

64TH CONGRESS,  
1ST SESSION.

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# H. R. 8501.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 10, 1916.

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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## A BILL

To provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes.

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

3       That the provisions of this Act shall apply to the island of  
4       Porto Rico and to the adjacent islands belonging to the  
5       United States, and waters of those islands; and the name  
6       Porto Rico as used in this Act shall be held to include not  
7       only the island of that name but all the adjacent islands as  
8       aforesaid.

9       SEC. 2. That no law shall be enacted in Porto Rico  
10      which shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property

1 without due process of law, or deny to any person therein  
2 the equal protection of the laws.

3 That in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy  
4 the right to be heard by himself and counsel; to demand the  
5 nature and cause of the accusation against him; to have a  
6 copy thereof; to have a speedy and public trial; to meet the  
7 witnesses face to face; and to have compulsory process to  
8 compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf.

9 That no person shall be held to answer for a criminal  
10 offense without due process of law; and no person for the  
11 same offense shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment,  
12 nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness  
13 against himself.

14 That all persons shall before conviction be bailable by  
15 sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof  
16 is evident or the presumption great.

17 That no law impairing the obligation of contracts shall  
18 be enacted.

19 That no person shall be imprisoned for debt.

20 That the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not  
21 be suspended, unless when in case of rebellion, insurrection,  
22 or invasion the public safety may require it, in either of  
23 which events the same may be suspended by the President,  
24 or by the governor, whenever during such period the neces-  
25 sity for such suspension shall exist.

1       That no ex post facto law or bill of attainder shall be  
2 enacted.

3       That no law granting a title of nobility shall be en-  
4 acted, and no person holding any office of profit or trust in  
5 Porto Ricc shall, without the consent of the Congress of  
6 the United States, accept any present, emolument, office,  
7 or title of any kind whatever from any king, queen, prince,  
8 or foreign State.

9       That excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive  
10 fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

11       That the right to be secure against unreasonable  
12 searches and seizures shall not be violated.

13       That neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except  
14 as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been  
15 duly convicted, shall exist in Porto Rico.

16       That no law shall be passed abridging the freedom  
17 of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably  
18 to assemble and petition the Government for redress of  
19 grievances.

20       That no law shall be made respecting an establishment  
21 of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and that  
22 the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and  
23 worship without discrimination or preference, shall forever  
24 be allowed, and that no political or religious test other than  
25 an oath to support the Constitution of the United States

1 and the laws of Porto Rico shall be required as a qualifica-  
2 tion to any office or public trust under Porto Rico.

3 That no money shall be paid out of the treasury except  
4 in pursuance of an appropriation by law.

5 That no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause,  
6 supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describ-  
7 ing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be  
8 seized.

9 That eight hours shall constitute a day's work in all  
10 cases of employment of laborers and mechanics by and on  
11 behalf of the government of the island on public works.

12 That the employment of children under the age of  
13 fourteen years in any occupation injurious to health or  
14 morals or hazardous to life or limb is hereby prohibited.

15 That the right of action to recover damages for in-  
16 juries resulting in death shall never be abrogated.

17 SEC. 3. That no export duties shall be levied or col-  
18 lected on exports from Porto Rico, but taxes and assessments  
19 on property, internal revenue, and license fees, and royalties  
20 for franchises, privileges, and concessions may be imposed  
21 for the purposes of the insular and municipal govern-  
22 ments, respectively, as may be provided and defined  
23 by the Legislature of Porto Rico; and when necessary  
24 to anticipate taxes and revenues, bonds and other obliga-  
25 tions may be issued by Porto Rico or any municipal  
26 government therein as may be provided by law, and to

1 protect the public credit: *Provided, however,* That no pub-  
2 lic indebtedness of Porto Rico or of any municipality thereof  
3 shall be authorized or allowed in excess of seven per centum  
4 of the aggregate tax valuation of its property, and all bonds  
5 issued by the government of Porto Rico, or by its authority,  
6 shall be exempt from taxation by the Government of the  
7 United States, or by the government of Porto Rico or of  
8 any political or municipal subdivision thereof, or by any  
9 State, or by any county, municipality, or other municipal  
10 subdivision of any State or Territory of the United States, or  
11 by the District of Columbia. In computing the indebted-  
12 ness of the people of Porto Rico, bonds issued by the people  
13 of Porto Rico secured by an equivalent amount of bonds of  
14 municipal corporations or school boards of Porto Rico shall  
15 not be counted.

16       SEC. 4. That the capital of Porto Rico shall be at the  
17 city of San Juan, and the seat of government shall be main-  
18 tained there.

19       SEC. 5. That all citizens of Porto Rico, as defined  
20 by section seven of the Act of April twelfth, nineteen  
21 hundred, “temporarily to provide revenues and a civil  
22 government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes,” and  
23 all natives of Porto Rico who were temporarily absent from  
24 that island on April eleventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-  
25 nine, and have since returned and are permanently resid-

1 ing in that island, and are not citizens of any foreign  
2 country, are hereby declared, and shall be deemed and held  
3 to be, citizens of the United States: *Provided*, That any  
4 person hereinbefore described may retain his present politi-  
5 cal status by making a declaration, under oath, of his decision  
6 to do so within six months of the taking effect of this Act  
7 before the district court in the district in which he resides,  
8 the declaration to be in form as follows:

9       “ I,           , being duly sworn, hereby declare my  
10 intention not to become a citizen of the United States as  
11 provided in the Act of Congress conferring United States  
12 citizenship upon citizens of Porto Rico and certain natives  
13 permanently residing in said island.”

14       In the case of any such person who may be absent  
15 from the island during said six months the term of this  
16 proviso may be availed of by transmitting a declaration,  
17 under oath, in the form herein provided within six months  
18 of the taking effect of this Act to the executive secretary of  
19 Porto Rico: *And provided further*, That any person who is  
20 born in Porto Rico of an alien parent and is permanently  
21 residing in that island may, if of full age, within six months  
22 of the taking effect of this Act, or if a minor, upon reaching  
23 his majority or within one year thereafter, make a sworn  
24 declaration of allegiance to the United States before the  
25 United States District Court for Porto Rico, setting forth

1 therein all the facts connected with his or her birth and  
2 residence in Porto Rico and accompanying due proof  
3 thereof, and from and after the making of such declaration  
4 shall be considered to be a citizen of the United States.

