

88TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6076

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 1963

Mr. RYAN of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish a procedure for the prompt settlement, in a democratic manner, of the political status 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 duly recognizing the inherent right and juridical capac-  
4       ity of the people of Puerto Rico to govern themselves and  
5       to establish such relationships with the Government of the  
6       United States as are freely agreed upon, the Congress  
7       takes note of Joint Resolution Numbered 1 of the Legislative  
8       Assembly of Puerto Rico, approved December 3, 1962,  
9       which proposes to the Congress the prompt settlement, in  
10      a democratic manner, of the political status of Puerto Rico

1 and hereby establishes the United States-Puerto Rico Com-  
2 pact Commission.

3       SEC. 2. The Commission shall be composed of twelve  
4 members of whom the President of the United States and  
5 the Governor of Puerto Rico shall each appoint four and  
6 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House  
7 of Representatives of the Congress shall each appoint two.

8       The Commission shall draft a proposed compact of  
9 permanent union between the Government of the United  
10 States and the people of Puerto Rico in the light of the  
11 principles expressed by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto  
12 Rico in said Joint Resolution Numbered 1, namely: (a)  
13 "the recognition and reassertion of the sovereignty of the  
14 people of Puerto Rico"; (b) "the permanence and irrev-  
15 ocability of the union between the United States and Puerto  
16 Rico on the basis of common citizenship, common defense,  
17 common currency, free market, common loyalty to the values  
18 of democracy, and of such other conditions as may be con-  
19 sidered, in the compact, of mutual benefit to the United  
20 States and Puerto Rico"; (c) the specific definition of the  
21 powers of the United States with respect to Puerto Rico  
22 and the reservation of all other powers to the people of  
23 Puerto Rico; and (d) participation by the people of Puerto  
24 Rico in the powers exercised, under the compact, by the  
25 Government of the United States, in matters affecting Puerto

1 Rico, in a measure proportional to the scope of such powers  
2 and the adoption of a formula under which the people of  
3 Puerto Rico will contribute, in a manner compatible with  
4 the stability and economic growth of Puerto Rico, to the  
5 general expenses of the United States Government.

6 The Commission shall render its report to the President  
7 and the Congress and to the Governor and the Legislative  
8 Assembly of Puerto Rico.

9 SEC. 3. (a) Any member of the Commission who is  
10 not an officer or employee of the Government of the United  
11 States or the government of Puerto Rico shall be paid \$50  
12 per day for his services while actually engaged on Commis-  
13 sion business, and all members shall be entitled to reim-  
14 bursement for actual travel and reasonable subsistence ex-  
15 penses incurred in connection with their service on the  
16 Commission.

17 (b) The Commission is authorized to appoint and fix  
18 the compensation of an executive secretary and such addi-  
19 tional personnel as may be necessary to enable it to carry  
20 out its functions without regard to the civil service laws  
21 and regulations, but any Federal employee subject to those  
22 laws who may be detailed to the Commission (which detail  
23 is hereby authorized) shall retain his civil service status  
24 without interruption or loss of status or privilege.

25 (c) The Commission is authorized to call upon the head

1 of any Federal department or agency to furnish, and the  
2 heads of such departments and agencies are authorized to fur-  
3 nish without reimbursement, information and assistance  
4 which the Commission finds necessary for the performance of  
5 its functions.

6       SEC. 4. Costs incurred by the Commission shall be shared  
7 equally by the United States and Puerto Rico. There are  
8 hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, but not more  
9 than \$           , as may be necessary to pay the United  
10 States share of such costs.

11       SEC. 5. The President is hereby authorized to enter, on  
12 behalf of the United States, into a compact with the people  
13 of Puerto Rico upon fulfillment of the following conditions:

14       (a) Adoption of legislation by Congress, after the re-  
15 ceipt of the report of the Commission, authorizing a new  
16 compact.

17       (b) Ratification of such compact by the people of Puerto  
18 Rico by a majority of the votes cast in a referendum to be  
19 held for such purpose, pursuant to the laws of the Common-  
20 wealth of Puerto Rico, which laws shall also have provided  
21 for submission to the people, as alternatives to ratification  
22 of the compact, of proposals to apply for statehood and for  
23 independence: *Provided*, That if a majority of the voters  
24 participating in such referendum should favor either of such  
25 two alternatives submitted to them instead of the Common-

1 wealth status as proposed to be amended, upon the result  
2 of the referendum being certified by the Governor of Puerto  
3 Rico to the President, the President shall transmit such cer-  
4 tification to the Congress of the United States for such action  
5 as it may consider appropriate.

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By Mr. RYAN of New York

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