

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3237

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 1945

Mr. PISERO (by request of the Legislature of Puerto Rico as per its Resolution No. 1 of 1945) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the submission to the people of Puerto Rico of alternative forms of political status to the end that, by mutual agreement between the people of Puerto Rico and the Government of the United States, a permanent political status may be established in Puerto Rico mutually satisfactory to both.

Whereas under the treaty between the United States and Spain of December 10, 1898, the island of Cuba, the Philippine Islands, and the island of Puerto Rico came under the American flag, subject to the sovereign power of the United States; and

Whereas the United States thereby assumed certain obligations toward the peoples of these islands, including responsibility for the establishment of civil government, the promotion of

1 as described in titles II, III, and IV of this Act or reject
2 all of them. All persons who have the qualifications for
3 voters for members of the Legislature of Puerto Rico shall
4 be entitled to vote at such referendum. The Legislature of
5 Puerto Rico shall provide by law for the conduct and safe-
6 guarding of said referendum and for the canvassing of the
7 returns and shall certify the result to the Governor of Puerto
8 Rico. If an absolute majority of the votes cast at such
9 referendum shall favor any one of the forms of relationship
10 with the Government of the United States or political status
11 as described in titles II, III, and IV of this Act, the legis-
12 lature shall immediately initiate procedures for making the
13 same effective pursuant to the terms of this Act.

14 SEC. 3. If no one of the forms of relationship or political
15 status described in titles II, III, and IV of this Act receives
16 a majority of the votes cast in the referendum provided for
17 in section 2, the Legislature of Puerto Rico shall provide
18 by law for a new referendum, at which only the two forms
19 of relationship or political status receiving the larger number
20 of votes in the first referendum shall be submitted to the
21 people of Puerto Rico.

22 SEC. 4. If and when an absolute majority of the votes
23 cast at either of the referenda provided for in sections 2 and 3
24 of this title favors title II of this Act, title II shall go into
25 effect.

1 **SEC. 5.** If and when an absolute majority of the votes
2 cast at either of the referenda provided for in sections 2 and
3 3 of this title favors title III of this Act, title III shall go
4 into effect.

5 **SEC. 6.** If and when an absolute majority of the votes
6 cast at either of the referenda provided for in sections 2 and
7 3 of this title favors title IV of this Act, title IV shall go into
8 effect.

9 **SEC. 7.** If the Legislature of Puerto Rico is in session
10 when title I of this Act becomes effective, it shall remain in
11 permanent session until a new government, as provided in
12 any one of the titles of this Act, takes office in Puerto Rico,
13 any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding; and if
14 the Legislature of Puerto Rico is not in session when title I
15 of this Act becomes effective, the Governor of Puerto Rico
16 shall, within ten days, call the Legislature of Puerto Rico
17 for a special permanent session, which shall not adjourn until
18 a new government, as provided in any one of the titles of
19 this Act, takes office in Puerto Rico, any provision of law to
20 the contrary notwithstanding. In either case the legislature
21 shall be in session for the sole purpose of carrying out its
22 duties under the provisions of this Act, but it may take care
23 of its regular legislative business during the period designated
24 by section 33 of the Organic Act of Puerto Rico (Act of
25 March 2, 1917, as amended), and the Governor may at any

1 time call upon the legislature to consider especially any legis-
2 lation specified in the call thereof or in any special message,
3 according to the authority granted by the same section of the
4 organic Act, provided that during the course of the perma-
5 nent session herein provided for the houses of the legislature
6 of Puerto Rico may recess, always subject to a call by the
7 chair.

8 SEC. 8. After the approval of this Act no general elec-
9 tions shall be held in Puerto Rico under the provisions of
10 the Act of March 2, 1917, as amended, known as the
11 Organic Act of Puerto Rico.

12 TITLE II—INDEPENDENCE

13 CONVENTION TO FRAME CONSTITUTION FOR PUERTO RICO

14 SEC. 201. The Legislature of Puerto Rico is hereby
15 authorized to provide by law for the election of delegates to
16 a constitutional convention, which shall meet in the capital
17 of Puerto Rico at such time as the Legislature of Puerto Rico
18 may fix, within one year after the enactment of this Act, to
19 formulate and draft a constitution for the Government of
20 the Republic of Puerto Rico, subject to the conditions and
21 qualifications in this Act, which shall exercise jurisdiction
22 over all the territory in the West Indies ceded to the United
23 States by article II of the treaty of peace concluded between
24 the United States and Spain on the 10th day of December
25 1898. The laws relating to qualifications of voters and the

1 safeguarding of elections which governed the election of
2 November 7, 1944, shall apply to this election, with such
3 modifications and additions as the President of the United
4 States may by order prescribe in order to carry out the
5 purpose of securing a true expression of the choice of the
6 people of Puerto Rico.

7 CHARACTER OF CONSTITUTION—MANDATORY PROVISIONS

8 SEC. 202. The constitution formulated and drafted shall
9 provide for a government republican in form, shall contain
10 a bill of rights, including freedom of religious worship, free-
11 dom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly,
12 the right to petition, freedom from unreasonable searches
13 and seizures, and shall furthermore continue and guarantee
14 all the rights, privileges, and immunities at present en-
15 joyed by the people of Puerto Rico under the Constitution
16 of the United States and the Organic Act of Puerto Rico,
17 and shall expressly guarantee all persons and corpora-
18 tions against any expropriation of property and pro-
19 vide for reasonably prompt, equitable, and effective com-
20 pensation for any property taken for public use; and
21 shall also include the following provisions:

22 (1) That the property rights of the United States and
23 Puerto Rico shall be promptly adjusted and settled, and
24 that all existing property rights of citizens or corporations
25 of the United States shall be acknowledged, respected, and

1 safeguarded to the same extent as corresponding property
2 rights of citizens or corporations of Puerto Rico.

3 (2) That the Government of Puerto Rico, on becoming
4 independent of the United States, will assume all continuing
5 obligations assumed by the United States under the treaty
6 of peace with Spain ceding said Puerto Rico to the United
7 States.

8 (3) That by way of further assurance the Government
9 of Puerto Rico will embody the foregoing provisions (1)
10 and (2) in a treaty with the United States.