5       SEC. 6. That all expenses that may be incurred on  
6 account of the government of Porto Rico for salaries of  
7 officials and the conduct of their offices and departments,  
8 and all expenses and obligations contracted for the internal  
9 improvement or development of the island, not, however,  
10 including defenses, barracks, harbors, lighthouses, buoys,  
11 and other works undertaken by the United States, shall,  
12 except as otherwise specifically provided by the Congress,  
13 be paid by the treasurer of Porto Rico out of the revenue  
14 in his custody.

15       SEC. 7. That all property -which may have been  
16 acquired in Porto Rico by the United States under the ces-  
17 sion of Spain in the treaty of peace entered into on the tenth  
18 day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, in any  
19 public bridges, road houses, water powers, highways, un-  
20 navigable streams and the beds thereof, subterranean waters,  
21 mines or minerals under the surface of private lands, all  
22 property which at the time of the cession belonged, under  
23 the laws of Spain then in force, to the various harbor works  
24 boards of Porto Rico, all the harbor shores, docks, slips, re-  
25 claimed lands, and all public lands and buildings not hereto-

1 fore reserved by the United States for public purposes, is  
2 hereby placed under the control of the government of Porto  
3 Rico, to be administered for the benefit of the people of  
4 Porto Rico; and the Legislature of Porto Rico shall have  
5 authority, subject to the limitations imposed upon all its acts,  
6 to legislate with respect to all such matters as it may deem  
7 advisable: *Provided*, That the President may from time to  
8 time, in his discretion, convey to the people of Porto Rico  
9 such lands, buildings, or interests in lands or other property  
10 now owned by the United States and within the territorial  
11 limits of Porto Rico as in his opinion are no longer needed  
12 for purposes of the United States. And he may from time  
13 to time accept by legislative grant from Porto Rico any  
14 lands, buildings, or other interests or property which may  
15 be needed for public purposes by the United States.

16 SEC. 8. That the harbor areas and navigable streams  
17 and bodies of water and submerged lands underlying the  
18 same in and around the island of Porto Rico and the adjacent  
19 islands and waters, now owned by the United States and  
20 not reserved by the United States for public purposes, be,  
21 and the same are hereby, placed under the control of the  
22 government of Porto Rico, to be administered in the same  
23 manner and subject to the same limitations as the property  
24 enumerated in the preceding section: *Provided*, That all laws  
25 of the United States for the protection and improvement of



1 the navigable waters of the United States and the preserva-  
2 tion of the interests of navigation and commerce, except so  
3 far as the same may be locally inapplicable, shall apply to  
4 said island and waters and to its adjacent islands and waters:  
5 *Provided further*, That nothing in this Act contained shall  
6 be construed so as to affect or impair in any manner the  
7 terms or conditions of any authorizations, permits, or other  
8 powers heretofore lawfully granted or exercised in or in  
9 respect of said waters and submerged lands in and sur-  
10 rounding said island and its adjacent islands by the Secretary  
11 of War or other authorized officer or agent of the United  
12 States: *And provided further*, That the Act of Congress  
13 approved June eleventh, nineteen hundred and six, entitled  
14 "An Act to empower the Secretary of War, under certain  
15 restrictions, to authorize the construction, extension, and  
16 maintenance of wharves, piers, and other structures on lands  
17 underlying harbor areas in navigable streams and bodies  
18 of water in or surrounding Porto Rico and the islands ad-  
19 jacent thereto," and all other laws and parts of laws in  
20 conflict with this section be, and the same are hereby,  
21 repealed.

22       SEC. 9. That the statutory laws of the United States  
23 not locally inapplicable, except as hereinbefore or hereinafter  
24 otherwise provided, shall have the same force and effect

1 in Porto Rico as in the United States, except the internal-  
2 revenue laws.

3       SEC. 10. That all judicial process shall run in the name  
4 of “United States of America, ss, the President of the  
5 United States,” and all penal or criminal prosecutions in  
6 the local courts shall be conducted in the name and by the  
7 authority of “The People of Porto Rico”; and all officials  
8 authorized by this Act must be citizens of the United States  
9 and, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices,  
10 shall take an oath to support the Constitution of the United  
11 States and the laws of Porto Rico.

12       SEC. 11. That all reports required by law to be made  
13 by the governor or heads of departments to the United States  
14 shall hereafter be made to an executive department of the  
15 Government of the United States to be designated by the  
16 President, and the President is hereby authorized to place  
17 all matters pertaining to the government of Porto Rico in  
18 the jurisdiction of such department.

19       SEC. 12. That the supreme executive power shall be  
20 vested in an executive officer, whose official title shall be  
21 “The Governor of Porto Rico.” He shall be appointed by  
22 the President, by and with the advice and consent of the  
23 Senate, and hold his office at the pleasure of the President  
24 and until his successor is chosen and qualified. The gover-

1 nor shall reside in Porto Rico during his official incumbency  
2 and maintain his office at the seat of government. He shall  
3 have general supervision and control of all the departments  
4 and bureaus of the government in Porto Rico, so far as is  
5 not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, and shall  
6 be commander in chief of the militia. He may grant par-  
7 dons and reprieves and remit fines and forfeitures for offenses  
8 against the laws of Porto Rico, and respites for all offenses  
9 against the laws of the United States until the decision of  
10 the President can be ascertained, and may veto any legis-  
11 lation enacted as hereinafter provided. He shall commission  
12 all officers that he may be authorized to appoint. He shall  
13 be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws of Porto  
14 Rico and of the United States applicable in Porto Rico, and  
15 whenever it becomes necessary he may call upon the com-  
16 manders of the military and naval forces of the United  
17 States in the island, or summon the posse comitatus, or  
18 call out the militia to prevent or suppress lawless violence,  
19 invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, and he may, in case of  
20 rebellion or invasion, or imminent danger thereof, when the  
21 public safety requires it, suspend the privilege of the writ of  
22 habeas corpus, or place the island, or any part thereof, under  
23 martial law until communication can be had with the  
24 President and his decision therein made known. He shall

