

101ST CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 710

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

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## 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

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## 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  
6       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 **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.

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