11 Sec. 203. (a) The Government of the United States
12 shall have the right, after consultation with the Government
13 of Puerto Rico, to establish and maintain such naval and
14 military bases with all necessary installations as the Govern-
15 ment of the United States may consider convenient for the
16 purpose of defense of the United States, Puerto Rico, and
17 the Western Hemisphere.

18 (b) The ships of the United States armed forces—sur-
19 face, subsurface, and air ships—shall enjoy free movement to
20 and from all ports and airports in Puerto Rico as well as
21 supply ships of all kinds carrying supplies to armed forces
22 of the United States, at any time stationed in Puerto Rico.
23 In case of war or of imminent danger of war, the United
24 States shall enjoy the right of free transit of its troops in
25 Puerto Rico after due notice to the Government of Puerto

1 Rico. In times of peace the United States shall enjoy the
2 right of free normal movements of troops from one base,
3 camp, fort, or installation to another within the territorial
4 limits of Puerto Rico, after due notice to the Government of
5 Puerto Rico.

6 (c) In any war in which the United States is involved,
7 the Republic of Puerto Rico shall be an ally of the United
8 States and shall give all cooperation to the war effort within
9 and without the territorial limits of Puerto Rico.

10 (d) The Intelligence Services of the United States shall,
11 in such case as described in the preceding paragraph, act and
12 move freely within the territorial limits of Puerto Rico; and
13 the laws of Puerto Rico shall provide for the adequate en-
14 forcement of provisions for the national security of the
15 United States and Puerto Rico with regard to these activities.

16 The foregoing provisions of section 203 shall be included
17 both in the constitution of the republic of Puerto Rico pro-
18 vided for in section 201 and in a treaty between the United
19 States and Puerto Rico.

20 SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PRESIDENT
21 OF THE UNITED STATES

22 SEC. 204. Upon the drafting and approval of the con-
23 stitution by a majority of the constitutional convention in
24 Puerto Rico, the constitution shall be submitted within two
25 years after the enactment of this Act to the President of the

1 United States, who shall determine whether or not it con-
2 forms with the provisions of this Act. In case the consti-
3 tutional convention in Puerto Rico is not ready to submit a
4 constitution to the President of the United States within two
5 years after the enactment of this Act, the Legislature of
6 Puerto Rico is hereby authorized to provide for a longer
7 term by law or by concurrent resolution. If the President
8 finds that the proposed constitution conforms substantially
9 with the provisions of this Act, he shall so certify to the
10 Governor of Puerto Rico, who shall so advise the constitu-
11 tional convention. If the President finds that the constitution
12 does not conform with the provisions of this Act, he shall
13 so advise the Governor of Puerto Rico, stating wherein in
14 his judgment the constitution does not so conform and sub-
15 mitting provisions which will in his judgment make the
16 constitution so conform. The Governor shall in turn submit
17 such message to the constitutional convention for further
18 action by them pursuant to the same procedure hereinbefore
19 defined, until the President and the constitutional convention
20 are in agreement.

21 SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF
22 PUERTO RICO

23 SEC. 205. After the President of the United States has
24 certified that the constitution conforms with the provisions

1 of this Act, it shall be submitted to the people of Puerto
2 Rico for their ratification or rejection in a referendum to be
3 held within four months after the date of such certification,
4 on a date to be fixed by the Legislature of Puerto Rico, at
5 which referendum the qualified voters of Puerto Rico shall
6 have an opportunity to vote directly for or against the pro-
7 posed constitution and ordinances appended thereto. Such
8 referendum shall be held in such manner as may be pre-
9 scribed by the Legislature of Puerto Rico, to which the
10 return of the election shall be made. The laws relating to
11 qualifications of voters and the safeguarding of elections
12 which governed the election of November 7, 1944, shall
13 apply to this referendum, with such modifications and addi-
14 tions as the President may by order prescribe in order to
15 carry out the purpose of securing a true expression of the
16 choice of the people of Puerto Rico. The Legislature of
17 Puerto Rico shall by law provide for the canvassing of the
18 returns and shall certify the result to the Governor of Puerto
19 Rico, together with a statement of the votes cast, and a
20 copy of said constitution and ordinances. If a majority of
21 the votes cast shall be for the constitution, such vote shall
22 be deemed an expression of the will of the people of Puerto
23 Rico in favor of said constitution, and the Governor shall,
24 within thirty days after receipt of the certification from the
25 Puerto Rico Legislature, issue a proclamation for the elec-

1 tion of officers of the government of the Republic of Puerto
2 Rico provided for in the constitution. The election shall
3 take place not earlier than six months nor later than nine
4 months after the proclamation by the Governor ordering
5 such election, and the qualifications for voting and the safe-
6 guards for such election shall be as provided in such con-
7 stitution. When the election of the officers provided for
8 under the constitution has been held and the results deter-
9 mined, the Governor of Puerto Rico shall certify the results
10 of the election to the President of the United States, who
11 shall as provided in section 209 issue a proclamation an-
12 nouncing the results of the election, and upon the issuance
13 of such proclamation by the President the existing govern-
14 ment of Puerto Rico shall terminate and the new government
15 shall enter upon its rights, privileges, powers, and duties,
16 as provided under the constitution. The present government
17 of Puerto Rico shall provide for the orderly transfer of the
18 functions of government.

19 SEC. 206. If the majority of the votes cast are against
20 the constitution, then the constitutional convention shall
21 frame a new constitution, which shall be transmitted to the
22 President within six months after certification of the result
23 of the referendum, and the procedure provided in section 204
24 and in this section shall be followed again until a constitu-
25 tion framed in accordance with the provisions of this Act

1 receives the favorable vote of a majority of the votes cast
2 at a referendum held as herein provided. In the event of
3 the rejection of such a newly framed constitution by the
4 duly qualified voters of Puerto Rico, then the constitutional
5 convention shall be considered permanently dissolved and a
6 new election of delegates to a constitutional convention shall
7 be held within one year from the date of such rejection at
8 a date fixed by law by the Legislature of Puerto Rico and
9 a new constitution shall be drafted and approved by the
10 said constitutional convention and submitted for the approval
11 of the people of Puerto Rico under the applicable foregoing
12 provisions of this title.

