

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a Constitutional Convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish a mechanism for congressional consideration of such decision.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a Constitutional Convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish a mechanism for congressional consideration of such decision.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Self-De-
5 termination Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For the purposes of this Act:

3 (1) COMMONWEALTH.—The term “Common-
4 wealth” means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

5 (2) SELF-DETERMINATION OPTION.—The term
6 “Self-Determination Option” means an option
7 agreed to by a Constitutional Convention in the
8 Commonwealth for a new or modified Common-
9 wealth status, Statehood, or Independence. A Self-
10 Determination Option must be based on the sov-
11 ereignty of the People of Puerto Rico and not sub-
12 ject to the plenary powers of the territorial clause of
13 the Constitution of the United States.

14 (3) SELF-DETERMINATION PROPOSAL.—The
15 term “Self-Determination Proposal” means a Self
16 Determination Option approved by the People of
17 Puerto Rico in a referendum held pursuant to sec-
18 tion 4(b).

19 (4) PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO.—The term
20 “People of Puerto Rico” means residents in the
21 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and non-resident
22 Puerto Ricans.

23 (5) NON RESIDENT PUERTO RICANS.—The term
24 “non-resident Puerto Ricans” refers to individuals
25 who are not legal residents of the Commonwealth of

1 Puerto Rico and who are either born in Puerto Rico
2 or have one parent born in Puerto Rico.

3 (6) CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.—The term
4 “Constitutional Convention” means a Convention of
5 delegates elected by the People of Puerto Rico and
6 convened pursuant to legislation approved by the
7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

8 **SEC. 3. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

9 Congress recognizes the inherent authority of the
10 People of Puerto Rico to call a Constitutional Convention,
11 constituted by a number of delegates to be determined in
12 accordance to legislation approved by the Commonwealth
13 of Puerto Rico, for the purpose of proposing to the People
14 of Puerto Rico a Self-Determination Option, which if ap-
15 proved by the People of Puerto Rico in a referendum
16 would be presented to Congress by the Constitutional Con-
17 vention as a Self-Determination Proposal.

18 **SEC. 4. SELF-DETERMINATION OPTION AND PROPOSAL.**

19 (a) CONSIDERATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION PRO-
20 POSAL.—

21 (1) APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL.—If the People of
22 Puerto Rico approve the Self-Determination Pro-
23 posal in a referendum, a joint resolution of Congress
24 shall be enacted approving the terms of the Self-De-
25 termination Proposal, including provisions necessary

1 to implement the Self-Determination Proposal. If
2 Congress approves the Self-Determination Proposal
3 with any changes or amendments, it shall be sub-
4 mitted in a referendum vote to the People of Puerto
5 Rico for approval before it shall be effective.

6 (2) REJECTION OF PROPOSAL.—If a Self-Deter-
7 mination Proposal is rejected by Congress or is re-
8 jected by the People of Puerto Rico in a referendum
9 held pursuant to paragraph (1), the Constitutional
10 Convention may reconvene for the purpose of delib-
11 erating to adopt another Self-Determination Option
12 to propose to the People of Puerto Rico and Con-
13 gress.

14 **SEC. 5. CONVENTION IN CONTINUOUS SESSION.**

15 A Constitutional Convention held pursuant to this
16 Act may remain in session until a Self-Determination Pro-
17 posal is enacted by Federal law.