

The New York City Council

Legislation Details (With Text)

2021 8113. Type: Resolution Status: Filed (End of Session) In control: Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries International Intergroup Relations On agenda: 2/25/2021 Enactment date: Enactment #: Title: Resolution calling on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Puerto Rico Self-E Act of 2020, H.R. 8113. Sponsors: Diana I. Ayala, Carlina Rivera, Ben Kallos, James G. Van Bramer Indexes: 1. Res. No. 1543, 2. February 25, 2021 - Stated Meeting Agenda with Links to Files, 3. H Transcript - Stated Meeting 2-25-21, 4. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - February 25, 2022 Committee Report 10/26/21, 6. Hearing Testimony 10/26/21, 7. Hearing Transcript 10/26	File #:								
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Resolution calling on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020, H.R. 8113.

By Council Members Ayala, Rivera, Kallos and Van Bramer

Whereas, According to the United States Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey, nearly

one million New York City residents are of Puerto Rican descent; and

Whereas, Because Puerto Rico is an insular U.S. territory, and not a state, Puerto Ricans lack the right to

have voting representation in Congress and to participate fully in federal elections; and

Whereas, The United Nations has recognized Puerto Rico as a self-governing political entity under

General Assembly Resolution 748; and

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Whereas, According to the Council on Foreign Relations, "Puerto Rico is a political paradox," facing a multi-layered economic and social crisis that is rooted in its long-standing status as a U.S. territory and has been compounded by government mismanagement over the years; and

Whereas, According to the Harvard Political Review, recent economic and social issues stemming from repeated natural disasters, mishandled federal assistance, and rising debt have underscored the urgency of reevaluating Puerto Rico's status as a territory, prompting discussion of a democratic referendum on the issue; and

Whereas, Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the United States is a signatory and which it is required to recognize, establishes that all peoples have the right to selfdetermination and "by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development"; and

Whereas, According to a press release by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley on October 9, 2020, "Puerto Rico's status as a U.S. territory has served as a roadblock to the Island's progress, inflicting over a century of hurt and harm on the Island's residents and depriving them of their fundamental right to determine their own future."; and

Whereas, The bill known as the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020, H.R. 8113, introduced in Congress by Representative Nydia M. Velázquez of New York, would recognize the right of the people of Puerto Rico to call a status convention through which they would exercise their right to self-determination; and

Whereas, In accordance with fundamental principles of human rights, Puerto Rico, rather than Congress, must determine its own future by having the authority provided under the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act to support its enfranchisement and democratic self-governance; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020, H.R. 8113.

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