13 TRANSFER OF PROPERTY RIGHTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF
14 PUERTO RICO

15 SEC. 207. All the property and rights which may have
16 been acquired in the island of Puerto Rico by the United
17 States under the treaty of peace mentioned in the first sec-
18 tion of this title, except such land or other property as has
19 heretofore been designated by the President of the United
20 States for military, naval, and other reservations of the
21 Government of the United States, or which may hereafter
22 be designated by the President of the United States, and
23 except such land or other property or rights or interests
24 therein as may have been sold or otherwise disposed of

1 in accordance with law, are hereby granted to the Govern-
2 ment of the Republic of Puerto Rico: *Provided, however,*
3 That this shall not deprive the United States from establish-
4 ing a naval base or bases on Puerto Rico, in the interests
5 of its national defense, prior to the date of the declaration
6 of the independence of Puerto Rico.

7 BASIC ECONOMIC RELATIONS AFTER THE INDEPENDENCE
8 OF PUERTO RICO

9 SEC. 208. (a) No duty shall be levied by the United
10 States upon any article imported from the Republic of Puerto
11 Rico and none levied by Puerto Rico upon any article
12 imported from the United States except by the mutual
13 consent of the two Governments and upon such terms and
14 conditions as they may agree upon.

15 (b) The United States shall not impose or collect any
16 internal revenues on products of Puerto Rico imported into
17 the United States: *Provided,* That the Republic of Puerto
18 Rico shall impose and collect on such products an export
19 duty not less than the internal revenue collected by the
20 United States on similar products.

21 (c) Importation of Puerto Rican sugar into the United
22 States shall continue on a basis not more restrictive in prin-
23 ciple than that which has prevailed during the last five years
24 in which a quota was imposed under United States law.

1 **RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO AND**
2 **WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY**

3 **SEC. 209.** Ninety days after the election of the officers
4 of the new government as provided in section 205, the Presi-
5 dent of the United States shall by proclamation withdraw
6 and surrender all right of possession, supervision, jurisdiction,
7 control, and sovereignty then existing and exercised by the
8 United States in and over the territory and people of Puerto
9 Rico, excepting all military, naval, and other reservations
10 of the Government of the United States in Puerto Rico,
11 and, on behalf of the United States, shall recognize the
12 independence of Puerto Rico as a separate and self-govern-
13 ing nation and acknowledge the authority and control over
14 Puerto Rico of the government instituted by the people of
15 Puerto Rico under their constitution; and, on the same day,
16 the officers elected under the constitution of Puerto Rico
17 shall take office.

18 **NOTIFICATION TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS**

19 **SEC. 210.** Upon the proclamation and recognition of
20 the independence of Puerto Rico, the President shall notify
21 the governments with which the United States is in diplo-
22 matic correspondence thereof and invite said governments
23 to recognize the independence of Puerto Rico.

24 **CITIZENS AND VETERANS**

25 **SEC. 211.** (a) Every citizen of the United States resid-

1 ing in Puerto Rico on the date of the referendum approving
2 the constitution pursuant to section 205, and every citizen
3 whose citizenship is based upon legislation directed exclu-
4 sively to Puerto Rico may retain his American citizenship
5 upon compliance with the provisions of this section.

6 (b) Any such citizen residing in Puerto Rico who de-
7 sires to remain an American citizen shall file with the United
8 States District Court for Puerto Rico, under rules and regu-
9 lations to be prescribed by said court, a declaration duly
10 acknowledged that he intends to retain his American citizen-
11 ship. Such declaration shall be made in quadruplicate, one
12 copy to remain among the records of said court, one copy
13 to be by it forwarded to the Secretary of State of the United
14 States, one copy to be by it transmitted to the Governor of
15 Puerto Rico, and by him to the Executive Chief of Puerto
16 Rico when he takes office, and one copy to be retained by
17 the declarant.

18 (c) Any such citizen born in Puerto Rico residing else-
19 where in the United States and who wants to become a citizen
20 of Puerto Rico may similarly file such a declaration with any
21 official authorized to administer the oath in naturalization
22 proceedings, and any such citizen residing outside the United
23 States, with a diplomatic or consular official of the United
24 States. Such official shall thereupon forward such declaration

1 to the United States Department of State for transmittal to
2 the Republic of Puerto Rico.

3 (d) Such declaration, as provided for under (b) and
4 (c) of this section, must be filed within six months after
5 the date of the referendum approving the constitution: *Pro-*
6 *vided, however,* That such declaration may be filed by the
7 father or legal custodian of a minor or person under legal
8 disability subject to ratification or rejection six months after
9 attaining majority, or after removal of disability, as the case
10 may be. Appropriate provisions shall be made for the filing
11 of declarations which, under the provisions of this subsec-
12 tion, may not be required until after the date of the procla-
13 mation of independence.

14 (e) Any citizen referred to in subsection (a) who
15 fails to file such a declaration within the applicable period
16 specified in this section shall be deemed a citizen of Puerto
17 Rico upon the proclamation of independence of Puerto Rico
18 or upon the expiration of the applicable period, whichever
19 happens later. Until such time, however, all such citizens
20 shall retain their American citizenship. After such time,
21 no such citizen shall regain American citizenship except
22 under the provisions of the naturalization law.

23 (f) All rights and benefits acknowledged to Puerto
24 Rican citizens under the laws of the United States by virtue
25 of their status as veterans of war and by virtue of their

1 status as retired employees of the Federal Government, and
2 all rights and benefits acknowledged under the laws of Con-
3 gress to families or relatives of Puerto Rican veterans of war
4 and of Puerto Rican retired employees of the Federal Gov-
5 ernment, shall be entirely maintained and respected by the
6 Government of the United States. Said rights and benefits
7 are considered "vested rights" and deemed as additional com-
8 pensation due for services rendered to the Government of
9 the United States of America. The payments which are to
10 be made by the Government of the United States for such
11 consideration, either directly or indirectly, shall be made
12 through the Government of the Republic of Puerto Rico up to
13 the complete settlement according to the aforesaid laws.

14 (g) All rights and benefits acknowledged to citizens of
15 the United States under the laws of Puerto Rico by virtue of
16 their status as retired employees and officials of the Govern-
17 ment of Puerto Rico shall be entirely maintained and re-
18 spected by the Government of the Republic of Puerto Rico.

