

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1230

To recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a Constitutional Convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish a mechanism for congressional consideration of such decision.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FALDOMAVEGA, and Ms. SOLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a Constitutional Convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish a mechanism for congressional consideration of such decision.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Self-De-  
5 termination Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For the purposes of this Act:

3 (1) COMMONWEALTH.—The term “Common-  
4 wealth” means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

5 (2) SELF-DETERMINATION OPTION.—The term  
6 “Self-Determination Option” means an option  
7 agreed to by a Constitutional Convention in the  
8 Commonwealth for a new or modified Common-  
9 wealth status, Statehood, or Independence. A Self-  
10 Determination Option must be based on the sov-  
11 ereignty of the People of Puerto Rico and not sub-  
12 ject to the plenary powers of the territorial clause of  
13 the Constitution of the United States.

14 (3) SELF-DETERMINATION PROPOSAL.—The  
15 term “Self-Determination Proposal” means a Self  
16 Determination Option approved by the People of  
17 Puerto Rico in a referendum held pursuant to sec-  
18 tion 4(b).

19 (4) PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO.—The term  
20 “People of Puerto Rico” means residents in the  
21 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and non-resident  
22 Puerto Ricans.

23 (5) NON-RESIDENT PUERTO RICANS.—The term  
24 “non-resident Puerto Ricans” refers to individuals  
25 who are not legal residents of the Commonwealth of

1 Puerto Rico and who are either born in Puerto Rico  
2 or have one parent born in Puerto Rico.

3 (6) CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.—The term  
4 “Constitutional Convention” means a Convention of  
5 delegates elected by the People of Puerto Rico and  
6 convened pursuant to legislation approved by the  
7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

8 **SEC. 3. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

9 Congress recognizes the inherent authority of the  
10 People of Puerto Rico to call a Constitutional Convention,  
11 constituted by a number of delegates to be determined in  
12 accordance to legislation approved by the Commonwealth  
13 of Puerto Rico, for the purpose of proposing to the People  
14 of Puerto Rico a Self-Determination Option, which if ap-  
15 proved by the People of Puerto Rico in a referendum  
16 would be presented to Congress by the Constitutional Con-  
17 vention as a Self-Determination Proposal.

18 **SEC. 4. SELF-DETERMINATION OPTION AND PROPOSAL.**

19 (a) CONSIDERATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION PRO-  
20 POSAL.—

21 (1) APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL.—If the People of  
22 Puerto Rico approve the Self-Determination Pro-  
23 posal in a referendum, a joint resolution of Congress  
24 shall be enacted approving the terms of the Self-De-  
25 termination Proposal, including provisions necessary

1 to implement the Self-Determination Proposal. If  
2 Congress approves the Self-Determination Proposal  
3 with any changes or amendments, it shall be sub-  
4 mitted in a referendum vote to the People of Puerto  
5 Rico for approval before it shall be effective.

6 (2) REJECTION OF PROPOSAL.—If a Self-Deter-  
7 mination Proposal is rejected by Congress or is re-  
8 jected by the People of Puerto Rico in a referendum  
9 held pursuant to paragraph (1), the Constitutional  
10 Convention may reconvene for the purpose of delib-  
11 erating to adopt another Self-Determination Option  
12 to propose to the People of Puerto Rico and Con-  
13 gress.

14 **SEC. 5. CONVENTION IN CONTINUOUS SESSION.**

15 A Constitutional Convention held pursuant to this  
16 Act may remain in session until a Self-Determination Pro-  
17 posal is enacted by Federal law.

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