

# THE PUERTO RICO STATUS ACT

July 2022

Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States. Territory status limits the island's full political, economic, and social development. The federal government has a responsibility to facilitate the selection of and transition to a non-territory, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico.

This Congress, the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources has considered two bills with different mechanisms to resolve Puerto Rico's political status – [H.R. 1522](#), the Puerto Rico Statehood Admissions Act, and [H.R. 2070](#), the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act. The sponsors of both proposals have come together to combine elements of their respective bills to arrive at a compromise that would be supported by a majority of members of Congress. The Puerto Rico Status Act is the result of that effort.

In its broadest terms, the Puerto Rico Status Act embodies a central proposal that represents an offer from Congress to the people of Puerto Rico – to make an informed choice – on their political future. The people of Puerto Rico must decide the island's political status, and Congress has the responsibility and power to facilitate that process.

## KEY PROVISIONS OF THE PUERTO RICO STATUS ACT

- Authorizes a federally sponsored plebiscite to resolve Puerto Rico's political status.
- Specifies and defines Puerto Rico's non-territorial status options – Statehood, Independence, and Sovereignty in Free Association with the United States.
- Provides for an objective, nonpartisan, federally funded voter education campaign leading up to the vote.
- Establishes a process and timeline for the U.S. Department of Justice to review the voter education materials and plebiscite ballot design.
- Authorizes necessary funds to carry out an initial plebiscite and, if necessary, a runoff plebiscite.
- Describes the transition to and implementation of each status option in sufficient detail for eligible voters in Puerto Rico to make an informed choice.
- Ensures implementation of the option that is chosen by a majority of valid votes cast.