19 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO
20 RICO

21 SEC. 212. Effective upon the proclamation of inde-
22 pendence of Puerto Rico, the existing public debt of Puerto
23 Rico, insular and municipal, shall be, and hereby is, as-
24 sumed by the United States, and all claims of the United

1 States against residents of Puerto Rico then existing shall
2 be, and hereby are, transferred and set over to the Republic
3 of Puerto Rico. The Republic of Puerto Rico shall thereupon
4 become indebted to the United States for the amount of
5 the debt hereby assumed and the amount of the claims
6 hereby transferred and set over, to be paid as mutually
7 agreed upon by the two Governments: *Provided, however,*
8 That there shall be no obligation on the part of the United
9 States to meet the principal or interest of bonds and other
10 obligations of the Government of Puerto Rico or of the
11 municipal governments thereof, hereafter issued during the
12 continuance of United States sovereignty in Puerto Rico,
13 and provided also that such bonds and obligations hereafter
14 issued shall not be exempt from taxation in the United
15 States or by authority of the United States.

16 TEMPORARY AND DIMINISHING ECONOMIC AIDS TO THE
17 REPUBLIC OF PUERTO RICO

18 SEC. 213. Until such time and in such manner as here-
19 inafter provided all Federal aid heretofore extended to Puerto
20 Rico in the nature of, but not limited to, agricultural re-
21 search and extension, school, college and vocational educa-
22 tion, public roads and highways, social security, unemploy-
23 ment and work relief, agricultural adjustment, farm security,
24 soil conservation, food relief, public health, nonmilitary work
25 projects, reconstruction finance, disaster relief, farm credit,

1 Federal works, Federal housing and slum clearance, and
2 tenant purchase shall continue.

3 **SEC. 214.** The aid provided for in the preceding section
4 shall be gradually reduced. Such reduction shall be carried
5 out on the basis of indexes of economic progress to be de-
6 termined by a commission of three economists designated
7 by the President of the United States and two economists
8 designated by the Chief Executive of Puerto Rico, and upon
9 proclamation from time to time by the President of the
10 United States.

11 IMMIGRATION AFTER INDEPENDENCE

12 **SEC. 215.** Upon the final and complete withdrawal of
13 American sovereignty over Puerto Rico the immigration
14 laws of the United States shall apply to Puerto Rican
15 citizens to the same extent as in the case of other countries
16 in the Western Hemisphere.

17 STATUTES REPEALED

18 **SEC. 216.** Except as otherwise provided in this title,
19 all Federal laws or parts of Federal laws relating to the
20 present government of Puerto Rico and its administration are
21 hereby repealed as of the date of the inauguration of the
22 government of the republic of Puerto Rico.

23 PROVISION OF CERTAIN EXPENSES

24 **SEC. 217.** All necessary expenses of the elections, ref-
25 erenda, and the constitutional conventions under this Act

1 elections shall be fixed by appropriate legislation by the
2 Legislature of Puerto Rico.

3 SEC. 304. The delegates to the convention thus elected
4 shall meet at the seat of the government of Puerto Rico
5 on the second Tuesday after their election. After organi-
6 zation they shall declare on behalf of the people of said
7 proposed State that they adopt the Constitution of the
8 United States, whereupon the said convention shall be, and
9 is hereby, authorized to form a constitution and provide for
10 a State government for said proposed State.

11 SEC. 305. The constitution shall be republican in form
12 and make no distinction in civil or political rights on account
13 of race, creed, or color and shall not be repugnant to the
14 Constitution of the United States and the principles of the
15 Declaration of Independence.

16 And said convention shall provide, by an ordinance irrev-
17 ovable without the consent of the United States and the people
18 of said State:

19 First. That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall
20 be secured, and that no inhabitant of said State shall ever be
21 molested in person or property on account of his or her mode
22 of religious worship.

23 Second. That the people inhabiting said proposed State
24 do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and

1 title to the lands reserved by the Federal Government for
2 military or other governmental purposes; that the lands and
3 other property belonging to citizens of the United States
4 residing without the said State shall never be taxed at a higher
5 rate than the lands and other property belonging to residents
6 thereof; that no taxes shall be imposed by the State upon
7 lands or property therein belonging to or which may here-
8 after be acquired by the United States or reserved for its use.

9 Third. That the debts and liabilities of Puerto Rico and
10 the debts of the municipalities thereof which shall be valid
11 and subsisting at the time of the passage of this Act shall be
12 assumed and paid by said proposed State, and that said State
13 shall, as to all such debts and liabilities, be subrogated to all
14 the rights, including rights of indemnity and reimbursement,
15 existing in favor of Puerto Rico or of any of the several
16 municipalities thereof at the time of the passage of this Act:
17 *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed as vali-
18 dating or in any manner legalizing any territorial, municipal,
19 or other bonds, obligations, or evidences of indebtedness of
20 Puerto Rico or the municipalities thereof which now are or
21 may be invalid or illegal at the time said proposed State is
22 admitted, nor shall the legislature of said proposed State pass
23 any law in any manner validating or legalizing the same.

24 Fourth. That provision shall be made for the establish-
25 ment and maintenance of a system of public schools, which

1 shall be open to all the children of said State and free from
2 sectarian control.

3 Fifth. That said State shall never enact any law restrict-
4 ing or abridging the right of suffrage on account of race, color,
5 or previous condition of servitude, and that ability to read,
6 write, speak, and understand the English language sufficiently
7 well to conduct the duties of the office without the aid of an
8 interpreter shall be a necessary qualification for all State offi-
9 cers and members of the State legislature.

10 All of which ordinance described in this section shall, by
11 proper reference, be made a part of any constitution that
12 shall be formed hereunder, in such terms as shall positively
13 preclude the making by any future constitutional amendment
14 of any change or abrogation of the said ordinance in whole
15 or in part without the consent of Congress.

