

80TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7136

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1948

Mr. ISACSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands

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## A BILL

To provide for the withdrawal of the sovereignty of the United States over the island of Puerto Rico and for the recognition of its independence; to provide for the notification thereof to foreign governments; to provide for the assumption by the government of Puerto Rico of obligations under the treaty with Spain on December 10, 1898; to define trade and other relations between the United States and Puerto Rico; to provide for the calling of a convention to frame a constitution for the government of the island of Puerto Rico; to provide for certain mandatory provisions of the proposed constitution; to provide for the submission of the constitution to the people of Puerto Rico and its submission to the President of the United States for his approval; to provide for the adjustment of property rights between the United States and Puerto Rico; to provide for the maintenance of military, coaling, and naval stations by the United States on the island of Puerto Rico until the termination of the

war between the United States and Germany and Japan; to continue in force certain statutes until independence has been acknowledged; and for other purposes.

Whereas as a result of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War, the island of Puerto Rico, the island of Cuba, and the Philippine Islands came within the jurisdiction of the United States and under the authority of Congress; and

Whereas in assuming this responsibility, three duties devolved upon Congress: (1) To establish civil government, (2) to promote the welfare of the inhabitants, and (3) to take final action at the proper time as to the definite and permanent political status of these islands and their peoples; and

Whereas those three duties have been discharged with regard to the island of Cuba and are in process of final fulfillment with respect to the Philippine Islands; and

Whereas in the discharge of the first of these duties with respect to Puerto Rico, Congress in 1900 and in 1917 established and developed forms of civil government by delegating certain powers to the people of Puerto Rico; and

Whereas in the discharge of the second of these duties with respect to Puerto Rico, Congress has from time to time passed laws and made appropriations from public funds to promote the general welfare of the people of Puerto Rico; and

Whereas in spite of this discharge of its first two duties by Congress with respect to Puerto Rico, the people of Puerto Rico still lack the right of complete self-government, as well as the full power to regulate their economic and social life in accordance with their own wishes and on the basis of a republican form of government of their own creation and choosing; and

Whereas the people of Puerto Rico are entitled to full and complete independence both as a matter of principle and broad American policy; and

Whereas the production in the island of Puerto Rico under the prevailing system is not sufficient even to meet the present low standards of living, it being necessary for the United States to provide tax privileges and Federal appropriations which are a burden upon millions of continental citizens not receiving the benefits of our relations with Puerto Rico; and

Whereas the maintenance of Puerto Rico within the economic unit of the United States enjoins the island from promoting the development of production in order to attain adequate standards of living; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the appropriations made by Congress to promote the welfare of the island, the economic conditions in Puerto Rico are such that the people of the United States and the Federal Treasury are increasingly subjected to financial strain to alleviate the economic distress in Puerto Rico, a situation which is unjust to the people of Puerto Rico and to the people of the United States; and

Whereas the time is now proper and opportune for Congress to discharge its third duty with respect to Puerto Rico, as it has already discharged it with respect to other territory that came under the jurisdiction of the United States as a result of the Treaty of Paris; that is, to determine the final and permanent political status of the island and its people in a manner that shall be mutually satisfactory and beneficial to the people of Puerto Rico and to the United States; and

Whereas Congress has full authority under the Constitution and the laws to make such determination, with Presidential approval; and

Whereas in honoring the principle of democracy upon which the people of the United States have reared their whole national existence, it is deemed fair that the people of Puerto Rico shall have a voice and vote in determining under what conditions their whole future life is to be established: 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 it is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to  
4 acknowledge the right of the people of Puerto Rico to their  
5 independence and to grant themselves their own constitu-  
6 tion. It is furthermore declared to be the policy of Congress  
7 to maintain with the people of Puerto Rico, after inde-  
8 pendence, a mutually fair and beneficial commercial rela-  
9 tionship, evolved through the instrumentalities provided for  
10 in this Act.

11 CONVENTION TO FRAME CONSTITUTION FOR PUERTO RICO

12       SEC. 2. The Legislature of Puerto Rico is hereby au-  
13 thorized to provide for the election of delegates to a con-  
14 stitutional convention, which shall meet in the capital of  
15 Puerto Rico at such time as the Legislature of Puerto Rico  
16 may fix within one year after the enactment of this Act,  
17 to formulate and draft a constitution for the government of  
18 the Republic of Puerto Rico, subject to the conditions and  
19 qualifications in this Act, which shall exercise jurisdiction

1 over all the territory in the West Indies ceded to the United  
2 States by articles II of the Treaty of Peace concluded be-  
3 tween the United States and Spain on the 10th day of  
4 December of the year 1898. The laws relating to qualifica-  
5 tions of voters and the safeguarding of elections which  
6 governed the election of November 7, 1944, in Puerto Rico  
7 shall apply to this election, with such modifications and  
8 additions as may be provided by law, in order to carry out  
9 the purpose of securing a true expression of the will of the  
10 people of Puerto Rico.

11 CHARACTER OF CONSTITUTION—MANDATORY PROVISIONS

12 SEC. 3. The constitution formulated and drafted shall  
13 provide for a government, republican in form, shall contain  
14 a bill of rights, including freedom of religious worship, free-  
15 dom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly,  
16 the right to petition, freedom from unreasonable searches and  
17 seizures, and shall furthermore continue and guarantee all  
18 the rights, privileges, and immunities at present enjoyed by  
19 the people of Puerto Rico under the Constitution of the  
20 United States, and shall expressly guarantee all persons  
21 and corporations against any expropriation of property with-  
22 out due process of law, and provide for reasonable, prompt,  
23 equitable, and effective compensation for any property taker  
24 for public use.

1 SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
2 THE UNITED STATES

3 SEC. 4. Upon the drafting and approval of the consti-  
4 tution by the constitutional convention in Puerto Rico, the  
5 constitution shall be submitted within two years after the  
6 enactment of this Act to the President of the United States,  
7 who shall determine whether or not it conforms with the pro-  
8 visions of this Act. If the President finds that the proposed  
9 constitution conforms substantially with the provisions of this  
10 Act, he shall so certify to the Governor of Puerto Rico,  
11 who shall so advise the constitutional convention. If the  
12 President finds that the constitution does not conform with  
13 the provisions of this Act, he shall so advise the Governor  
14 of Puerto Rico stating where in his judgment the consti-  
15 tution does not so conform and submitting provisions which  
16 will in his judgment make the constitution so conform. The  
17 Governor of Puerto Rico shall in turn submit such message  
18 to the constitutional convention for further action by them  
19 pursuant to the same procedure hereinbefore defined, until  
20 the President and the constitutional convention are in agree-  
21 ment.

22 SUBMISSION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF  
23 PUERTO RICO

24 SEC. 5. After the President of the United States has  
25 certified that the constitution conforms with the provisions of

1 this Act, it shall be submitted to the people of Puerto Rico  
2 for their ratification or rejection at an election to be held  
3 within four months after the date of such certification, on a  
4 date to be fixed by the Legislature of Puerto Rico, at which  
5 election the qualified voters of Puerto Rico shall have an  
6 opportunity to vote directly for or against the proposed con-  
7 stitution. Such election shall be held in such manner as may  
8 be prescribed by the Legislature of Puerto Rico to which the  
9 return of the election shall be made. The laws relating to  
10 qualifications of voters and the safeguarding of voters and the  
11 safeguarding of elections which governed the election in  
12 Puerto Rico of November 7, 1944, shall apply to this elec-  
13 tion. The Legislature of Puerto Rico shall by law provide  
14 for the canvassing of the returns and shall certify the result  
15 to the Governor of Puerto Rico, together with a statement  
16 of the votes cast, and a copy of said constitution. If a ma-  
17 jority of the votes cast shall be for the constitution, the  
18 Governor shall, within thirty days after receipt of the certi-  
19 fication from the Puerto Rico Legislature, issue a proclama-  
20 tion for the election of officers of the government of the Re-  
21 public of Puerto Rico provided for in the constitution. The  
22 election shall take place not earlier than three months nor  
23 later than six months after the proclamation by the Gover-  
24 nor ordering such election, and the qualifications for voting  
25 and the safeguards for such election shall be as provided in

1 such constitution. When the election of the officers provided  
2 for under the constitution has been held and the results deter-  
3 mined, the Governor of Puerto Rico shall certify the results  
4 of the election to the President of the United States, who  
5 shall thereupon issue a proclamation announcing the results  
6 of the election, and upon the issuance of such proclamation by  
7 the President the existing government of Puerto Rico shall  
8 terminate and the new government shall enter upon its rights,  
9 privileges, powers, and duties, as provided under the consti-  
10 tution. The present government of Puerto Rico shall provide  
11 for the orderly transfer of the functions of government.

12 If a majority of the votes cast are against the constitu-  
13 tion, then the constitutional convention shall frame a new  
14 constitution, which shall be transmitted to the President  
15 within six months after certification of the result of the  
16 election, and the procedure provided in section 4 and in this  
17 section shall be followed until a constitution framed in ac-  
18 cordance with the provisions of this Act receives the favor-  
19 able vote of a majority of the votes cast at an election held  
20 as herein provided. In the event of the rejection of such a  
21 newly framed constitution by the duly qualified voters of  
22 Puerto Rico, then the constitutional convention shall be con-  
23 sidered permanently dissolved and a new election of delegates  
24 to a constitutional convention shall be held within one year  
25 from the date of such rejection and a new constitution shall be



1 submitted for the approval of the people of Puerto Rico,  
2 following the procedure herein provided.

3 TRANSFER OF PROPERTY RIGHTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF  
4 PUERTO RICO

5 SEC. 6. All the property and rights which may have  
6 been acquired in the island of Puerto Rico by the United  
7 States under the treaty mentioned in the second section  
8 of this Act are hereby transferred to the Republic of Puerto  
9 Rico: *Provided, however,* That this shall not deprive the  
10 United States from establishing and maintaining military  
11 and naval or air bases until the termination of the present  
12 war with Germany and Japan, such clause to be contained  
13 in the treaty to be signed between the Republic of Puerto  
14 Rico and the United States. Any further arrangements for  
15 necessary naval, military, and air bases shall be made by  
16 treaty agreements.

17 ECONOMIC RELATIONS AFTER THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
18 PUERTO RICO

19 SEC. 7. As soon as the constitutional convention meets  
20 to draft the constitution, it shall designate a committee spe-  
21 cially charged with the duty of negotiating a commercial  
22 treaty between Puerto Rico and the United States. The  
23 committee thus designated shall carry out the negotiation  
24 with the Department of State, which shall follow such pro-

1 procedure as the Secretary of State shall provide with the  
2 approval of the President. Treaty relations shall be drafted  
3 according to the following provisions:

4 (a) All goods now imported into the United States  
5 from Puerto Rico, or which may in the future be imported  
6 in accordance with treaty regulations, shall be admitted  
7 free of all duties into the United States market up to the same  
8 amount in dollars as articles imported in Puerto Rico from  
9 the United States shall be admitted free of all duties. The  
10 necessary rules shall be established in the treaty for the  
11 effective enforcement of the foregoing provision, whereby,  
12 and supplementing other rules that may govern the com-  
13 mercial interexchange between both countries, the mutual  
14 debits and credits resulting from other considerations shall  
15 be settled and any balance which may result in any year,  
16 shall be carried over to the next year for the settlement of the  
17 accounts thereof, so that the exchange of values be main-  
18 tained upon a basis of strict mutuality. Values of imports  
19 and exports shall be computed at prices prevailing in the  
20 domestic market of the United States.

