

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 1924

Referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the organic Act of Porto Rico, approved March 2,
1917.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That section 12 of an Act entitled "An Act to provide a
4 civil Government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes,"
5 approved March 2, 1917, be and the same is hereby
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "SEC. 12. That the supreme executive power shall be
8 vested in an executive officer, whose official title shall be
9 the Governor of Porto Rico. He shall be appointed by
10 the President, by and with the advice and consent of the
11 Senate, and hold his office at the pleasure of the President

1 and until his successor is chosen and qualified. The gov-
2 ernor shall reside in Porto Rico during his official incum-
3 bency, and maintain his office at the seat of government.
4 He shall have general supervision and control of all the
5 departments and bureaus of the government in Porto Rico,
6 so far as is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,
7 and shall be commander in chief of the militia. He may
8 grant pardons and reprieves and remit fines and forfeitures
9 for offenses against the laws of Porto Rico, and respites for
10 all offenses against the laws of the United States until the
11 decision of the President can be ascertained, and may veto
12 any legislation enacted as hereinafter provided. He shall
13 commission all officers that he may be authorized to appoint.
14 He shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws
15 of Porto Rico and of the United States applicable to Porto
16 Rico, and whenever it becomes necessary he may call upon
17 the commanders of the military and naval forces of the
18 United States in the island, to summon the posse comitatus,
19 or call on the militia, to prevent or suppress lawless violence,
20 invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, and he may, in case of
21 rebellion or invasion, or imminent danger thereof, when the
22 public safety requires it, suspend the privilege of the writ
23 of habeas corpus, or place the island, or any part thereof,
24 under martial law until communication can be had with the
25 President and the President's decision therein made known.

1 He shall annually, and at such other times as he may re-
2 quire, make official report of the transactions of the govern-
3 ment of Porto Rico to the executive department of the Gov-
4 ernment of the United States to be designated by the Presi-
5 dent as herein provided, and his said annual report shall be
6 transmitted to Congress, and he shall perform such additional
7 duties and functions as may in pursuance of law be delegated
8 to him by the President.

9 “At the general election to be held in Porto Rico in
10 the year 1928: *Provided*, That if at any time prior to that
11 date, a census of Porto Rico taken under the rules and regula-
12 tions followed by the United States Census Bureau in such
13 cases, should disclose that the percentage of illiteracy does
14 not exceed 30 per centum the qualified electors shall be
15 permitted to elect a governor, and thereafter at each general
16 election, the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall elect the
17 governor, who shall qualify as such on the first Monday of
18 January of the succeeding year, and upon such qualification,
19 the office of the appointed governor shall cease and deter-
20 mine. The governor thus elected shall hold his office for a
21 term of four years and until his successor has been elected
22 and qualified.

23 “The elected governor herein provided for may be
24 removed at any time during his term of service by order of
25 the President of the United States for cause, and may be

1 impeached by the Insular House of Representatives and on
2 trial by the Insular Senate may be removed by a two-
3 thirds vote of that body upon conviction of treason, bribery,
4 or other high crimes and misdemeanors. Judgment in cases
5 of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal
6 from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office
7 of honor, trust, or profit under the United States or Porto
8 Rico, but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable
9 and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment
10 according to law. In the case of removal of any elected
11 governor by order of the President or by impeachment during
12 his incumbency, the President of the United States shall ap-
13 point a governor, by and with the advice and consent of the
14 United States Senate, who shall serve the remainder of the
15 term, or until such time as a successor for the unexpired term
16 may be elected at an election to be ordered by the President.”

17 SEC. 2. That section 13 of the said organic Act,
18 approved March 2, 1917, be, and the same is hereby,
19 amended to read as follows:

20 “SEC. 13. That the following executive departments
21 are hereby created: A department of justice, the head of
22 which shall be designated as the attorney general; a de-
23 partment of finance, the head of which shall be designated as
24 the treasurer; a department of interior, the head of which
25 shall be designated as the commissioner of the interior; a

1 department of education, the head of which shall be desig-
2 nated as the commissioner of education; a department of agri-
3 culture and commerce, the head of which shall be designated
4 as the commissioner of agriculture and commerce; a depart-
5 ment of labor, the head of which shall be designated as
6 the commissioner of labor; and a department of health, the
7 head of which shall be designated as the commissioner of
8 health.

9 “The heads of departments shall be appointed by the
10 governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate
11 of Porto Rico, for the term of four years, and until their
12 successors are appointed and qualified, unless sooner re-
13 moved by the governor.

14 “Heads of departments shall reside in Porto Rico
15 during their official incumbency.

16 “The heads of the departments shall collectively form a
17 council to the governor, known as the executive council.
18 They shall perform under the general supervision of the gov-
19 ernor the duties hereinafter prescribed or which may hereafter
20 be prescribed by law and such other duties not inconsistent
21 with law as the governor, with the approval of the President,
22 may assign to them; and they shall make annual and such
23 other reports to the governor as he may require, which shall
24 be transmitted to the executive department of the Govern-
25 ment of the United States to be designated by the President

1 as herein provided: *Provided*, That the duties herein im-
2 posed upon the heads of departments shall not carry with
3 them any additional compensation.”

4 SEC. 3. That section 18 of the said organic Act. ap-
5 proved March 2, 1917, be, and the same is hereby, amended
6 to read as follows:

7 “SEC. 18. That the commissioner of agriculture and
8 commerce shall have general charge of such bureaus and
9 branches of government as have been or shall be legally
10 constituted for the study, advancement, and benefit of agri-
11 culture, commerce, and other industries; the chief purpose
12 of this department being to foster, promote, and develop the
13 agricultural interests and the welfare of the farmers of Porto
14 Rico; to improve their market conditions and to advance
15 their opportunities for profitable sales of their products, and
16 shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.”

17 SEC. 4. That between sections 18 and 19 of said
18 organic Act, approved March 2, 1917, a new section is
19 hereby inserted to read as follows:

20 “SEC. 18 (a) That the commissioner of labor shall
21 have charge of such bureaus and branches of government as
22 have been or shall be legally constituted to foster and pro-
23 mote the welfare of the wage earners of Porto Rico; to im-
24 prove their working conditions and to advance their oppor-

1 tunities for profitable employment, and shall perform such
2 other duties as may be prescribed by law.”

Passed the Senate May 14 (calendar day, May 15),
1924.

Attest:

GEORGE A. SANDERSON.

Secretary.

68TH CONGRESS }
1ST SESSION } **S. 2448**

AIN ACT

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