16 SEC. 306. That when said constitution shall be formed
17 as aforesaid the convention forming the same shall provide
18 for the submission of said constitution to the people of
19 Puerto Rico for ratification at an election which shall be
20 held on a day named by said convention not earlier than
21 sixty nor later than ninety days after said convention ad-
22 journs, at which election the qualified voters of Puerto Rico
23 shall vote directly for or against said constitution and for
24 or against any provisions thereof separately submitted. The
25 returns of said election shall be made by the election officers

1 direct to the auditor of Puerto Rico, who, with the Governor
2 and the chief justice of Puerto Rico, shall constitute a can-
3 vassing board, and they, or any two of them, shall meet at
4 said city of San Juan on the third Monday after said elec-
5 tion and shall canvass the same. If a majority of the legal
6 votes cast at said election shall reject the constitution, the
7 said canvassing board shall forthwith certify said result
8 to the Governor of Puerto Rico, together with the statement
9 of votes cast upon the question of the ratification or rejec-
10 tion of said constitution and also a statement of the votes
11 cast for or against such provisions thereof as were separately
12 submitted to the voters at said election; whereupon the Gov-
13 ernor of Puerto Rico shall, by proclamation, order the con-
14 stitutional convention to reassemble at a date not later than
15 twenty days after the receipt by said Governor of the docu-
16 ments showing the rejection of the constitution by the
17 people, and thereafter a new constitution shall be framed
18 and the same proceedings shall be taken in regard thereto
19 in like manner as if said constitution were being originally
20 prepared for submission and submitted to the people.

21 SEC. 306A. That when said constitution and such pro-
22 visions thereof as have been separately submitted shall have
23 been duly ratified by the people of Puerto Rico as aforesaid
24 a certified copy of the same shall be submitted to the Presi-
25 dent of the United States and to Congress for approval,

1 together with the statement of the votes cast thereon and
2 upon any provisions thereof which were separately sub-
3 mitted to and voted upon by the people. And if Congress
4 and the President approve said constitution and the said
5 separate provisions thereof, or, if the President approves
6 the same and Congress fails to disapprove the same during
7 the next regular session thereof, then and in that event the
8 President shall certify said facts to the Governor of Puerto
9 Rico, who shall, within thirty days after the receipt of said
10 notification from the President of the United States, issue
11 his proclamation for the election of the State and municipal
12 officers, the members of the State legislature and Senators
13 and Representatives in Congress, and all other officers pro-
14 vided for in said constitution, all as hereinafter provided;
15 said election to take place not earlier than sixty days nor
16 later than ninety days after said proclamation by the
17 Governor of Puerto Rico ordering the same.

18 SEC. 307. Said constitutional convention shall, by ordi-
19 nance, provide that in case of the ratification of said con-
20 stitution by the people, and in case the President of the
21 United States and Congress approve the same, or in case
22 the President approves the same and Congress fails to act
23 in its next regular session, all as hereinbefore provided, an
24 election shall be held at the time named in the proclamation

1 of the Governor of Puerto Rico, provided for in the preceding
2 section, at which election officers for a full State government,
3 including a Governor, members of the legislature, two Sena-
4 tors, and six Representatives in Congress, to be elected at
5 large from said State, and such other officers as such con-
6 stitutional convention shall prescribe, shall be chosen by the
7 people. Such election shall be held, the returns thereof
8 made, canvassed, and certified to by the auditor of Puerto
9 Rico in the same manner as in this Act prescribed for the
10 making of the returns, the canvassing and certification of the
11 same of the election for the ratification or rejection of said
12 constitution, as hereinbefore provided, and the qualifications
13 of voters at said election for all State officers, members of
14 the legislature, municipal officers, and Representatives in
15 Congress, and other officers prescribed by said constitution
16 shall be made the same as the qualifications of voters at the
17 election for the ratification or rejection of said constitution as
18 hereinbefore provided. When said election of said State and
19 municipal officers, members of the legislature, and Represen-
20 tatives in Congress, and other officers above provided for shall
21 be held and the returns thereof made, canvassed, and cer-
22 tified as hereinbefore provided, the Governor of Puerto Rico
23 shall certify the result of said election, as canvassed and cer-
24 tified as herein provided, to the President of the United
25 States, who thereupon shall immediately issue his proclama-

1 tion announcing the result of said election so ascertained, and
2 upon the issuance of said proclamation by the President of
3 the United States the proposed State of Puerto Rico shall be
4 deemed admitted by Congress into the Union, by virtue of
5 this Act, on an equal footing with the other States. Until
6 the issuance of said proclamation by the President of the
7 United States, and until the said State is so admitted into the
8 Union and said officers are elected and qualified under the
9 provisions of the constitution, the officers of Puerto Rico,
10 including the Delegate in Congress thereof elected at the last
11 general election, shall continue to discharge the duties of their
12 respective offices in and for said Puerto Rico.

13 SEC. 308. Said State when admitted as aforesaid shall
14 constitute one judicial district, to be known as the "district
15 of Puerto Rico". The District Court for the District of
16 Puerto Rico shall hold one term at San Juan and one term
17 at Ponce each year, and special terms may be held at such
18 times and places in said district as the judges thereof may
19 deem expedient. And the said district shall, for judicial
20 purposes, until otherwise provided, be attached to the first
21 judicial circuit. There shall be appointed for said district,
22 in the manner provided by law, two district judges, one
23 United States attorney, and one United States marshal.
24 There shall be appointed two clerks for said district, who
25 shall keep their offices at San Juan and Ponce, respectively.

1 The regular term of said court held at San Juan shall convene
2 on the first Monday in January and at Ponce on the first
3 Monday in March in each year, and one grand jury shall
4 be summoned in each year in each of said district courts.
5 The district court for said district, and the judges thereof,
6 respectively, shall possess the same powers and jurisdiction
7 and perform the same duties required to be performed by
8 the other district courts and the judges thereof throughout
9 the United States and shall be governed by the same laws
10 and regulations. The marshal, district attorney, clerks, and
11 stenographers of the district courts of said district, and all
12 other officers and persons performing duties in connection
13 with the administration of justice therein, shall severally
14 possess the powers and perform the duties required by law
15 to be performed by similar officers in the other districts of
16 the United States, and shall receive, for the services they
17 perform, the fees and compensation now allowed by law to
18 officers performing similar services in other districts of the
19 United States.

20 SEC. 309. All appeals or writs of error taken from the
21 Supreme Court of Puerto Rico to the Supreme Court of the
22 United States or the United States Circuit Court of Appeals
23 for the First Circuit, previous to the final admission of such
24 State, shall be prosecuted to final determination as though
25 this Act had not been passed. All cases in which final

1 judgment has been rendered in such Puerto Rico appellate
2 courts and in which appeals or writs of error might be had,
3 except for the admission of such State, may continue to be
4 sued out, taken, and prosecuted to the Supreme Court of
5 the United States or the United States circuit court of
6 appeals under the provisions of existing laws, and there
7 held and determined in like manner; and in either case the
8 Supreme Court of the United States, or the United States
9 circuit court of appeals, in the event of reversal shall remand
10 the said cause to either the State supreme court or other
11 final appellate court of said State, or to the United States
12 district court for said district, as the case may require:
13 *Provided*, That the time allowed by existing law for appeals
14 and writs of error from appellate courts of Puerto Rico
15 shall not be enlarged thereby, and all appeals and writs
16 of error not sued out from the final judgments of said courts
17 at the time of the admission of such State shall be taken
18 within six months from such time.

19 SEC. 310. All causes pending in the Supreme Court of
20 Puerto Rico and in the United States courts in Puerto Rico
21 which, if begun within a State, would have fallen within
22 the exclusive original cognizance of a district court of the
23 United States sitting therein, shall be transferred to the
24 proper United States district court for final disposition: *Pro-*
25 *vided*, That said transfer shall not be made in any case.

1 where the United States is not a party except on application
2 of one of the parties in court in which the cause is pending,
3 at or before the second term of such court, after the admission
4 of said State, supported by oath, showing that the case is
5 one which may be so transferred, the proceedings to effect
6 such transfer, except as to time and parties, to be the same
7 as are now provided by law for the removal of causes from
8 State courts to district courts of the United States; and in
9 causes transferred from the appellate courts of Puerto Rico
10 the district court of the United States in such State shall
11 first determine such appellate matters as the successor of
12 and with all the power of said Puerto Rico appellate courts,
13 and shall thereafter proceed under its original jurisdiction
14 of such causes. All final judgments and decrees rendered
15 in such district courts of the United States in such transferred
16 cases may be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United
17 States or by the United States circuit court of appeals in the
18 same manner as is now provided by law with reference to
19 existing United States district courts.

20 SEC. 311. All cases pending in the supreme court of
21 Puerto Rico not transferred to the United States district
22 court in said State of Puerto Rico shall be proceeded with,
23 held, and determined by the supreme or other final appel-
24 late court of such State as the successor of said Puerto Rico
25 supreme court and appellate court subject to the same right

1 to review upon appeal or error to the Supreme Court of
2 the United States or by the circuit court of appeals of the
3 United States now allowed from the supreme or appellate
4 courts of a State under existing laws. Jurisdiction of all
5 cases pending in the courts of original jurisdiction in Puerto
6 Rico not transferred to the United States district court shall
7 devolve upon and be exercised by the courts of original
8 jurisdiction created by said State.

9 SEC. 312. The supreme court or other court of last
10 resort of said State shall be deemed to be successor of said
11 Puerto Rico appellate courts and as such shall take and
12 possess any and all jurisdiction not herein otherwise specifi-
13 cally provided for, and shall receive and retain the custody
14 of all books, dockets, records, and files, not transferred to
15 other courts, as herein provided subject to the duty for
16 furnishing transcripts of all book entries in any specific case
17 transferred to complete the record thereof.

18 SEC. 313. The courts of original jurisdiction of such
19 State shall be deemed to be the successor of all courts of
20 original jurisdiction of Puerto Rico and, as such, shall take
21 and retain custody of all records, dockets, journals, and files
22 of such courts except in causes transferred therefrom, as
23 herein provided; the files and papers in such transferred
24 cases shall be transferred to the United States district court,

1 together with a transcript of all book entries to complete the
2 record in such particular case so transferred.

3 SEC. 314. All cases pending in the insular district courts
4 of Puerto Rico at the time it becomes a State and not
5 transferred to the United States district court in the State
6 of Puerto Rico shall be proceeded with, held, and determined
7 by the courts of said State, as the successors of said insular
8 district courts of Puerto Rico with the right to prosecute
9 appeals or writs of error to the supreme court or other
10 appellate courts of said State, and also with the same right
11 to prosecute appeals or writs of error from the final deter-
12 mination in said causes made by the supreme court of said
13 State of Puerto Rico to the Supreme Court of the United
14 States, as now provided by law for appeals and writs of
15 error from the supreme court of a State to the Supreme
16 Court of the United States.

17 All civil causes of action and all criminal offenses which
18 shall have arisen or been committed prior to the admission
19 of Puerto Rico as a State, but as to which no suit, action, or
20 prosecution shall be pending at the date of such admission,
21 shall be subject to prosecution in the courts of said State and
22 in the said district court of the United States sitting therein,
23 and to review in the appellate courts of such respective sover-
24 eignities in like manner and to the same extent as if said State
25 had been created and such district and State courts had been

1 established prior to the accrual of such causes of action and
2 the commission of such offenses; and in effectuation of this
3 provision such of the said criminal offenses as shall have been
4 committed against the laws of Puerto Rico shall be tried and
5 punished by the appropriate courts of the said State and such
6 as shall have been committed against the laws of the United
7 States shall be tried and punished in the district courts of
8 the United States.

9 All suits and actions brought by the United States in
10 which Puerto Rico is named as a party defendant, which
11 shall be pending in any court of Puerto Rico at the date of its
12 admission hereunder, shall be transferred as herein provided;
13 and the said State shall be substituted therein and become a
14 party defendant thereto in lieu of Puerto Rico.

15 SEC. 315. The Governor of the proposed State shall
16 certify the election of the Senators and Representatives in
17 the manner required by law; and the Senators and Repre-
18 sentatives so elected shall be entitled to be admitted to seats
19 in Congress and to all rights and privileges of Senators and
20 Representatives of other States in the Congress of the United
21 States; and the officers of the State government formed in
22 pursuance of said constitution, as provided by the constitu-
23 tional convention, shall proceed to exercise all the functions
24 of State officers; and all laws of Puerto Rico in force at the
25 time of its admission into the Union shall be in force in said

1 State until changed by the legislature of said State, except
2 as modified or changed by this Act or by the constitution
3 of the State; and the laws of the United States shall have the
4 same force and effect within the said State as elsewhere within
5 the United States.

6 SEC. 316. That the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof
7 as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any
8 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for defray-
9 ing all and every kind and character of expense incident to
10 the elections and convention provided for in this Act; that
11 is, the payment of the expenses of holding the election for
12 members of the constitutional convention and the election
13 for the ratification of the constitution, at the same rates that
14 are paid for similar services under the Puerto Rican laws,
15 and for the payment of the mileage for and salaries of mem-
16 bers of the constitutional convention at the same rates that
17 are paid to members of the Puerto Rican Legislature under
18 national law, and for the payment of all proper and necessary
19 expenses, officers, clerks, and messengers thereof, and print-
20 ing and other expenses incident thereto: *Provided*, That all
21 expense incurred in excess of said sum of \$100,000 shall be
22 paid by said State. The said money shall be expended under
23 the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and shall be
24 forwarded, to be locally expended in Puerto Rico, through
25 the auditor of Puerto Rico as may be necessary and proper,

1 in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, in order to
2 carry out the full intent and meaning of this Act.

3 TITLE IV—ESTABLISHING THE DOMINION OF
4 PUERTO RICO

5 SEC. 401. The Legislature of Puerto Rico is hereby
6 authorized to provide for the election of delegates to a con-
7 stitutional convention, which shall meet in the capital of
8 Puerto Rico at such time as the Legislature of Puerto Rico
9 may fix by law, within one year after the enactment of
10 this Act, to formulate and draft a constitution for the gov-
11 ernment of the Dominion of Puerto Rico, subject to the
12 conditions and qualifications in this Act, which shall exer-
13 cise jurisdiction on the basis of sovereign home rule over
14 all the territory in the West Indies ceded to the United
15 States by Spain on the 10th day of December 1898. The
16 laws relating to qualifications of voters and the safeguarding
17 of elections which governed the election of November 7,
18 1944, shall apply to this election with such modifications
19 and additions as the President of the United States may by
20 order prescribe in order to carry out the purpose of securing
21 a true expression of the choice of the people of Puerto Rico.

22 CHARACTER OF CONSTITUTION—MANDATORY PROVISIONS

23 SEC. 402. The constitution formulated and drafted shall
24 provide for a government republican in form, shall contain
25 a bill of rights, including freedom of religious worship,

1 freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly,
2 the right to petition, freedom from unreasonable searches
3 and seizures, and shall furthermore continue and guarantee
4 all the rights, privileges, and immunities at present enjoyed
5 by the people of Puerto Rico under the Constitution of the
6 United States and the Organic Act of Puerto Rico and
7 shall expressly guarantee all persons and corporations against
8 any expropriation of property and provide for reasonably
9 prompt, equitable, and effective compensation for any prop-
10 erty taken for public use.

11 SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF
12 THE UNITED STATES

13 SEC. 403. Upon the drafting and approval of the con-
14 stitution by the constitutional convention in Puerto Rico, the
15 constitution shall be submitted within two years after the
16 enactment of this Act to the President of the United States,
17 who shall determine whether or not it conforms with the
18 provisions of this Act. In case the constitutional convention
19 in Puerto Rico is not ready to submit a constitution to the
20 President of the United States within two years after the
21 enactment of this Act, the Legislature of Puerto Rico is hereby
22 authorized to provide for a longer term by law or by con-
23 current resolution. If the President finds that the proposed
24 constitution conforms substantially with the provisions of this
25 Act, he shall so certify to the Governor of Puerto Rico, who

1 shall so advise the constitutional convention. If the Presi-
2 dent finds that the constitution does not conform with the
3 provisions of this Act, he shall so advise the Governor of
4 Puerto Rico, stating wherein in his judgment the constitution
5 does not so conform and submitting provisions which will
6 in his judgment make the constitution so conform. The
7 Governor shall in turn submit such message to the constitu-
8 tional convention for further action by them pursuant to the
9 same procedure hereinbefore defined, until the President and
10 the constitutional convention are in agreement.

11 SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF
12 PUERTO RICO

13 SEC. 404. After the President of the United States has
14 certified that the constitution conforms with the provisions
15 of this Act, it shall be submitted to the people of Puerto
16 Rico for their ratification or rejection in a referendum to
17 be held within four months after the date of such certifica-
18 tion, on a date to be fixed by law by the Legislature of
19 Puerto Rico, at which referendum the qualified voters of
20 Puerto Rico shall have an opportunity to vote directly for
21 or against the proposed constitution and ordinances that
22 may be appended thereto. Such referendum shall be held
23 in such manner as may be prescribed by law by the Legis-
24 lature of Puerto Rico, to which the returns of the referen-
25 dum shall be made. The laws relating to qualifications of

1 voters and the safeguarding of elections which governed
2 the election of November 7, 1944, shall apply to this
3 referendum, with such modifications and additions as the
4 President may by order prescribe in order to carry out the
5 purpose of securing a true expression of the choice of the
6 people of Puerto Rico. The Legislature of Puerto Rico
7 shall by law provide for the canvassing of the returns and
8 shall certify the result to the Governor of Puerto Rico,
9 together with a statement of the votes cast, and a copy of
10 said constitution and ordinances. If a majority of the votes
11 cast shall be for the constitution, such vote shall be deemed
12 an expression of the will of the people of Puerto Rico in
13 favor of said constitution, and the functions of the constitu-
14 tional convention shall terminate and the said constitutional
15 convention shall be considered permanently dissolved. The
16 Governor shall, within thirty days after receipt of the cer-
17 tification from the Puerto Rico Legislature, issue a procla-
18 mation for the election of officers of the government of the
19 dominion of Puerto Rico provided for in the constitution.
20 The election shall take place not earlier than six months
21 nor later than nine months after the proclamation by the
22 Governor ordering such election, and the qualifications for
23 voting and the safeguards for such election shall be as
24 provided in such constitution. When the election of the
25 officers provided for under the constitution has been held and

1 the results determined, the Governor of Puerto Rico shall
2 certify the results of the election to the President of the
3 United States, who shall, as provided in section 408, issue
4 a proclamation announcing the results of the election, and
5 upon the issuance of such proclamation by the President
6 the existing government of Puerto Rico shall terminate and
7 the new government shall enter upon its rights, privileges,
8 powers, and duties, as provided under the constitution. The
9 present government of Puerto Rico shall provide for the
10 orderly transfer of the functions of government.

11 SEC. 405. If a majority of the votes cast are against the
12 constitution, then the constitutional convention shall frame a
13 new constitution, which shall be transmitted to the President
14 within six months after certification of the result of the refer-
15 endum, and the procedure provided in section 403 and in
16 this section shall be followed until a constitution framed in
17 accordance with the provisions of this Act receives the favor-
18 able vote of a majority of the votes cast at a referendum as
19 herein provided. In the event of the rejection of such a
20 newly framed constitution by the duly qualified voters of
21 Puerto Rico, then the constitutional convention shall be con-
22 sidered permanently dissolved and a new election of delegates
23 to a constitutional convention shall be held within one year
24 from the date of such rejection and at a date fixed by law
25 by the Legislature of Puerto Rico, and a new constitution

1 is a resident of Puerto Rico according to the laws of Puerto
2 Rico, shall also be a citizen of the Dominion of Puerto Rico,
3 owing allegiance and being entitled to full protection of
4 the Governments of the United States and of Puerto Rico.
5 The rights and obligations of such citizens while in the
6 United States and in foreign countries shall be the same
7 as the rights and obligations of all other citizens of the
8 United States, and the rights and obligations of such citizens
9 while in Puerto Rico shall be determined by the Government
10 of the Dominion of Puerto Rico under terms of complete
11 equality.

12 RECOGNITION OF THE DOMINION OF PUERTO RICO

13 SEC. 408. Ninety days after the certification of the
14 election of the officers of the new government as provided
15 in section 404, the President of the United States shall by
16 proclamation withdraw and surrender all right of possession,
17 supervision, jurisdiction, and control then existing and ex-
18 ercised by the United States in and over the territory and
19 people of Puerto Rico, excepting all military, naval, and
20 other reservations of the Government of the United States
21 in Puerto Rico, and, on behalf of the United States, shall
22 recognize the establishment of the Dominion of Puerto Rico
23 as a new government based on sovereign home rule and
24 acknowledge the authority and control over Puerto Rico
25 of the government instituted by the people of Puerto Rico,

1 under their constitution; and on the same day the officers
2 elected under the constitution of Puerto Rico shall take office.

3 NOTIFICATION TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

4 SEC. 409. Upon the proclamation and recognition of
5 the Dominion of Puerto Rico, the President of the United
6 States shall notify the governments with which the United
7 States is in diplomatic correspondence thereof and invite
8 said governments to give appropriate recognition to the
9 Dominion of Puerto Rico.

10 FISCAL AND TRADE RELATIONS

11 SEC. 410. (a) No duty shall be levied by the United
12 States upon any article imported from the Dominion of
13 Puerto Rico and none levied by Puerto Rico upon any article
14 imported from the United States except by the mutual con-
15 sent of the two Governments and upon such terms and con-
16 ditions as they may agree upon. The Dominion of Puerto
17 Rico shall undertake to accord to exporters of the United
18 States the same preferential market that exporters from
19 Puerto Rico will enjoy in the United States under this Act.

20 (b) The United States shall not impose or collect any
21 internal revenues on products of Puerto Rico imported into
22 the United States provided that the Dominion of Puerto Rico
23 shall impose and collect on such products an export duty not
24 less than the internal revenue collected by the United States
25 on similar products.

1 (c) Importation of Puerto Rican sugar into the con-
2 tinental ports of the United States shall continue on a basis
3 not more restrictive in principle than that which has pre-
4 vailed during the last five years in which the quota was
5 imposed under United States law.

6 (d) All statutes of the United States conferring benefits
7 and aids upon States and Territories which are applicable
8 to Puerto Rico shall continue to apply to Puerto Rico so
9 long as they are in force.

10 SEC. 411. The Government of the Dominion of Puerto
11 Rico may enter into commercial treaties and other agree-
12 ments of a nonmilitary character with other nations: *Pro-*
13 *vided*, That the said treaties and agreements are not in
14 conflict with the mutual trade relations between the United
15 States and Puerto Rico.

16 SEC. 412. The Government of the Dominion of Puerto
17 Rico may send and accept accredited envoys and missions
18 to and from foreign countries in order to carry out the pro-
19 visions of section 411, subject to its limitations.

20 SEC. 413. The Dominion of Puerto Rico may make in
21 its constitution or statutes adequate provisions for the charter-
22 ing of vessels under the flag and registry of the Dominion
23 of Puerto Rico.

24

POLITICAL RELATIONS

25 SEC. 414. Any alteration of the relations between the

1 said Dominion and the United States as established by this
2 Act and agreed to by the people of Puerto Rico shall be
3 made by bilateral agreements between the high contract-
4 ing parties. Such bilateral agreements shall become effec-
5 tive only when approved by a majority vote of both Houses
6 of the Congress of the United States and by the legislative
7 body of the Dominion of Puerto Rico, and signed by the
8 President of the United States and by the Chief Executive
9 of Puerto Rico.

10 SEC. 415. All laws of the United States now in force
11 or hereafter enacted declaring a state of belligerency with a
12 foreign nation, requiring service in the armed forces of
13 the United States or otherwise pertaining to the national
14 safety, insular, or hemisphere defense shall be applicable to
15 Puerto Rico to the same extent as to the United States.

16 SEC. 416. All treaties between the United States and
17 foreign countries which are applicable to Puerto Rico shall
18 remain in force in regard to Puerto Rico: *Provided, however,*
19 That Puerto Rico shall, so far as their applicability to Puerto
20 Rico is concerned, have the same options thereunder for ter-
21 mination or modification as are now enjoyed by the United
22 States.

23 SEC. 417. The President of the United States, by and
24 with the advice and consent of the Senate of the United
25 States, shall appoint a representative of the Government

1 of the United States before the government of the Dominion
2 of Puerto Rico, who, upon being accredited, will be received,
3 accepted, and recognized by the government of the Dominion
4 of Puerto Rico as the official representative of the Govern-
5 ment of the United States; and the Dominion of Puerto Rico,
6 in such manner as may be provided by its constitution and
7 laws, shall appoint a representative of the government of
8 the Dominion of Puerto Rico before the Government of the
9 United States, who, upon being accredited, will be received,
10 accepted, and recognized by the Government of the United
11 States as the official representative of the government of
12 the Dominion of Puerto Rico.

13

PROVISION FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES

14 SEC. 418. All necessary expenses of the referenda, con-
15 stitutional conventions, and elections provided for in this
16 title shall be appropriated by acts of the Legislature of
17 Puerto Rico.

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3237

A BILL

To provide for the submission to the people of Puerto Rico of alternative forms of political status to the end that, by mutual agreement between the people of Puerto Rico and the Government of the United States, a permanent political status may be established in Puerto Rico mutually satisfactory to both.

By Mr. PIÑERO

MAY 16, 1945

Referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs