



The Senate companion of the *Puerto Rico Status Act*, led by U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), will authorize a federally sponsored plebiscite to resolve Puerto Rico's political status.

For over 100 years, the people of Puerto Rico have been proud American citizens. Yet, due to the current territory status, the 3.2 million Americans in Puerto Rico lack full voting representation in Congress and cannot vote for their Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States. Puerto Rico's territorial status has had implications for many aspects of life for Puerto Ricans living on the island, including limiting access to federal resources and services, voting power, political representation, foreign affairs, trade, and immigration policy.

During the 117th Congress, this legislation passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. The Administration endorsed the legislation with a favorable Statement of Administration Policy on December 15, 2022.

The Puerto Rico Status Act will:

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

To cosponsor this legislation or for more information, please email [Claire Wengrod@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:Claire.Wengrod@heinrich.senate.gov).