

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 21**

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Adopted in Senate July 20, 2001

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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Adopted in Assembly September 12, 2001

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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This resolution was received by the Secretary of  
State this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

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*Deputy Secretary of State*

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## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21—Relative to the political status of Puerto Rico.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 21, Polanco. Puerto Rico: political status.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would define the political status options available to the United States citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a plebiscite to provide an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to make an informed decision regarding the island's future political status.

WHEREAS, On December 10, 1898, the Treaty of Paris was signed by the United States and later ratified by the United States on February 6, 1899, formally concluding the Spanish-American War and establishing Puerto Rico as a territory of the United States; and

WHEREAS, On March 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act, popularly known as the Jones Act, which extended United States citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico, but did not provide them with voting representation in the United States Congress or give them the right to vote for the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 1917, 200,000 United States citizens in Puerto Rico have served valiantly in every war and armed conflict in which our nation has fought in defense of democratic principles and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Four heroic Puerto Ricans, Hector Santiago-Colon, Euripides Rubio, Carlos James Lozada, and Luis Fernando Garcia, have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their valor in defending American democracy and freedoms; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the many social, economic, and political contributions that the 3.8 million United States citizens residing in Puerto Rico make to preserve and enhance this nation's democratic values; and



WHEREAS, The State of California has a significant Puerto Rican community and an ever-increasing Latino population from which many of our state's business, cultural, and political leaders are drawn; and

WHEREAS, California's great history, including the ascension to statehood, is intertwined with our state's Latino heritage; and

WHEREAS, In 1997 the Legislature of Puerto Rico formally petitioned the United States Congress to respond to the democratic aspirations of the United States citizens of Puerto Rico by means of a federally sanctioned plebiscite to be held no later than 1998 and Congress has not yet responded to this petition; and

WHEREAS, As we begin a new millennium, we recognize that the time has come for Puerto Rico to exercise its right to self-determination regarding its desire to attain full self-government within the context of a congressionally authorized plebiscite; and

WHEREAS, The California Latino Legislative Caucus urges all Californians and the citizens of the United States to support the enactment of a federal law leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California and the California Latino Legislative Caucus request that the Congress and the President of the United States enact legislation that would define the political status options available to the United States citizens of Puerto Rico and authorize a plebiscite to provide an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to make an informed decision regarding the island's future political status; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California and the California Latino Legislative Caucus request the California congressional delegation to actively promote and support timely action on this important national issue; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Attest:

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*Secretary of State*

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