

70TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 9847

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 1928

Mr. DAVILA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To enable the people of the island of Porto Rico to form a constitution and government.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the people of the island of Porto Rico be, and they are
4 hereby, authorized to form for themselves a constitution and
5 government under the jurisdiction of the United States and
6 to assume such name as they deem proper.

7 SEC. 2. That the territory subject to said government
8 shall be the island of Porto Rico and the adjacent islands and
9 waters of the islands lying east of the seventy-fourth meridian

1 of longitude west of Greenwich, which were ceded to the
2 United States by the Government of Spain by treaty entered
3 into on the 10th of December, 1898.

4 SEC. 3. That the constitution adopted shall be repub-
5 lican in form and adequate to secure a stable, orderly, and
6 free government.

7 SEC. 4. That the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico
8 shall provide for a constitutional convention and the election
9 of the members thereof by the people for the purpose of
10 drafting the constitution.

11 SEC. 5. That the Legislative Assembly of the Island
12 of Porto Rico shall provide for the orderly transfer of func-
13 tions of government from the existing to the new government
14 established under the proposed constitution.

15 SEC. 6. That when said constitution shall have been
16 duly approved by the constitutional convention herein pro-
17 vided, a certified copy of the same shall be submitted to the
18 President of the United States and to Congress for approval.
19 And if Congress and the President approve said constitution
20 or if the President approves and Congress fails to disapprove
21 the same during the next regular session thereof, then, and in
22 that event, the President shall certify said facts to the Gov-
23 ernor of Porto Rico, who shall within thirty days after the
24 receipt of said ratification from the President of the United
25 States issue his proclamation for the election of officers of the

1 new government; said election to take place not earlier than
2 sixty days nor later than ninety days after the proclamation
3 by the governor ordering the same. When said election of
4 the officers provided for under the new constitution shall
5 have been held and the results determined, the Governor
6 of Porto Rico shall certify the results of said election to the
7 President of the United States, who thereupon shall imme-
8 diately issue his proclamation announcing the result of said
9 election so ascertained, and upon the issuance of said procla-
10 mation by the President of the United States, the Government
11 established by the constitution herein provided for shall enter
12 on its rights, duties, and privileges as provided under the
13 constitution. Until said government so begins to function,
14 the existing government of the island of Porto Rico and the
15 officers thereof shall continue to discharge their respective
16 duties in and for said island of Porto Rico. The constitution,
17 although amended by Congress, shall be considered finally
18 approved provided the amendments are agreed to by the
19 constitutional convention through the Resident Commissioner
20 of Porto Rico.

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