21 (b) The treaty shall be drafted in such terms that in the  
22 economic relations between the United States and Puerto  
23 Rico, the volume of commerce now carried on, measured in  
24 dollars, shall not be reduced by the exclusive will of one of  
25 the parties. Such volume of trade, measured in dollars,

1 shall be established in the treaty, and computed on the  
2 basis of a period of representative years of normal relations,  
3 agreed upon by both contracting parties. However, this  
4 rule shall not prevent any one of the two countries, if it be  
5 possible to obtain in the other country any goods different  
6 from those specified in the treaty, from eliminating one or  
7 more items from the list of goods approved in the treaty if  
8 the amount in dollars be substituted with other items: *Pro-*  
9 *vided, however,* That items figuring in the treaty under the  
10 designation of "Fixed imports" will not be subject of elimi-  
11 nation or change unless by mutual agreement of the parties.  
12 Any other item or items of importation not figuring in said  
13 list of fixed imports may be eliminated at will by either  
14 importing party if provision is made by the importing party  
15 to the end that the corresponding amount in dollars is sub-  
16 stituted by other item or items figuring in the export trade  
17 of the other party: *And provided further,* That when a fall  
18 in the prices of the goods figuring in the export list of either  
19 party takes place in the market of the other importing party,  
20 the exporting party may decrease the mutuality basis by  
21 decreasing the importation of goods from the other party in  
22 an amount equivalent to the decrease in the selling prices of  
23 the goods of the exporting party, due to such fall in prices,  
24 (c) Any subsidy or benefit payment which is at present  
25 provided by any one of the two governments, for the benefit

1 of producers of any item of commerce between the two coun-  
2 tries, whether such subsidy or benefit payment be to promote  
3 agricultural or industrial processes, shall be counted as a  
4 part of the selling price of the article and shall be paid by the  
5 government which makes the concession through the govern-  
6 ment of the country the producers of which are entitled  
7 thereto.

8 (d) All rights and benefits acknowledged to Puerto  
9 Rican citizens under the laws of the United States by virtue  
10 of their status as veterans of war and by virtue of their  
11 status as retired employees of the Federal Government, and  
12 all rights and benefits acknowledged under the laws of Con-  
13 gress to families or relatives of Puerto Rican veterans of  
14 war and of Puerto Rican retired employees of the Federal  
15 Government, shall be entirely maintained and respected by  
16 the Government of the United States. Said rights and  
17 benefits are considered "vested rights" and deemed as addi-  
18 tional compensation due for services rendered to the Gov-  
19 ernment of the United States of America. The payments  
20 which are to be made by the Government of the United  
21 States for said consideration, either directly or indirectly,  
22 shall be made through the government of the Republic of  
23 Puerto Rico up to the complete settlement according to the  
24 aforesaid laws and are not to be counted in relation with the  
25 provisions of paragraph (a) of this section. The same re-

1 sponsibility shall be assumed toward the Treasury of the  
2 United States by the government of the Republic of Puerto  
3 Rico, in order to give adequate protection and enforcement  
4 to the rights and benefits which have been acknowledged to  
5 continental citizens of the United States by similar laws of  
6 the Legislature of Puerto Rico, which are in force at the time  
7 of the approval of this Act.

8 (e) During the period of the effectiveness of the first  
9 treaty, and during not less than ten years after the proclama-  
10 tion of independence, provisions (a) and (b) under this  
11 section shall govern the commercial relations between both  
12 countries: *Provided*, That at any time after the expiration  
13 of such period, or extensions of such period agreed thereto  
14 by both countries, the said provisions (a) and (b) of this  
15 Act unless modified by treaty agreement, shall continue in  
16 force, with the exception, that substitution of items of com-  
17 merce as provided in paragraph (b) shall not be binding  
18 for either party, and elimination of items shall be governed  
19 by the following rule: Items of commerce may be eliminated  
20 by any importing party from the exporting list of the other  
21 party totally in one year, or by equal parts among a number  
22 of years, according to its importance in value as compared  
23 to the total amount of imports, thus—

24 (1) if the item to be eliminated does not exceed

1       5 per centum of the total amount of imports, it can be  
2       eliminated totally in one year;

3           (2) if it exceeds 5 per centum and does not exceed  
4       15 per centum, it can be eliminated in three years;

5           (3) if it exceeds 15 per centum and does not ex-  
6       ceed 30 per centum, it can be eliminated in six years;

7           (4) if it exceeds 30 per centum and does not ex-  
8       ceed 50 per centum, it can be eliminated in eight years;  
9       and

10          (5) if it exceeds 50 per centum, it can be elimi-  
11       nated in ten years.

12       The reciprocal rights of both parties may be effectively exer-  
13       cised by either party pursuant to official notice served to the  
14       other party at least one hundred and eighty days before the  
15       first day of the business year when such elimination is to  
16       take place.

17       SEC. 8. The treaty between the United States and  
18       Puerto Rico, once approved according to the foregoing  
19       principles, both by the Department of State of the United  
20       States and by the Committee of the Constitutional Conven-  
21       tion of Puerto Rico as hereinbefore provided, shall be sub-  
22       mitted for ratification to the Senate of the United States  
23       and to the constitutional convention of Puerto Rico as a  
24       whole, but it shall not become effective until the date at  
25       which the President of the United States issues the procla-

1 mation announcing the results of the election of the officers  
2 provided for in the new constitution, as provided in section  
3 5 of this Act.

4 LIQUIDATION OF TAX PRIVILEGES AND ELIMINATION OF  
5 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

6 SEC. 9. All tax privileges and concessions granted to  
7 Puerto Rico under existing laws and all Federal appropria-  
8 tions regularly in force and applicable to Puerto Rico by ac-  
9 tion of Congress shall be liquidated or eliminated, as follows:

10 (a) All internal revenues now levied and collected or  
11 which shall be levied and collected by the Government of  
12 the United States on goods at present produced and which  
13 shall continue to be produced in Puerto Rico and sold in  
14 the United States market, which are now paid to the treasury  
15 of Puerto Rico, shall continue to be collected and paid in  
16 full to the treasury of the Republic of Puerto Rico during  
17 five years after the proclamation of the Republic by the  
18 President.

19 (b) After the termination of the period of five years  
20 referred to in paragraph (a), internal revenues levied and  
21 collected or which shall be levied and collected by the  
22 Government of the United States on goods produced in  
23 Puerto Rico and sold in the United States market shall be  
24 in part paid every year to the treasury of the Republic  
25 of Puerto Rico, reducing from the total amount so collected

1 one-fifteenth during the first year, two-fifteenths during the  
2 second year, and so on, so that at the end of a period of  
3 fifteen years all such internal revenues shall be fully re-  
4 turned and totally deposited with the Treasury of the United  
5 States.

6 (c) All Federal appropriations provided by Congress  
7 for services to be rendered in Puerto Rico, regularly pro-  
8 vided for by the United States (excluding appropriations for  
9 military purposes), shall continue to be provided in a lump-  
10 sum appropriation each year, and shall be paid and de-  
11 posited annually with the treasury of Puerto Rico, during  
12 a period of five years after the proclamation of the Republic  
13 of Puerto Rico by the President of the United States: *Pro-*  
14 *vided*, That after the termination of the said period of five  
15 years the total amount of the said appropriation shall be re-  
16 duced each year, the first year one-fifteenth, the second year  
17 two-fifteenths, and so on, so that after a period of fifteen  
18 years no more funds of the United States Government shall be  
19 appropriated, deposited, or paid to the treasury of the Re-  
20 public of Puerto Rico.

21 RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO AND  
22 WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

23 SEC. 10. On the date fixed by the new constitution of  
24 Puerto Rico, which shall not be later than three months after  
25 the proclamation issued by the President of the United



1 States announcing the results of the election of officers for  
2 the first government of the Republic of Puerto Rico, there  
3 shall be held the inauguration of the new government of  
4 Puerto Rico under the constitution provided for in this Act.  
5 On such date, the President of the United States shall by  
6 proclamation withdraw and surrender all rights of posses-  
7 sion, supervision, jurisdiction, control, and sovereignty then  
8 existing and exercised by the United States in and over  
9 the territory and people of Puerto Rico, excepting all mili-  
10 tary, naval, and other reservations of the Government of  
11 the United States in Puerto Rico as hereinbefore provided;  
12 and, on behalf of the United States, shall recognize the  
13 independence of Puerto Rico as a separate and self-govern-  
14 ing nation and acknowledge the authority and control over  
15 Puerto Rico of the government instituted by the people of  
16 Puerto Rico under the constitution then in force.

17 **NOTIFICATION TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS**

18 **SEC. 11.** Upon the proclamation and recognition of  
19 the independence of Puerto Rico, the President shall notify  
20 the governments with which the United States is in diplo-  
21 matic correspondence thereof and invite said governments  
22 to recognize the independence of Puerto Rico.

23 **CITIZENSHIP**

24 **SEC. 12.** All Puerto Ricans with domicile in the island  
25 of Puerto Rico, as herein defined, who were granted and

1 acquired American citizenship pursuant to the provisions of  
2 the Organic Act of Puerto Rico approved March 2, 1917,  
3 and their descendants with domicile in the island of Puerto  
4 Rico, as herein defined, on the date of the proclamation of  
5 the republic by the President of the United States, shall  
6 become citizens of the Republic of Puerto Rico. Puerto  
7 Ricans who acquired American citizenship by virtue of said  
8 Act, as well as their descendants, domiciled in the United  
9 States or elsewhere outside the territorial jurisdiction of  
10 Puerto Rico on the date of the proclamation of the re-  
11 public by the President, may acquire Puerto Rican citizen-  
12 ship by filing a declaration of intention to do so at any  
13 moment after six months from such date, with any Federal  
14 court, ambassador, or consular officer of the United States:  
15 *Provided*, That such Puerto Ricans shall retain American  
16 citizenship until such declaration of intention be filed. Like-  
17 wise all American citizens native-born or naturalized in the  
18 mainland territory of the United States and their descend-  
19 ants, domiciled in Puerto Rico at the date of the proclama-  
20 tion of the republic by the President, may after six months  
21 from such date become citizens of the Republic of Puerto  
22 Rico pursuant to the filing of declaration of intention to  
23 do so with the corresponding District Court of Puerto  
24 Rico.

25 All Puerto Ricans in the armed forces of the United

1 States shall be turned back to Puerto Rico to the place of  
2 induction by the United States Government, upon the termi-  
3 nation of the present war with Germany and Japar., and  
4 once discharged from duty shall be granted all privileges and  
5 shall assume all duties as citizens of the Republic of Puerto  
6 Rico without any formal requirement therefor: *Provided,*  
7 That this paragraph is not applicable to Puerto Ricans in-  
8 ducted in the armed forces of the United States from any-  
9 where outside the territorial limits of Puerto Rico.

#### 10 PROCESSING TAXES

11 SEC. 13. The United States will pay to the government  
12 of the Republic of Puerto Rico the aggregate sum of all  
13 processing taxes collected in Puerto Rico by virtue of the  
14 Act of May 9, 1934 (48 Stat. 670), which have not been  
15 refunded to processors or expended or obligated for expendi-  
16 tures in Puerto Rico for the benefit of agriculture prior to the  
17 proclamation of independence.

#### 18 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PUERTO RICO

19 SEC. 14. Within sixty days after the passage of this  
20 Act the President shall appoint a commission of five experts  
21 who shall make a thorough survey of the economic condi-  
22 tions on the island of Puerto Rico, and who shall within  
23 six months after the date of their appointment render a  
24 written report to the President embodying the results of  
25 their investigation and study. The report of the commission

1 shall contain recommendations as to the form of assistance  
2 which the Government of the United States may render to  
3 the people of Puerto Rico to enable them to attain a greater  
4 degree of economic and social well-being. Within six months  
5 after the rendering of such report the President shall, if he  
6 deems it advisable, recommend to the Congress of the United  
7 States specific recommendations for assisting the Republic of  
8 Puerto Rico, after its inauguration, in improving the condition  
9 of the people of Puerto Rico.

10 IMMIGRATION AFTER INDEPENDENCE

11 SEC. 15. Upon the final and complete withdrawal of  
12 American sovereignty over Puerto Rico the immigration laws  
13 of the United States shall apply to persons who were born  
14 in Puerto Rico to the same extent as in the case of other  
15 countries in the Western Hemisphere.

16 CERTAIN STATUTES CONTINUED IN FORCE

17 SEC. 16. Except as in this Act otherwise provided, the  
18 laws now in force in Puerto Rico shall continue in force in  
19 the Republic of Puerto Rico until altered, amended, or re-  
20 pealed, and all references in such laws to Puerto Rico shall be  
21 construed to mean the government of the Republic of Puerto  
22 Rico. The government of the Republic of Puerto Rico shall  
23 be deemed successor to the present government of Puerto  
24 Rico and of all the rights and obligations thereof. Except as  
25 otherwise provided in this Act, all laws or parts of laws re-

1 lating to the present government of Puerto Rico and its ad-  
2 ministration are hereby repealed as of the date of the inaugu-  
3 ration of the government of the Republic of Puerto Rico.

4 SEC. 17. If any provision of this Act is declared uncon-  
5 stitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or  
6 circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder  
7 of the Act and the applicability of such provisions to other  
8 persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

9 PROVISIONS OF CERTAIN EXPENSES

10 SEC. 18. All necessary expenses of the elections, the  
11 constitutional conventions, and the commissioners designated  
12 by the convention in the negotiation of the proposed com-  
13 mercial agreement under this Act shall be provided by the  
14 Legislature of Puerto Rico. The sum of \$10,000 is hereby  
15 authorized to defray all necessary expenses of the commis-  
16 sioners designated by the President of the United States in  
17 the negotiation of the proposed commercial agreement under  
18 this Act.

19 There is hereby authorized the sum of \$25,000 to defray  
20 all necessary expenses of the economic commission of five,  
21 none of whom shall, however, receive any salary, but whose  
22 expenses in attending to their duties shall be paid out of  
23 such sum. The commission may engage the service of  
24 experts, research workers, counsel, stenographic, and other  
25 help required to carry out its duties.

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## EFFECTIVE DATE

2       SEC. 19. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall not  
3 take effect until accepted by concurrent resolutions of the  
4 Legislature of Puerto Rico or by a convention called for  
5 the purpose of passing upon that question as may be provided  
6 by the Legislature of Puerto Rico. The Legislature of Puerto  
7 Rico may also provide any other form of democratic pro-  
8 cedure to consult the voters of Puerto Rico as to the accept-  
9 ance of this enabling Act. The President, through the  
10 Governor of Puerto Rico, shall submit this Act to the Legis-  
11 lature of Puerto Rico for action thereon. In case the  
12 legislature is not in session, the Governor shall call a special  
13 session thereof to take the corresponding action concerning  
14 this Act.

80TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7136

## A BILL

To provide for the withdrawal of the sovereignty of the United States over the island of Puerto Rico and for the recognition of its independence ; to provide for the notification thereof to foreign governments ; to provide for the assumption by the Government of Puerto Rico of obligations under the treaty with Spain on December 10, 1898 ; to define trade and other relations between the United States and Puerto Rico ; to provide for the calling of a convention to frame a constitution for the Government of the island of Puerto Rico ; to provide for certain mandatory provisions of the proposed constitution ; to provide for the submission of the constitution to the people of Puerto Rico and its submission to the President of the United States for his approval ; to provide for the adjustment of property rights between the United States and Puerto Rico ; to provide for the maintenance of military, naval, and naval stations by the United States on the island of Puerto Rico until the termination of the war between the United States and Germany and Japan ; to continue in force certain statutes until independence has been acknowledged ; and for other purposes.

By Mr. ISAACSON

MARCH 6, 1948

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands