101st CONGRESS 1st Session

## S. 710

To provide for a referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 1989

Mr. JOHNSTON (for himself and Mr. McClure) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

## A BILL

To provide for a referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 That this Act may be referred to as the
- 4 SEC. 2. REFERENDUM.
- 5 (a) In General.—An islandwide referendum shall be
- 3 held in Puerto Rico in which qualified voters of the Common-
- 7 wealth of Puerto Rico shall be presented a choice of selecting
- 8 and negotiating one of three status options for Puerto Rico as
- 9 follows:

1	(1) Statehood with full powers and cultural				
2	identity duly recognized;				
3	(2) Independence with full economic guarantees;				
4	or				
5	(3) Enhanced Commonwealth in permanent union.				
6	(b) DATE OF REFERENDUM.—The first referendum				
7	shall occur on , 1991.				
8	(c) RETURNS OF REFERENDUM.—The returns of the				
9	referendum held under this Act shall be made to the Gover				
10	nor of Puerto Rico, who shall cause them to be canvassed in				
11	the manner provided by law for the canvass of votes cast in				
12	general elections in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. I				
13	there is not a majority in favor of one of the three options				
14	then there shall be, on , 1991, a runoff refer				
15	endum between the two status options which had received				
16	the largest number of votes. The Governor shall certify to the				
17	President and to the Congress of the United States that deci-				
18	sion of the people of Puerto Rico which received a majority				
19	of the votes cast.				
20	(d) Applicable Election Laws.—The election laws				
21	of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall apply to the refer				
22	endum held under this Act.				

## 1 SEC. 3. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEVELOP LEGISLATION BASED ON

- 2 REFERENDUM.
- 3 (a) Negotiations.—Following certification by the
- 4 Governor as provided in section 2(c), then the process, in-
- 5 volving representatives of the principal political party repre-
- 6 senting the status option selected, and in full consultation
- 7 with the other two principal political parties, shall begin to
- 8 develop implementing legislation in consultation with the
- 9 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United
- 10 States Senate and the appropriate committees of jurisdiction
- 11 in the United States House of Representatives. Such legisla-
- 12 tion shall, upon enactment, authorize a further referendum of
- 13 the people of Puerto Rico to approve or disapprove the se-
- 14 lected status as defined in the legislation. A change of status
- 15 shall not be effective unless or until approved in such a refer-
- 16 endum.
- 17 (b) TIME LIMIT.—The second referendum to approve or
- 18 disapprove the selected status as defined in the legislation
- 19 developed under this section shall occur no later than the end
- 20 of the Congress which is in session on the fourth anniversary
- 21 of the date of the Governor's certification provided for
- 22 under section 2(c), or as may be otherwise provided in such
- 23 legislation.