

81ST CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7674

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 1950

Mr. FERNÓS-ISERN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Public Lands

A BILL

To provide for the organization of a constitutional government
by the people 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 the Congress of the United States by a series of enact-
4 ments has progressively recognized the right of self-govern-
5 ment of the people of Puerto Rico.

6 Under the terms of these congressional enactments an
7 increasingly large measure of self-government has been
8 achieved.

9 Fully recognizing the principle of government by con-
10 sent, this Act is now adopted in the nature of a compact,

1 and so that the people of Puerto Rico may organize a
2 government pursuant to a constitution of their own adoption.

3 SEC. 2. Upon the acceptance of this Act by the people
4 of Puerto Rico and their adoption of a constitution, in accord-
5 ance with procedures prescribed by the laws of Puerto Rico,
6 the President of the United States is authorized to transmit
7 such constitution to the Congress of the United States if
8 he finds that such constitution conforms with the applicable
9 provisions of this Act and of the Constitution of the United
10 States.

11 Upon approval of such constitution by the Congress, or
12 upon the expiration of the congressional session during which
13 the constitution be transmitted, provided transmittal occurs
14 not later than ninety days before adjournment, if the Con-
15 gress has not disapproved such constitution, the constitution
16 shall be deemed approved and shall become effective in
17 accordance with its terms.

18 SEC. 3. The constitution of Puerto Rico shall create a
19 government republican in form and shall include a bill of
20 rights.

21 SEC. 4. Except as provided in section 5 of this Act,
22 the Act entitled "An Act to provide a civil government for
23 Puerto Rico, and for other purposes", approved March 2,
24 1917, as amended, is hereby continued in force and effect

1 and it shall hereafter be referred to as the "Puerto Rican
2 Federal Relations Act".

3 SEC. 5. At such same time as the constitution of Puerto
4 Rico becomes operative and effective, the following pro-
5 visions of such Act of March 2, 1917, as amended, shall
6 be deemed repealed:

7 (1) Section 2, except the paragraph added thereto by
8 Public Law 362, Eightieth Congress, first session, approved
9 August 5, 1947.

10 (2) Sections 4, 12, 12a, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 18a,
11 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32,
12 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 49, 49b, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, and 57.

13 (3) The last paragraph in section 37.

14 (4) Section 38, except the second paragraph thereof
15 which begins with the words "The Interstate Commerce
16 Act" and ends with the words "shall not apply in Puerto
17 Rico".

18 SEC. 6. The President of the United States, when re-
19 quested by legislative enactment of the government of Puerto
20 Rico, may except Puerto Rico from the application of any
21 Federal law, not specifically made applicable to Puerto Rico
22 by Congress, which he deems inapplicable by reason of local
23 conditions.

24 SEC. 7. All laws or parts of laws inconsistent with this
25 Act are hereby repealed.

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By Mr. FERNÓS-LESER

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