which the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is
8 admitted as a State of the Union of the United
9 States, subject to paragraph (2).

10 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The date referred to in
11 paragraph (1) shall be a date not later than 1 year
12 after the date on which the President receives the
13 notice under that paragraph.

14 (3) SUBMISSION OF PROCLAMATION.—The
15 President shall submit the Proclamation to—

16 (A) the Governor;

17 (B) the President pro tempore of the Sen-
18 ate;

19 (C) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives;

21 (D) the Committee on Energy and Natural
22 Resources of the Senate; and

23 (E) the Committee on Natural Resources
24 of the House of Representatives.

1 (4) ADMISSION INTO THE UNION OF THE
2 UNITED STATES.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provi-
4 sions of this Act, on the admission date, the
5 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be a State
6 of the United States and admitted into the
7 Union of the United States on an equal footing
8 with the other States in all respects.

9 (B) DESIGNATION.—On admission into the
10 Union of the United States under subparagraph
11 (A), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall be
12 known as “the State of Puerto Rico”.

13 (C) INCORPORATION.—The Commonwealth
14 of Puerto Rico shall remain unincorporated
15 until the admission date.

16 **SEC. 403. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAW.**

17 (a) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date
18 of certification of the plebiscite results of the Elections
19 Commission pursuant to section 101(d) in which the state-
20 hood status option is favored, the President shall initiate
21 a review of Federal laws with respect to Puerto Rico, in-
22 cluding Federal laws relating to—

- 23 (1) taxation of persons and businesses;
24 (2) health care;
25 (3) housing;

- 1 (4) transportation;
- 2 (5) education; and
- 3 (6) entitlement programs.

4 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date on which the President initiates a review
6 under subsection (a), the President shall submit to Con-
7 gress recommendations for changes to Federal laws identi-
8 fied during the review, as the President determines to be
9 appropriate.

10 **SEC. 404. TERRITORY AND BOUNDARIES.**

11 The State of Puerto Rico shall consist of all of the
12 islands, appurtenant reefs, seafloor, submerged land, and
13 territorial waters in the seaward boundary under the juris-
14 diction of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the day
15 before the admission date.

16 **SEC. 405. CONSTITUTION.**

17 (a) FINDING; DECLARATION.—Congress—

18 (1) finds that the constitution of the Common-
19 wealth of Puerto Rico approved by Public Law 82-
20 447 (66 Stat. 327, chapter 567), as subsequently
21 amended and in effect as of the day before the date
22 of enactment of this Act is—

23 (A) republican in form; and

1 (B) in conformity with the Constitution of
 2 the United States and the principles of the Dec-
 3 laration of Independence; and

4 (2) declares that the constitution of the Com-
 5 monwealth of Puerto Rico approved by Public Law
 6 82-447 (66 Stat. 327, chapter 567), as subsequently
 7 amended and in effect as of the day before the date
 8 of enactment of this Act, is accepted, ratified, and
 9 confirmed as the constitution of the State of Puerto
 10 Rico.

11 (b) REQUIREMENT.—The constitution of the State of
 12 Puerto Rico—

13 (1) shall remain republican in form; and

14 (2) shall not be repugnant to—

15 (A) the Constitution of the United States;

16 or

17 (B) the principles of the Declaration of
 18 Independence.

19 **SEC. 406. ELECTIONS OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTA-**
 20 **TIVES; CERTIFICATION; JURISDICTION.**

21 (a) ELECTIONS OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTA-
 22 TIVES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of issuance
 23 of the Proclamation, the Governor shall issue a declaration
 24 to designate and announce the dates and other require-
 25 ments for primary and general elections under applicable

1 Federal and local law for representation of the State of
2 Puerto Rico in the Senate and the House of Representa-
3 tives on admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the
4 Union of the United States.

5 (b) RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.—The office of Resi-
6 dent Commissioner of Puerto Rico shall cease to exist on
7 the swearing in of the first Member of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives from the State of Puerto Rico.

9 (c) SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—On admission into the Union
11 of the United States, the State of Puerto Rico shall
12 be entitled to representation in the Senate and
13 House of Representatives, with the Senators and
14 Representatives from the State of Puerto Rico enti-
15 tled—

16 (A) to be admitted to seats in Congress;

17 and

18 (B) to all the rights and privileges of Sen-
19 ators and Representatives of the other States in
20 Congress.

21 (2) FIRST ELECTION OF SENATORS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the first election of
23 Senators from the State of Puerto Rico held
24 after the admission date—

1 (i) the 2 senatorial offices shall be
2 separately identified and designated; and

3 (ii) no individual may be a candidate
4 for both Senatorial offices designated
5 under clause (i).

6 (B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph
7 affects the privilege of the Senate to determine
8 the class and term to which each of the Sen-
9 ators elected under this paragraph shall be as-
10 signed, except that the 2 Senators may not be
11 in same class.

12 (3) ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

13 (A) INITIAL ELECTIONS.—

14 (i) IN GENERAL.—In the first election
15 of Representatives from the State of Puer-
16 to Rico held after the admission date and
17 each election thereafter until the first cen-
18 sus-based reapportionment election held
19 after the admission date—

20 (I) the State of Puerto Rico shall
21 be entitled to the same number of
22 Representatives as the State, the most
23 recent census population of which was
24 closest to, but not more than, the pop-

1 ulation of the State of Puerto Rico;
2 and

3 (II) the Representatives elected
4 shall be in addition to the number of
5 Members of the House of Representa-
6 tives as prescribed by law.

7 (ii) INCREASE.—Any temporary in-
8 crease in the membership in the number of
9 Members of the House of Representatives
10 under clause (i)(II) shall not—

11 (I) increase or decrease the per-
12 manent membership of the House of
13 Representatives as prescribed in sec-
14 tions 1 and 2 of the Act entitled “An
15 Act for the apportionment of Rep-
16 resentatives in Congress among the
17 several States under the Thirteenth
18 Census”, approved August 8, 1911 (2
19 U.S.C. 2); or

20 (II) affect the basis of reappor-
21 tionment established by section 22 of
22 the Act entitled “An Act to provide
23 for the fifteenth and subsequent de-
24 cennial censuses and to provide for
25 apportionment of Representatives in

1 Congress", approved June 18, 1929
2 (2 U.S.C. 2a), unless Congress in-
3 creases the total number of Members
4 of the House of Representatives.

5 (B) CENSUS-BASED REAPPORTIONMENT
6 ELECTIONS.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—During the first
8 census-based reapportionment election held
9 after the admission date and each election
10 thereafter, the State of Puerto Rico shall
11 be entitled to the number of Representa-
12 tives as provided for by applicable law,
13 based on the applicable reapportionment.

14 (ii) APPLICABLE LAW.—The appor-
15 tionment of congressional districts for an
16 election under clause (i) shall be conducted
17 as provided for by the constitution and
18 laws of the State of Puerto Rico for State
19 legislative districts.

20 (d) CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Elections Commission
22 shall certify the results of the initial primary and
23 general elections for representation in the Senate
24 and the House of Representatives from the State of
25 Puerto Rico under paragraph (2) or (3)(A) of sub-

1 section (c) to the Governor of the State of Puerto
2 Rico.

3 (2) TRANSMISSION; DECLARATION.—Not later
4 than 10 days after the date of a certification under
5 paragraph (1), the Governor of the State of Puerto
6 Rico shall—

7 (A) declare the results of the primary or
8 general election, as applicable; and

9 (B) transmit the results of the election
10 to—

11 (i) the President;

12 (ii) the President pro tempore of the
13 Senate; and

14 (iii) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives.

16 (e) JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT COURT.—The United
17 States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall
18 have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil ac-
19 tion alleging a dispute or controversy relating to any elec-
20 toral process conducted under this section.

21 **SEC. 407. STATE TITLE TO LAND AND PROPERTY.**

22 (a) STATE TITLE.—The State of Puerto Rico and po-
23 litical subdivisions of the State of Puerto Rico shall have
24 and retain title in and to all property, real and personal,
25 held by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and political

1 subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the
2 day before the admission date.

3 (b) FEDERAL TITLE.—There shall remain the prop-
4 erty of the United States any land and other property
5 that, as of the admission date, is set aside for the use
6 of the United States under—

- 7 (1) an Act of Congress;
- 8 (2) an Executive order;
- 9 (3) a Presidential proclamation; or
- 10 (4) a proclamation of the Governor.

11 (c) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—

12 (1) STATE OF PUERTO RICO.—The State of
13 Puerto Rico shall have the exclusive right to explore,
14 exploit, lease, possess, and use all seabed and nat-
15 ural and mineral resources lying within 3 marine
16 leagues or 9 nautical miles from the shoreline of the
17 State of Puerto Rico, as granted under section 8 of
18 the Act of March 2, 1917 (39 Stat. 954, chapter
19 145; 48 U.S.C. 749).

20 (2) UNITED STATES.—All other rights of sov-
21 ereignty with respect to the outer Continental Shelf
22 of the State of Puerto Rico shall belong to the
23 United States, except in cases in which the rights
24 are vested in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on
25 the day before the admission date.

1 **SEC. 408. CONTINUITY OF LAWS, GOVERNMENT, AND OBLI-**
2 **GATIONS.**

3 As of the admission date—

4 (1) all of the territorial laws in effect in the
5 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the date of
6 issuance of the Proclamation that are not incon-
7 sistent with this Act or the constitution of the State
8 of Puerto Rico shall continue in force and effect
9 throughout the State of Puerto Rico, until amended,
10 modified, or repealed by the State of Puerto Rico;

11 (2) all of the laws of the United States shall
12 have the same force and effect within the State of
13 Puerto Rico as in the other States;

14 (3) the individuals holding legislative, executive,
15 and judicial offices of the Commonwealth of Puerto
16 Rico shall continue to discharge the duties of the re-
17 spective offices in, under, or by authority of the gov-
18 ernment of the State of Puerto Rico, as provided by
19 the constitution and laws of the State;

20 (4) all contracts, obligations, liabilities, debts,
21 and claims of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and
22 instrumentalities of the Commonwealth of Puerto
23 Rico in effect on the admission date shall continue
24 in full force and effect as the contracts, obligations,
25 liabilities, debts, and claims of the State of Puerto

1 Rico and instrumentalities of the State of Puerto
2 Rico; and

3 (5) all laws of the United States reserving to
4 the United States the free use or enjoyment of prop-
5 erty that vests in or is conveyed to the State of
6 Puerto Rico or political subdivisions of the State of
7 Puerto Rico pursuant to this section or reserving the
8 right to alter, amend, or repeal laws relating to the
9 property shall cease to be effective.

10 **SEC. 409. JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS.**

11 (a) PENDING.—A writ, action, indictment, cause, or
12 proceeding pending in any court of the Commonwealth of
13 Puerto Rico as of the admission date—

14 (1) shall not abate by reason of the admission
15 of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union of the
16 United States; but

17 (2) shall, as the nature of the case may re-
18 quire—

19 (A) proceed within any appropriate State
20 court established under the constitution of the
21 State of Puerto Rico; or

22 (B) continue in the United States District
23 Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

24 (b) NOT YET PENDING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any civil cause of action or
2 criminal offense that arose or was committed before
3 the admission date, but with respect to which no
4 writ, action, indictment, or proceeding is pending on
5 the admission date, shall be subject to prosecution in
6 the appropriate State court or in the United States
7 District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, to the
8 same extent, and with the same right of appellate re-
9 view, as if the State court had been established be-
10 fore the accrual of the cause of action or the com-
11 mission of the offense.

12 (2) PROCEDURAL OR SUBSTANTIVE LAWS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The admission of the
14 State of Puerto Rico into the Union of the
15 United States shall not affect a change in the
16 procedural or substantive laws with respect to a
17 cause of action or criminal offense that arose or
18 was committed as of the admission date.

19 (B) TRIAL.—Any criminal offense de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (A)—

21 (i) that was committed in violation of
22 the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto
23 Rico shall be tried by the appropriate court
24 of the State of Puerto Rico; and

1 (ii) that was committed in violation of
2 the laws of the United States shall be tried
3 in the United States District Court for the
4 District of Puerto Rico.

5 (c) APPEALS.—

6 (1) BEFORE ADMISSION DATE.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Parties to an action
8 shall have the same rights of judicial review of
9 final decisions of the United States District
10 Court for the District of Puerto Rico or the Su-
11 preme Court of Puerto Rico in any case decided
12 before the admission date, regardless of wheth-
13 er an appeal was perfected prior to the admis-
14 sion date.

15 (B) JURISDICTION.—The United States
16 Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the
17 Supreme Court of the United States shall have
18 the same jurisdiction in an action described in
19 subparagraph (A) as by law provided prior to
20 the admission date.

21 (2) AFTER ADMISSION DATE.—Any mandate
22 issued after the admission date shall be to the
23 United States District Court for the District of
24 Puerto Rico or a court of the State of Puerto Rico,
25 as appropriate.

1 (3) PENDING ACTION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Parties shall have the
3 same rights of appeal from, and appellate re-
4 view of, all orders, judgments, and decrees of
5 the United States District Court for the Dis-
6 trict of Puerto Rico and of the Supreme Court
7 of Puerto Rico in any case pending on the ad-
8 mission date.

9 (B) JURISDICTION.—The Supreme Court
10 of Puerto Rico and the Supreme Court of the
11 United States shall have the same jurisdiction
12 in an action described in subparagraph (A) as
13 the jurisdiction provided in any case arising
14 after the admission date.

15 **TITLE V—TRANSITION AND IM-**
16 **PLEMENTATION OF COMMON-**
17 **WEALTH STATUS**

18 **SEC. 501. BILATERAL NEGOTIATING COMMISSION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—If a plebiscite conducted under
20 this Act results in a majority vote for the Commonwealth-
21 Estado Libre Asociado status option, there shall be estab-
22 lished, in accordance with this section, a commission, to
23 be known as the “Bilateral Negotiating Commission”,
24 which shall conduct studies and negotiations on changes
25 to the Commonwealth-Estado Libre Asociado status with-

1 in the general framework of commonwealth status, includ-
2 ing the potential for a compact agreement between the
3 United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to
4 replace the Act of July 3, 1950 (commonly known as the
5 “Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act of 1950”) (64 Stat.
6 319, chapter 446).

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date on which the results of a plebiscite in favor of com-
9 monwealth status are submitted under section 101(d)—

10 (1) the political party or organization rep-
11 resenting the Commonwealth-Estado Libre Asociado
12 status option in the plebiscite shall appoint 5 mem-
13 bers to the Bilateral Negotiating Commission; and

14 (2) the President shall appoint 5 members to
15 the Bilateral Negotiating Commission.

16 (c) INITIAL MEETING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
18 the date on which the members of the Bilateral Ne-
19 gotiating Commission are appointed under sub-
20 section (b), the Bilateral Negotiating Commission
21 shall hold a meeting at such time and such place as
22 the members of the Bilateral Negotiating Commis-
23 sion determine to be appropriate.

24 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The initial meeting
25 under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be the

1 establishment of the Bilateral Negotiating Commis-
2 sion.

3 (d) DUTIES.—The Bilateral Negotiating Commission
4 shall—

5 (1)(A) examine, discuss, and negotiate improve-
6 ments to the Commonwealth-Estado Libre Asociado
7 status;

8 (B) draft a compact agreement that would re-
9 place the Act of July 3, 1950 (commonly known as
10 the “Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act of 1950”)
11 (64 Stat. 319, chapter 446), within the general
12 framework of the Commonwealth-Estado Libre
13 Asociado status; and

14 (C) propose the draft compact agreement to eli-
15 gible voters in a ratification vote in accordance with
16 section 502(a)(1);

17 (2) to the maximum extent practicable, com-
18 plete the work of the Bilateral Negotiating Commis-
19 sion not later than 2 years after the date of the ini-
20 tial meeting of the Bilateral Negotiating Commis-
21 sion.

22 (e) COLLABORATION.—The Commonwealth govern-
23 ment and Federal agencies shall collaborate with the Bi-
24 lateral Negotiating Commission in carrying out the duties
25 of the Bilateral Negotiating Commission under this title.

1 **SEC. 502. APPROVAL; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 (a) APPROVAL.—A compact agreement between the
3 Federal Government and the Commonwealth government
4 proposed by the Bilateral Negotiating Commission under
5 section 501 shall take effect on the date of approval of
6 the proposed compact agreement—

7 (1) in a ratification vote by eligible voters in a
8 special election that is held—

9 (A) not later than 180 days after the date
10 on which the Bilateral Negotiating Commission
11 releases the proposed compact agreement; and

12 (B) in accordance with procedures devel-
13 oped by the Legislative Assembly; and

14 (2) by the Federal Government, in accordance
15 with applicable Federal law and the Constitution.

16 (b) REJECTION.—If the special election under sub-
17 section (a)(1) results in a rejection of the proposed com-
18 pact agreement, the process provided in section 501 and
19 subsection (a) shall be repeated.

20 **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**

21 **SEC. 601. APPLICATION OF PUERTO RICO OVERSIGHT,**
22 **MANAGEMENT, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY**
23 **ACT.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—On the applicable date described
25 in subsection (b)—

1 (1) the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management,
2 and Economic Stability Act (48 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.)
3 shall no longer apply to the State of Puerto Rico,
4 the nation of Puerto Rico, or the Commonwealth of
5 Puerto Rico, as applicable; and

6 (2)(A) the Financial Oversight and Manage-
7 ment Board established by section 101(b)(1) of the
8 Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic
9 Stability Act (48 U.S.C. 2121(b)(1)) shall be termi-
10 nated;

11 (B) all duties and responsibilities assigned to
12 the Financial Oversight and Management Board
13 under that Act as of that date shall return to the
14 State of Puerto Rico, the nation of Puerto Rico, or
15 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as applicable;
16 and

17 (C) all funds, property, and assets of the Fi-
18 nancial Oversight and Management Board as of that
19 date shall be transferred to the State of Puerto
20 Rico, the nation of Puerto Rico, or the Common-
21 wealth of Puerto Rico, as applicable.

22 (b) APPLICABLE DATE DESCRIBED.—The applicable
23 date described in this subsection is—

1 (1) the date on which the government of the na-
2 tion of Puerto Rico takes office, as established under
3 section 208(c) or 307(c);

4 (2) the date on which the Commonwealth of
5 Puerto Rico is admitted as a State of the Union of
6 the United States, as declared under a Presidential
7 proclamation issued under section 402(b)(1); or

8 (3) the date of ratification by eligible voters of
9 a compact agreement for the Commonwealth of
10 Puerto Rico under section 502(a)(1).

11 **SEC. 602. SEVERABILITY.**

12 If any provision of this Act, or the application of a
13 provision of this Act to any person or circumstance, is held
14 to be invalid by a court of jurisdiction, the remainder of
15 this Act, and the application of the provisions to any per-
16 son or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

○