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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State of  
the Union.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PIERLUISI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted  
as a State of the Union.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Status  
5 Resolution Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 1898, Puerto Rico became a United  
9 States territory and persons born in Puerto Rico

1        have been granted United States citizenship by law  
2        since March 2, 1917.

3            (2) Puerto Rico has been granted authority  
4        over local matters that is similar to the authority  
5        that the several States possess, but Puerto Rico re-  
6        mains subject to the powers of Congress under the  
7        Territory Clause of the Constitution of the United  
8        States.

9            (3) The approximately 3,700,000 residents of  
10        Puerto Rico do not have a democratic form of gov-  
11        ernment at the national level, because United States  
12        citizens residing in the territory are disenfranchised  
13        in the election for the President and the Vice Presi-  
14        dent of the United States, are not represented in the  
15        United States Senate, and their one representative  
16        in the United States House of Representatives can  
17        only vote in committees of the United States House  
18        of Representatives.

19            (4) The Federal Government may—and often  
20        does—treat Puerto Rico and its residents unequally  
21        under Federal program, tax, and other laws relative  
22        to the several States and the District of Columbia  
23        and their residents.

24            (5) On November 6, 2012, the Government of  
25        Puerto Rico held a two-part referendum. The first

1 question asked voters if Puerto Rico “should con-  
2 tinue to have its present form of territorial status”.  
3 Of the 1,798,987 voters who chose an option, 53.97  
4 percent voted against continued territorial status.

5 (6) The second question asked voters to express  
6 their preference among the three possible alter-  
7 natives to territorial status: statehood, independence,  
8 and nationhood in free association with the United  
9 States. Of the 1,363,854 voters who chose an option,  
10 61.16 percent voted for statehood.

11 (7) The number of votes cast in favor of state-  
12 hood exceeded the number of votes cast in favor of  
13 continued territorial status.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide  
15 for a federally authorized ratification vote in Puerto Rico  
16 on the admission of Puerto Rico into the Union as a State  
17 and, if a majority of voters ratify Puerto Rico’s desire for  
18 statehood, to describe the steps that the President and  
19 Congress shall take to enable the admission of Puerto Rico  
20 as a State of the Union.

21 **SEC. 3. RATIFICATION VOTE.**

22 The State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico is  
23 authorized to provide for a ratification vote on the admis-  
24 sion of Puerto Rico into the Union as a State, in accord-  
25 ance with rules and regulations determined by the Com-

1 mission, including qualifications for voter eligibility, with  
2 the following on the ballot:

3 “As a State:

4 “(A) Puerto Rico would be permanently  
5 united to the other States of the Union.

6 “(B) All provisions of the Constitution of  
7 the United States that apply to the States  
8 would apply to Puerto Rico.

9 “(C) Individuals born in Puerto Rico  
10 would be United States citizens by virtue of the  
11 Constitution of the United States, instead of by  
12 virtue of laws of the United States.

13 “(D) Puerto Rico would be treated equally  
14 with the other States in all Federal laws of gen-  
15 eral application.

16 “(E) There would be a period of transition  
17 to statehood, during which equal treatment of  
18 Puerto Rico in program and tax laws would be  
19 phased in.

20 “(F) Puerto Rico would be represented in  
21 the United States Senate by two Senators, in  
22 the United States House of Representatives by  
23 a number of Representatives in proportion to  
24 its share of the national population (and the  
25 number of Members of the House of Represent-

1           atives would be increased by the same number),  
2           and for the election of the President and the  
3           Vice President of the United States by a num-  
4           ber of votes in the Electoral College equal to  
5           the number of its Senators and Representatives.

6           “(G) The Government of Puerto Rico, like  
7           the governments of the other States, would  
8           have permanent authority over all matters not  
9           delegated to the Federal Government or the  
10          people by the Constitution of the United States.

11         Do you want Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State  
12         of the United States? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_”.

13         **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION.**

14         (a) **PRESIDENTIAL ACTION.**—If a majority of votes  
15         cast in the ratification vote held under section 3 are for  
16         the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union,  
17         the President, not later than 180 days after the certifi-  
18         cation of the vote, shall submit to Congress legislation to  
19         admit Puerto Rico as a State of the Union on an equal  
20         footing with the several States in all respects, consistent  
21         with the terms of this Act.

22         (b) **LEGISLATIVE ACTION.**—If a majority of votes  
23         cast in the ratification vote held under section 3 are for  
24         the admission of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union,  
25         this Act constitutes a commitment by Congress to act,

1 through legislation, to admit Puerto Rico as a State of  
2 the Union on an equal footing with the several States in  
3 all respects, consistent with the terms of this Act.