1 annually, and at such other times as he may be required,  
2 make official report of the transactions of the government  
3 of Porto Rico to the executive department of the Govern-  
4 ment of the United States to be designated by the President  
5 as herein provided, and his said annual report shall be trans-  
6 mitted 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       SEC. 13. That the following executive departments are  
10 hereby created: A department of justice, the head of which  
11 shall be designated as the attorney general; a department of  
12 finance, the head of which shall be designated as the treas-  
13 urer; a department of interior, the head of which shall be  
14 designated as the commissioner of the interior; a department  
15 of education, the head of which shall be designated as the  
16 commissioner of education; a department of agriculture and  
17 labor, the head of which shall be designated as the com-  
18 missioner of agriculture and labor; and a department of  
19 health, the head of which shall be designated as the com-  
20 missioner of health. The attorney general and commis-  
21 sioner of education shall be appointed by the President,  
22 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of  
23 the United States, to hold office for four years and until  
24 their successors are appointed and qualified, unless sooner

1 removed by the President. The heads of the four remain-  
2 ing departments shall be appointed by the governor, by  
3 and with the advice and consent of the Senate of Porto  
4 Rico. The heads of departments appointed by the gov-  
5 ernor may be selected from the elected members of the  
6 senate and house of representatives, and in such case  
7 shall hold office for the term of their election to the legis-  
8 lature, unless sooner removed by the governor or vacating  
9 their seats in the legislature. If such heads of departments  
10 are not selected from members of the legislature they shall  
11 hold office during the life of the existing legislature and until  
12 their successors are appointed and qualified, unless sooner  
13 removed by the governor.

14 Heads of departments shall reside in Porto Rico dur-  
15 ing their official incumbency.

16 The heads of 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  
19 governor the duties hereinafter prescribed, or which may  
20 hereafter be prescribed by law and such other duties, not  
21 inconsistent with law, as the governor, with the approval  
22 of the President, may assign to them; and they shall make  
23 annual and such other reports to the governor as he may  
24 require, which shall be transmitted to the executive depart-

1 ment of the Government of the United States to be desig-  
2 nated by the President as herein provided.

3       SEC. 14. That the attorney general shall have charge  
4 of the administration of justice in Porto Rico; he shall  
5 be the legal adviser of the governor and the heads of  
6 departments and shall be responsible for the proper rep-  
7 resentation of the people of Porto Rico or its duly con-  
8 stituted officers in all actions and proceedings, civil or  
9 criminal, in the Supreme Court of Porto Rico in which the  
10 people of Porto Rico shall be interested or a party, and he  
11 may, if in his judgment the public interest requires it, rep-  
12 resent the people of Porto Rico or its duly constituted  
13 officers in any other court or before any other officer or  
14 board in any action or proceeding, civil or criminal, in  
15 which the people of Porto Rico may be a party or be  
16 interested. He shall also perform such other duties not  
17 inconsistent herewith as may be prescribed by law.

18       SEC. 15. That the treasurer shall give bond, approved  
19 as to form by the attorney general of Porto Rico, in such  
20 sum as the legislature may require, not less, however, than  
21 the sum of \$125,000, with surety approved by the governor,  
22 and he shall collect and be the custodian of public funds,  
23 and shall disburse the same in accordance with law, on  
24 warrants signed by the auditor and countersigned by the  
25 governor, and perform such other duties as may be provided

1 by law. He may designate banking institutions in Porto  
2 Rico and the United States as depositaries of the govern-  
3 ment of Porto Rico, subject to such conditions as may be  
4 prescribed by the governor, after they have filed with him  
5 satisfactory evidence of their sound financial condition and  
6 have deposited bonds of the United States or of the govern-  
7 ment of Porto Rico or other security satisfactory to the  
8 governor in such amounts as may be indicated by him;  
9 and no banking institution shall be designated a depositary  
10 of the government of Porto Rico until the foregoing condi-  
11 tions have been complied with.

12       SEC. 16. That the commissioner of the interior shall  
13 superintend all works of a public nature, have charge of all  
14 public buildings, grounds, and lands, except those belonging  
15 to the United States, and shall execute such requirements  
16 as may be imposed by law with respect thereto, and per-  
17 form such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

18       SEC. 17. That the commissioner of education shall  
19 superintend public instruction throughout Porto Rico; all  
20 proposed disbursements on account thereof must be approved  
21 by him, all courses of study shall be prepared by him, the  
22 election, appointment, and tenure of teachers shall be deter-  
23 mined by him; and he shall perform such other duties as  
24 shall be prescribed by law.

25       SEC. 18. That the commissioner of agriculture and labor

1 shall have general charge of such bureaus and branches of  
2 government as have been or shall be legally constituted for  
3 the study, advancement, and benefit of agricultural and other  
4 industries, the chief purpose of this department being to foster,  
5 promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of  
6 Porto Rico, to improve their working conditions, and to  
7 advance their opportunities for profitable employment, and  
8 shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

9       SEC. 19. That the commissioner of health shall have  
10 general charge of all matters relating to public health and  
11 sanitation and shall perform such other duties as may be  
12 prescribed by law.

13       SEC. 20. That there shall be appointed by the President  
14 an auditor, at an annual salary of \$6,500, for a term of four  
15 years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, who  
16 shall examine, audit, and settle all accounts pertaining to  
17 the revenues and receipts, from whatever source, of the  
18 government of Porto Rico and of the municipal govern-  
19 ments of Porto Rico, including public trust funds and funds  
20 derived from bond issues; and audit, in accordance with law  
21 and administrative regulations, all expenditures of funds or  
22 property pertaining to or held in trust by the government  
23 of Porto Rico or the municipalities or dependencies thereof.  
24 He shall perform a like duty with respect to all government  
25 branches.



1       He shall keep the general accounts of the government  
2 and preserve the vouchers pertaining thereto.

3       It shall be the duty of the auditor to bring to the atten-  
4 tion of the proper administrative officer expenditures of funds  
5 or property which, in his opinion, are irregular, unnecessary,  
6 excessive, or extravagant.

7       In case of vacancy or of the absence from duty from  
8 any cause, of the auditor, the Governor of Porto Rico may  
9 designate an assistant, who shall have charge of the office.

10       The jurisdiction of the auditor over accounts, whether  
11 of funds or property, and all vouchers and records pertaining  
12 thereto, shall be exclusive. With the approval of the gov-  
13 ernor, he shall from time to time make and promulgate  
14 general or special rules and regulations not inconsistent with  
15 law covering the methods of accounting for public funds  
16 and property, and funds and property held in trust by the  
17 government or any of its branches: *Provided*, That any  
18 officer accountable for public funds or property may require  
19 such additional reports or returns from his subordinates or  
20 others as he may deem necessary for his own information  
21 and protection.

22       The decisions of the auditor shall be final, except that  
23 appeal therefrom may be taken by the party aggrieved or  
24 the head of the department concerned within one year, in

1 the manner hereinafter prescribed. The auditor shall, except  
2 as hereinafter provided, have like authority as that conferred  
3 by the law upon the several auditors of the United States  
4 and the Comptroller of the United States Treasury and is  
5 authorized to communicate directly with any person having  
6 claims before him for settlement, or with any department,  
7 officer, or person having official relations with his office.

8 As soon after the close of each fiscal year as the ac-  
9 counts of said year may be examined and adjusted, the  
10 auditor shall submit to the governor an annual report of the  
11 fiscal concerns of the government, showing the receipts and  
12 disbursements of the various departments and bureaus of  
13 the government and of the various municipalities, and make  
14 such other reports as may be required of him by the governor  
15 or the head of the executive department of the Government  
16 of the United States, to be designated by the President as  
17 herein provided.

18 In the execution of his duties the auditor is authorized,  
19 to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and to take evidence,  
20 and, in the pursuance of these provisions, may issue sub-  
21 pœnas and enforce the attendance of witnesses.

22 The office of the auditor shall be under the general  
23 supervision of the governor and shall consist of the auditor  
24 and deputy auditor and such necessary assistants as may be  
25 prescribed by law.

1        SEC. 21. That any person aggrieved by the action or  
2 decision of the auditor in the settlement of his account or  
3 claim may, within one year, take an appeal in writing to the  
4 governor, which appeal shall specifically set forth the par-  
5 ticular action of the auditor to which exception is taken, with  
6 the reason and authorities relied on for reversing such de-  
7 cision. The decision of the governor in such case shall be  
8 final and conclusive.

9        SEC. 22. That there shall be appointed by the gover-  
10 nor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of  
11 Porto Rico, an executive secretary at an annual salary of  
12 \$4,000, who shall record and preserve the minutes and pro-  
13 ceedings of the public service commission hereinafter pro-  
14 vided for and the laws enacted by the legislature and all acts  
15 and proceedings of the governor, and promulgate all procla-  
16 mations and orders of the governor and all laws enacted by  
17 the legislature, and perform such other duties as may be  
18 assigned to him by the Governor of Porto Rico. In the event  
19 of a vacancy in the office, or the absence, illness, or tempo-  
20 rary disqualification of such officer, the governor shall desig-  
21 nate some officer or employee of the government to discharge  
22 the functions of said office during such vacancy, absence,  
23 illness, or temporary disqualification.

24        SEC. 23. That the Governor of Porto Rico, within  
25 sixty days after the end of each session of the legislature.

1 shall transmit to the executive department of the Govern-  
2 ment of the United States, to be designated as herein pro-  
3 vided for, which shall in turn transmit the same to the Con-  
4 gress of the United States, copies of all laws enacted during  
5 the session.

6       SEC. 24. That the President may from time to time  
7 designate the head of an executive department of Porto Rico  
8 to act as governor in the case of a vacancy, the temporary  
9 removal, resignation, or disability of the governor, or his  
10 temporary absence, and the head of the department thus  
11 designated shall exercise all the powers and perform all the  
12 duties of the governor during such vacancy, disability, or  
13 absence.

14       SEC. 25. That all local legislative power in Porto  
15 Rico, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be vested  
16 in a legislature which shall consist of two houses, one the  
17 senate and the other the house of representatives, and the  
18 two houses shall be designated "the Legislature of Porto  
19 Rico."

20       SEC. 26. That the Senate of Porto Rico shall consist  
21 of nineteen members elected for terms of four years by the  
22 qualified electors of Porto Rico. Each of the seven senatorial  
23 districts defined as hereinafter provided shall have the right  
24 to elect two senators, and in addition thereto there shall be  
25 elected five senators at large. No person shall be a member

1 of the Senate of Porto Rico who is not over thirty years of  
2 age, and who is not able to read and write either the Spanish  
3 or English language, and who has not been a resident of  
4 Porto Rico for at least two consecutive years, and, except in  
5 the case of senators at large, an actual resident of the sena-  
6 torial district from which chosen for a period of at least one  
7 year prior to his election, and who does not own in his indi-  
8 vidual right taxable property in Porto Rico to the value of not  
9 less than \$1,000. Except as herein otherwise provided, the  
10 Senate of Porto Rico shall exercise all of the purely legis-  
11 lative powers and functions heretofore exercised by the  
12 Executive Council, including confirmation of appointments;  
13 but appointments made while the senate is not in session  
14 shall be effective either until disapproved or until the next  
15 adjournment of the senate. In electing the five senators at  
16 large each elector shall be permitted to vote for but one can-  
17 didate, and the five candidates receiving the largest number  
18 of votes shall be elected.

19       SEC. 27. That the House of Representatives of Porto  
20 Rico shall consist of thirty-nine members elected quadrenni-  
21 ally by the qualified electors of Porto Rico, as hereinafter  
22 provided. Each of the representative districts hereinafter  
23 provided for shall have the right to elect one representative,  
24 and in addition thereto there shall be elected four representa-  
25 tives at large. No person shall be a member of the house of

1 representatives who is not over twenty-five years of age, and  
2 who is not able to read and write either the Spanish or  
3 English language, and who does not own in his individual  
4 right taxable property, real or personal, situated in Porto  
5 Rico, and, except in the case of representative at large, who  
6 has not been a bona fide resident of the district from which  
7 elected for at least one year prior to his election. In electing  
8 the four representatives at large, each elector shall be per-  
9 mitted to vote for but one candidate and the four candidates  
10 receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

11       SEC. 28. That for the purpose of elections hereafter to  
12 the legislature the island of Porto Rico shall be divided into  
13 thirty-five representative districts, composed of contiguous  
14 and compact territory and established, so far as practicable,  
15 upon the basis of equal population. The division into and  
16 the demarcation of such districts shall be made by a  
17 commission of three persons to be appointed by the governor,  
18 one member of which shall be chosen by him from each of  
19 the two political parties casting the highest number of votes  
20 at the last general election, and the third member of which  
21 shall be chosen at his discretion. Division of districts shall  
22 be made as nearly as practicable to conform to the topograph-  
23 ical nature of the land, with regard to roads and other means  
24 of communication and to natural barriers. Said commission  
25 shall also divide the island of Porto Rico into seven sena-

1 torial districts, each composed of five contiguous and compact  
2 representative districts. They shall make their report within  
3 ninety days after the approval of this Act, which report,  
4 when approved by the governor, shall be final. In case said  
5 commission shall fail within such period to make a report  
6 redistricting the island, then the Executive Council of Porto  
7 Rico shall be empowered, and shall proceed at once, to re-  
8 district the island as indicated, and their report, when  
9 approved by the governor, shall be final.

10       SEC. 29. That the next election in Porto Rico shall be  
11 held in the year nineteen hundred and sixteen upon the  
12 date now provided by law, and that there shall then be  
13 chosen senators and representatives as herein provided.  
14 Thereafter such elections shall be held every four years.  
15 That all other elective officials shall be elected upon the  
16 same date, beginning with the year nineteen hundred  
17 and twenty, and that the term of office of all municipal  
18 officials expiring at the close of the year nineteen hun-  
19 dred and eighteen is hereby extended until the officials  
20 who may be elected to fill such municipal offices in nine-  
21 teen hundred and twenty shall have duly qualified:  
22 *Provided, however,* That nothing herein contained shall  
23 be construed to limit the right of the Legislature of Porto  
24 Rico at any time to revise the boundaries of any munic-

1 pality or to abolish any municipality and the officers pro-  
2 vided therefor.

3       SEC. 30. That the terms of office of senators and  
4 representatives shall be four years from the first of  
5 January following their election. In case of vacancy  
6 among the members of the senate or in the house of rep-  
7 resentatives, special elections may be held in the districts  
8 wherein such vacancy occurred, under such regulations as  
9 may be prescribed by law, but senators or representatives  
10 elected in such cases shall hold office only for the unex-  
11 pired portion of the term wherein the vacancy occurred.

12       SEC. 31. That members of the Senate and House of  
13 Representatives of Porto Rico shall receive compensation at  
14 the rate of \$7 per day while in session, and mileage for  
15 each session at the rate of 10 cents per kilometer for each  
16 kilometer actually and necessarily traveled in going from  
17 their legislative districts to the capital and therefrom to their  
18 of residence in their districts by the usual routes of travel.

19       SEC. 32. That the senate and house of representatives,  
20 respectively, shall be the sole judges of the elections, returns,  
21 and qualifications of their members, and they shall have and  
22 exercise all the powers with respect to the conduct of their  
23 proceedings that usually pertain to parliamentary legislative  
24 bodies. Both houses shall convene at the capital on the  
25 second Monday in February following the next election, and



1 organize by the election of a speaker or a presiding officer, a  
2 clerk, and a sergeant at arms for each house, and such other  
3 officers and assistants as may be required.

4       SEC. 33. That the first regular session of the Legislature  
5 of Porto Rico provided for by this Act shall convene on the  
6 second Monday in February, nineteen hundred and seven-  
7 teen, and biennially thereafter; but no regular session shall  
8 continue longer than ninety days, not including Sundays,  
9 holidays, or days during which both houses may by concur-  
10 rent resolution, with the approval of the governor, have  
11 agreed to a recess. The governor may call special sessions  
12 of the legislature or of the senate at any time when in his  
13 opinion the public interest may require it, and shall call  
14 the senate in session at least once each year, but no special  
15 session shall continue longer than ten days, not including  
16 Sundays and holidays, and no legislation shall be considered  
17 at such session other than that specified in the call.

18       SEC. 34. That the enacting clause of the laws shall  
19 be as to acts, "Be it enacted by the Legislature of Porto  
20 Rico," and as to joint resolutions, "Be it resolved by the  
21 Legislature of Porto Rico." All bills and joint resolutions  
22 may originate in either house. The governor shall submit  
23 within ten days of the opening of each regular session of the  
24 legislature a budget of receipts and expenditures, which

1 shall be the basis of the biennial appropriation bill. No  
2 bill shall become a law until it be passed in each house by a  
3 majority vote of all of the members belonging to such house  
4 and be approved by the governor within ten days thereafter.  
5 If when a bill that has been passed is presented to the  
6 governor for his signature he approves the same, he shall sign  
7 it; or if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to that  
8 house in which it originated, which house shall enter his  
9 objections at large on its journal and proceed to reconsider it.  
10 If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members of  
11 that house shall agree to pass the same it shall be sent, to-  
12 gether with the objections, to the other house, by which it  
13 shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-  
14 thirds of all the members of that house it shall be sent to the  
15 governor, who, in case he shall then not approve, shall  
16 transmit the same to the President of the United States.  
17 The vote of each house shall be by yeas and nays, and the  
18 names of the members voting for and against shall be entered  
19 on the journal. If the President of the United States ap-  
20 prove the same he shall sign it and it shall become a law.  
21 If he shall not approve same he shall return it to the gov-  
22 ernor so stating, and it shall not become a law. If any  
23 bill presented to the governor contains several items of  
24 appropriation of money, he may object to one or more  
25 of such items while approving of the other portion of

1 the bill. In such case he shall append to the bill, at the  
2 time of signing it, a statement of the items to which he  
3 objects, and the appropriation so objected to shall not take  
4 effect. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor  
5 within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been  
6 presented to him, it shall be a law in like manner as if  
7 he had signed it, unless the legislature by adjournment pre-  
8 vents its return, in which case it shall be a law if signed  
9 by the governor within ten days after receipt by him;  
10 otherwise it shall not be a law. If the governor, within the  
11 period in which he may disapprove, advises that he has  
12 withheld action pending advice from the President, he may  
13 approve or disapprove an act at any time within thirty  
14 days after it has been presented to him. All laws enacted  
15 by the Legislature of Porto Rico shall be reported to the  
16 Congress of the United States, which hereby reserves the  
17 power and authority to annul the same. If at the termina-  
18 tion of any fiscal year the appropriations necessary for the  
19 support of the government for the ensuing fiscal year shall not  
20 have been made, the several sums appropriated in the last  
21 appropriation bills for the objects and purposes therein  
22 specified, so far as the same may be applicable, shall be  
23 deemed to be reappropriated item by item; and until the  
24 legislature shall act in such behalf the treasurer may, with

1 the advice of the governor, make the payments necessary for  
2 the purposes aforesaid.

3 SEC. 35. That the qualified electors of Porto Rico,  
4 for any election whatsoever, shall consist of those citizens  
5 that will be hereafter registered in accordance with the  
6 terms of this Act and of the laws of Porto Rico hereafter  
7 enacted. That no person shall be allowed to register as a  
8 voter or vote in Porto Rico who is not a citizen of the  
9 United States, over twenty-one years of age, and who is not  
10 able to read and write, or who is not a bona fide taxpayer  
11 in his own name in an amount of not less than \$3 per annum.

12 SEC. 36. That the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall,  
13 at the general election in nineteen hundred and sixteen,  
14 and every four years thereafter, choose a Resident Com-  
15 missioner to the United States, whose term of office  
16 shall be four years from the fourth of March following,  
17 and who shall be entitled to receive official recog-  
18 nition as such Commissioner by all of the departments of  
19 the Government of the United States, upon presentation,  
20 through the Department of State, of a certificate of election  
21 of the Governor of Porto Rico. The Resident Commis-  
22 sioner shall receive a salary, payable monthly by the United  
23 States, of \$7,500 per annum. Such Commissioner shall be  
24 allowed the same sum for stationery and for the pay of neces-  
25 sary clerk hire as is now allowed to Members of the House of

1 Representatives of the United States; and he shall be  
2 allowed the sum of \$500 as mileage for each session of  
3 the House of Representatives and the franking privilege  
4 granted Members of Congress. No person shall be eligible to  
5 election as Resident Commissioner who is not a bona fide  
6 citizen of the United States and who is not more than thirty  
7 years of age, and who does not read and write the English  
8 language.

9       SEC. 37. That the legislative authority herein provided  
10 shall extend to all matters of a legislative character not  
11 locally inapplicable, including power to create, consolidate,  
12 and reorganize the municipalities so far as may be necessary,  
13 and to provide and repeal laws and ordinances therefor; also  
14 the power to alter, amend, modify, and repeal any and all  
15 laws and ordinances of every character now in force in Porto  
16 Rico or any municipality or district thereof not inconsistent  
17 with the provisions of this Act.

18       No executive department not provided for in this Act  
19 shall be created by the legislature.

20       SEC. 38. That all grants of franchises, rights, and priv-  
21 ileges or concessions of a public or quasi public nature shall  
22 be made by a public-service commission, consisting of the  
23 heads of executive departments and the auditor. The said  
24 commission is also empowered and directed to discharge all  
25 the executive functions heretofore conferred by law upon the

1 executive council, provided by the Act of April twelfth, nine-  
2 teen hundred, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,  
3 including the powers and duties prescribed by an act of the  
4 Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico entitled "An act concern-  
5 ing the regulation of public-service corporations in Porto  
6 Rico," approved March twelfth, nineteen hundred and eight,  
7 and all amendments which may be or have been made thereto  
8 by the Legislature of Porto Rico, and including all the powers  
9 and duties heretofore exercised by the executive council with  
10 regard to all municipal loans and bonds, and advancements  
11 of insular funds to municipalities and school boards; and all  
12 franchises, rights, and privileges, or concessions granted by  
13 the said commission shall not be effective until approved by  
14 the governor, and shall be reported to Congress, which  
15 hereby reserves the power to annul or modify the same.  
16 Whenever the legislature shall have authorized the borrowing  
17 of money or the creation of any indebtedness by the insular  
18 government, the commission may, within the authorization of  
19 the legislature, prescribe the terms of all notes, bonds, or other  
20 instruments to be issued as evidences of said indebtedness, and  
21 the price or prices for which they shall be sold or disposed of.  
22 When the action of the commission in that regard shall have  
23 been approved by the governor, the treasurer shall dispose of  
24 such securities in pursuance thereof and turn the proceeds  
25 into the public treasury.

1        SEC. 39. That all grants of franchises, privileges, and  
2 concessions under the section last preceding shall provide  
3 that the same shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or  
4 repeal, and shall forbid the issue of stocks or bonds except  
5 in exchange for actual cash or property at a fair valuation  
6 equal in amount to the par value of the stocks or bonds  
7 issued, and shall forbid the declaring of stock or bond  
8 dividends, and in the case of public-service corporations  
9 shall provide for the effective regulation of charges thereof  
10 and for the purchase or taking of their property by the  
11 authorities at a fair and reasonable valuation.

12        SEC. 40. That the execution of the laws of the United  
13 States relating to immigration, to tariffs, customs, and duties  
14 on importations into the United States and the regulations  
15 made pursuant thereto shall be effected in Porto Rico through  
16 officials appointed by the Governor of Porto Rico: *Pro-*  
17 *vided*, That the exemption of aliens arriving in Porto Rico  
18 from the payment of the head tax provided by section one  
19 of the Act of Congress of February twentieth, nineteen  
20 hundred and seven, is hereby repealed.

21        SEC. 41. That the judicial power shall be vested in the  
22 courts and tribunals of Porto Rico now established and in  
23 operation under and by virtue of existing laws. The juris-  
24 diction of said courts and the form of procedure in them, and  
25 the various officers and attachés thereof, shall also continue

1 to be as now provided until otherwise provided by law:  
2 *Provided, however,* That the chief justice and associate jus-  
3 tices of the supreme court shall be appointed by the Presi-  
4 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and  
5 the Legislature of Porto Rico shall have authority, from time  
6 to time as it may see fit, not inconsistent with this Act, to  
7 organize, modify, or rearrange the courts and their jurisdic-  
8 tion and procedure, except the District Court of the United  
9 States for Porto Rico.

10 SEC. 42. That Porto Rico shall constitute a judicial  
11 district to be called "the district of Porto Rico." The  
12 President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
13 shall appoint one district judge, who shall as to pay, tenure,  
14 retirement, and allowances be on the same footing as other  
15 United States district judges. There shall be appointed in  
16 like manner a district attorney, whose salary shall be \$5,000  
17 per annum, and a marshal for said district, whose salary  
18 shall be \$3,500 per annum, each for a term of four years  
19 unless sooner removed by the President. The district court  
20 for said district shall be called "the District Court of the  
21 United States for Porto Rico," and shall have power to  
22 appoint all necessary officials and assistants, including the  
23 clerk, interpreter, and such commissioners as may be neces-  
24 sary, who shall be entitled to the same fees and have like  
25 powers and duties as are exercised and performed by United



1 States commissioners. Such court shall have jurisdiction  
2 of all cases cognizable in the district courts of the United  
3 States, and shall proceed in the same manner; and in addi-  
4 tion shall have jurisdiction for the naturalization of aliens,  
5 and for this purpose residence in Porto Rico shall be  
6 counted in the same manner as residence elsewhere in the  
7 United States: *Provided, however,* That no person who  
8 declares his intention not to become a citizen of the United  
9 States in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of  
10 this Act may thereafter be naturalized, and shall have  
11 jurisdiction of all controversies where all of the parties  
12 on either side of the controversy are citizens or subjects  
13 of a foreign State or States, or citizens of a State, Territory,  
14 or District of the United States not domiciled in Porto Rico,  
15 wherein the matter in dispute exceeds, exclusive of interest  
16 or cost, the sum or value of \$2,000. and of all controversies  
17 in which there is a separable controversy involving such  
18 jurisdictional amount, and in which all of the parties on either  
19 side of such separable controversy are citizens or subjects of  
20 the character aforesaid: *Provided,* That nothing in this Act  
21 shall be deemed to impair the jurisdiction of the "district  
22 court of the United States for Porto Rico," to hear and de-  
23 termine all controversies pending in said court at the date of  
24 the approval of this Act: *Provided further,* That hereafter  
25 the salaries of the judge and officials of the district court of

1 the United States for Porto Rico, together with the court ex-  
2 penses, shall be paid from the United States revenues in the  
3 same manner as in other United States district courts. In  
4 case of vacancy or of the death, absence, or other legal  
5 disability on the part of the judge of the said "district  
6 court of the United States for Porto Rico," the President of  
7 the United States is authorized to designate one of the judges  
8 of the Supreme Court of Porto Rico to discharge the duties of  
9 judge of said court until such absence or disability shall be  
10 removed, and thereupon such judge so designated for said  
11 service shall be fully authorized and empowered to perform  
12 the duties of said office during such absence or disability  
13 of such regular judge, and to sign all necessary papers and  
14 records as the acting judge of said court, without extra  
15 compensation.

16 SEC. 43. That the laws of the United States relating  
17 to appeals, writs of error and certiorari, removal of causes,  
18 and other matters or proceedings as between the courts of  
19 the United States and the courts of the several States,  
20 shall govern in such matters and proceedings between the  
21 district court of the United States and the courts of Porto  
22 Rico. Regular terms of said United States district court shall  
23 be held at San Juan, commencing on the first Monday in  
24 May and November of each year, and also at Ponce on the

1 second Monday in February of each year, and special terms  
2 may be held at Mayaguez at such stated times as said judge  
3 may deem expedient. All pleadings and proceedings in  
4 said court shall be conducted in the English language. The  
5 said district court shall be attached to and included in the  
6 third circuit of the United States, with the right of appeal  
7 and review by said circuit court of appeals in all cases where  
8 the same would lie from any district court to a circuit court  
9 of appeals of the United States, and with the right of  
10 appeal and review directly by the Supreme Court of the  
11 United States in all cases where a direct appeal would be  
12 from such district courts.

13 SEC. 44. That writs of error and appeals from the  
14 final judgments and decrees of the Supreme Court of Porto  
15 Rico may be taken and prosecuted to the Supreme Court  
16 of the United States in any case wherein is involved  
17 the validity of any copyright, or in which is drawn in  
18 question the validity of a treaty or statute of, or authority  
19 exercised under, the United States, or wherein the Con-  
20 stitution of the United States, or a treaty thereof, or  
21 an Act of Congress is brought in question and the right  
22 claimed thereunder is denied, without regard to the sum  
23 or value of the matter in dispute, and in all other  
24 cases in which the sum or value of the matter in dispute,  
25 exclusive of costs, to be ascertained by the oath of either

1 party or of other competent witnesses, exceeds the sum or  
2 value of \$5,000. Such writs of error and appeals shall be  
3 taken within the same time, in the same manner, and under  
4 the same regulations as writs of error and appeals are taken  
5 to the Supreme Court of the United States from the district  
6 courts.

7       SEC. 45. That the qualifications of jurors as fixed by  
8 the local laws of Porto Rico shall not apply to jurors selected  
9 to serve in the District Court of the United States for Porto  
10 Rico; but the qualifications required of jurors in said court  
11 shall be that each shall be of the age of not less than twenty-  
12 one years and not over sixty-five years, a resident of Porto  
13 Rico for not less than one year, and have a sufficient knowl-  
14 edge of the English language to enable him to serve as a  
15 juror; they shall also be citizens of the United States. Juries  
16 for the said court shall be selected and drawn in accordance  
17 with the laws of Congress regulating the same in the United  
18 States courts in so far as locally applicable.

19       SEC. 46. That all such fees, fines, costs, and forfeitures  
20 as would be deposited to the credit of the United States if  
21 collected and paid into a district court of the United States  
22 shall become revenues of the United States if collected and  
23 paid into the District Court of the United States for Porto  
24 Rico.

1           SEC. 47. That the Attorney General of the United  
2 States shall from time to time determine the salaries of all  
3 officials and assistants appointed by the United States district  
4 court, including the clerk, his deputies, interpreter, stenogra-  
5 pher, and other officials and employees, the same to be paid  
6 by the United States as other salaries and expenses of like  
7 character in United States courts.

8           SEC. 48. That jurors and witnesses in the District Court  
9 of the United States for Porto Rico shall be entitled to and  
10 receive 15 cents for each mile necessarily traveled over any  
11 stage line or by private conveyance and 10 cents for each  
12 mile over any railway in going to and returning from said  
13 courts. But no constructive or double mileage fees shall be  
14 allowed by reason of any person being summoned both as  
15 witness and juror or as witness in two or more cases pending  
16 in the same court and triable at the same term thereof.  
17 Such jurors shall be paid \$3 per day and such witnesses \$1.50  
18 per day while in attendance upon the court.

19           SEC. 49. That the supreme and district courts of Porto  
20 Rico and the respective judges thereof may grant writs of  
21 habeas corpus in all cases in which the same are grantable  
22 by the judges of the district courts of the United States, and  
23 the district courts may grant writs of mandamus in all proper  
24 cases.

1       SEC. 50. That hereafter all judges, marshals, and secre-  
2       taries of courts now established or that may hereafter be  
3       established in Porto Rico, and whose appointment by the  
4       President is not provided for by law, shall be appointed by  
5       the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
6       ate of Porto Rico.

7       SEC. 51. That, except as in this Act otherwise pro-  
8       vided, the salaries of all the officials of Porto Rico not ap-  
9       pointed by the President, including deputies, assistants, and  
10      other help, shall be such and be so paid out of the revenues  
11      of Porto Rico as shall from time to time be determined  
12      by the Legislature of Porto Rico and approved by the gov-  
13      ernor; and if the legislature shall fail to make an appropria-  
14      tion for such salaries, the salaries theretofore fixed shall be  
15      paid without the necessity of further appropriations therefor.  
16      The salaries of all officers and all expenses of the offices of the  
17      various officials of Porto Rico appointed as herein pro-  
18      vided by the President shall also be paid out of the reve-  
19      nues of Porto Rico on warrant of the auditor, countersigned  
20      by the governor. The annual salaries of the following-  
21      named officials appointed by the President and so to be paid  
22      shall be: The governor, \$10,000; in addition thereto he  
23      shall be entitled to the occupancy of the buildings heretofore  
24      used by the chief executive of Porto Rico, with the furniture  
25      and effects therein, free of rental; heads of executive depart-

1 ments, \$5,000; chief justice of the supreme court, \$6,500;  
2 associate justices of the supreme court, \$5,500 each.

3 Where any officer whose salary is fixed by this Act is  
4 required to give a bond, the premium thereof shall be paid  
5 from the insular treasury.

6 SEC. 52. That the provisions of the foregoing section  
7 shall not apply to municipal officials; their salaries and the  
8 compensation of their deputies, assistants, and other help,  
9 as well as all other expenses incurred by the municipalities,  
10 shall be paid out of the municipal revenues, in such manner  
11 as the legislature shall provide.

12 SEC. 53. That wherever in this Act offices of the in-  
13 sular government of Porto Rico are provided for under the  
14 same names as in the heretofore existing Acts of Congress  
15 affecting Porto Rico, the present incumbents of those offices  
16 shall continue in office in accordance with the terms and at  
17 the salaries prescribed by this Act. The offices of secretary  
18 of Porto Rico and director of labor, charities, and correction  
19 are hereby abolished. Authority is given to the respective  
20 appointing authorities to appoint and commission persons to  
21 fill the new offices created by this Act.

22 SEC. 54. That any bureau or office belonging to any of  
23 the regular departments of the government, or hereafter  
24 created, or not assigned, may be transferred or assigned to

1 any department by the governor upon the approval of the  
2 President of the United States.

3 SEC. 55. That deeds and other instruments affecting  
4 land situate in the District of Columbia, or any other territory  
5 or possession of the United States, may be acknowledged in  
6 Porto Rico before any notary public appointed therein by  
7 proper authority, or any officer therein who has ex officio  
8 the powers of a notary public: *Provided*, That the certificate  
9 by such notary shall be accompanied by the certificate of the  
10 executive secretary of Porto Rico to the effect that the notary  
11 taking such acknowledgment is in fact such notarial officer.

12 SEC. 56. That nothing in this Act shall be deemed to  
13 impair or interrupt the jurisdiction of existing courts over  
14 matters pending therein upon the approval of this Act, which  
15 jurisdiction is in all respects hereby continued, the purpose  
16 of this Act being to preserve the integrity of all of said courts  
17 and their jurisdiction until otherwise provided by law, except  
18 as in this Act otherwise specifically provided.

19 SEC. 57. That this Act shall take effect upon approval,  
20 but until its provisions shall severally become operative, as  
21 hereinbefore provided, the corresponding legislative and  
22 executive functions of the government in Porto Rico shall  
23 continue to be exercised and in full force and operation as  
24 now provided by law; and the Executive Council shall,  
25 until the assembly and organization of the Legislature of



1 Porto Rico as herein provided, consist of the attorney gen-  
2 eral, the treasurer, the commissioner of the interior, the com-  
3 missioner of education, the commissioner of health, and  
4 the commissioner of agriculture and labor, and the five  
5 additional members as now provided by law. And any  
6 functions assigned to the Senate of Porto Rico by the pro-  
7 visions of this Act shall, until this said senate has assembled  
8 and organized as herein provided, be exercised by the Ex-  
9 ecutive Council as thus constituted.

10 SEC. 58. That the laws and ordinances of Porto Rico  
11 now in force shall continue in force and effect, except as  
12 altered, amended, or modified herein, until altered, amended,  
13 or repealed by the legislative authority herein provided for  
14 Porto Rico or by Act of Congress of the United States; and  
15 such legislative authority shall have power, when not incon-  
16 sistent with this Act, by due enactment to amend, alter,  
17 modify, or repeal any law or ordinance, civil or criminal,  
18 continued in force by this Act as it may from time to time  
19 see fit.

20 SEC. 59. That all laws or parts of laws applicable to  
21 Porto Rico not in conflict with any of the provisions of this  
22 Act, including the laws relating to tariffs, customs, and duties  
23 on importations into Porto Rico prescribed by the Act of  
24 Congress entitled "An Act temporarily to provide revenues

1 and a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other pur-  
2 poses," approved April twelfth, nineteen hundred, are hereby  
3 continued in effect, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent  
4 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.



64<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, }  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION. } **H. R. 8501.**

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# **A BILL**

To provide a civil government for Porto Rico,  
and for other purposes.

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By Mr. JONES.

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JANUARY 10, 1916.—Referred to the Committee on  
Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed.