

Calendar No. 1783

81ST CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3336

[Report No. 1779]

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 31 (legislative day, MARCH 29), 1950

MR. O'MAHONEY (for himself and Mr. BUTLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

JUNE 6 (legislative day, MARCH 29), 1950

Reported by Mr. O'MAHONEY, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

---

## A BILL

To provide for the organization of a constitutional government  
by the people of Puerto Rico.

Whereas the Congress of the United States by a series of enactments has progressively recognized the right of self-government of the people of Puerto Rico; and

Whereas under the terms of these congressional enactments an increasingly large measure of self-government has been achieved: Therefore

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That, fully recognizing the principle of government by con-
- 4 sent, this Act is now adopted in the nature of a compact

1 so that the people of Puerto Rico may organize a govern-  
2 ment pursuant to a constitution of their own adoption.

3       SEC. 2. Upon acceptance of this Act by the people  
4 of Puerto Rico, they are hereby authorized to call a con-  
5 stitutional convention to form a constitution in accordance  
6 with procedures prescribed by the laws of Puerto Rico.  
7 The constitution shall create a government republican in  
8 form and shall include a bill of rights.

9       SEC. 3. Upon adoption of the constitution by the people  
10 of Puerto Rico, the President of the United States is author-  
11 ized to transmit such constitution to the Congress of the  
12 United States if he finds that such constitution conforms  
13 with the applicable provisions of this Act and of the Con-  
14 stitution of the United States.

15       Upon approval of such constitution by the Congress, or  
16 upon the expiration of the congressional session during  
17 which the constitution is transmitted, provided transmittal  
18 occurs not later than ninety days before adjournment, if the  
19 Congress has not disapproved such constitution, the con-  
20 stitution shall be deemed approved and shall become effective  
21 in accordance with its terms.

22       SEC. 4. Except as provided in section 5 of this Act,  
23 the Act entitled "An Act to provide a civil government  
24 for Puerto Rico, and for other purposes", approved March  
25 2, 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. The President of the United States, when re-  
4 quested by legislative enactment of the government of  
5 Puerto Rico, may except Puerto Rico from the application  
6 of any Federal law, not specifically made applicable to  
7 Puerto Rico by Congress, which he deems inapplicable by  
8 reason of local conditions.

9       SEC. 6. At such time as the constitution of Puerto Rico  
10 becomes effective, the following provisions of such Act of  
11 March 2, 1917, as amended, shall be deemed repealed:

12       (1) Section 2, except the paragraph added thereto by  
13 Public Law 362, Eightieth Congress, first session, approved  
14 August 5, 1917.

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

18       (3) The last paragraph in section 37.

19       (4) Section 38, except the second paragraph thereof  
20 which begins with the words "The Interstate Commerce  
21 Act" and ends with the words "shall not apply in Puerto  
22 Rico".

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

25       SEC. 2. This Act shall be submitted to the qualified voters

1 of Puerto Rico for acceptance or rejection through an island-  
2 wide referendum to be held in accordance with the laws of  
3 Puerto Rico. Upon the approval of this Act, by a majority  
4 of the voters participating in such referendum, the Legisla-  
5 ture of Puerto Rico is authorized to call a constitutional  
6 convention to draft a constitution for the said island of  
7 Puerto Rico. The said constitution shall provide a republican  
8 form of government and shall include a bill of rights.

9       *SEC. 3. Upon adoption of the constitution by the people*  
10 *of Puerto Rico, the President of the United States is au-*  
11 *thorized to transmit such constitution to the Congress of the*  
12 *United States if he finds that such constitution conforms with*  
13 *the applicable provisions of this Act and of the Constitution*  
14 *of the United States.*

15       *Upon approval by the Congress the constitution shall*  
16 *become effective in accordance with its terms.*

17       *SEC. 4. Except as provided in section 5 of this Act, the*  
18 *Act entitled "An Act to provide a civil government for Porto*  
19 *Rico, and for other purposes", approved March 2, 1917, as*  
20 *amended, is hereby continued in force and effect and may*  
21 *hereafter be cited as the "Puerto Rican Federal Relations*  
22 *Act".*

1        *SEC. 5. At such time as the constitution of Puerto Rico*  
2 *becomes effective, the following provisions of such Act of*  
3 *March 2, 1917, as amended, shall be deemed repealed:*

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

7        (2) *Sections 4, 12, 12a, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 18a,*  
8 *19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33,*  
9 *34, 35, 39, 40, 49, 49b, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, and 57.*

10        (3) *The last paragraph in section 37.*

11        (4) *Section 38, except the second paragraph thereof*  
12 *which begins with the words "The Interstate Commerce Act"*  
13 *and ends with the words "shall not apply in Puerto Rico".*

14        *SEC. 6. All laws or parts of laws inconsistent with this*  
15 *Act are hereby repealed.*

Calendar No. 1783

81<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 3336**

[Report No. 1779]

---

---

## **A BILL**

To provide for the organization of a constitutional government by the people of Puerto Rico.

---

---

By Mr. O'MAHONEY and Mr. BUTLER

MARCH 31 (legislative day, MARCH 29), 1950  
Read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior  
and Insular Affairs

JUNE 6 (legislative day, MARCH 29), 1950  
Reported with an amendment