

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 258

To improve the collection and publication of statistics relating to Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2023

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Mr. SOTO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve the collection and publication of statistics relating to Puerto 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Data Col-
5 lection Equality Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLAN TO INCLUDE PUERTO RICO IN FEDERAL STA-**
2 **TISTICAL PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) PLAN.—The head of the Interagency Council on
4 Statistical Policy shall develop and implement a plan to
5 collect and publish statistics regarding Puerto Rico in the
6 same manner as statistics are collected and reported by
7 Federal agencies for the several States.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan developed under sub-
9 section (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following in-
10 formation:

11 (1) An action plan for bringing Puerto Rico
12 fully into the programs and surveys of data collec-
13 tion managed by the Bureau of the Census, along
14 with sponsoring agencies where appropriate, on the
15 same terms as States.

16 (2) An action plan for integrating Puerto Rico
17 into the full set of the National Income and Product
18 Accounts produced by the Bureau of Economic
19 Analysis, including in the quarterly calculation of
20 real gross domestic product and personal income by
21 State and including such calculations in estimates of
22 the gross domestic product of the United States as
23 a whole.

24 (3) An action plan to phase out the Electronic
25 Export Information requirements located in Part 30
26 of title 15, Federal Code of Regulations, for ship-

1 ments between the United States and Puerto Rico,
2 which shall identify alternative methods of devel-
3 oping gross domestic product for Puerto Rico with-
4 out using Electronic Export Information.

5 (4) An action plan to fully integrate statistics
6 collected for Puerto Rico in national figures, includ-
7 ing with respect to any calculation or estimate of the
8 total unemployment rate, total inflation rate, and
9 total resident and total population size of the United
10 States.

11 (5) Any other initiatives that each of the prin-
12 cipal statistical agencies that sit on the Interagency
13 Council on Statistical Policy will pursue to ensure
14 they are collecting and publishing statistics regard-
15 ing Puerto Rico on the same terms as States.

16 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, and every two years there-
18 after, the head of the Interagency Council on Statistical
19 Policy shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees a report which shall include—

21 (1) a description of the plan developed under
22 subsection (a); and

23 (2) information on the implementation of such
24 plan, including specific timelines and cost estimates.

1 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-

3 gressional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Natural Resources and
5 the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
6 Representatives; and

7 (2) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
8 sources and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate.

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