

may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year to carry out this section and section 1058. Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

(h) Rulemaking.—Not later than September 30, 2027, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, the National Association of Secretaries of State, the National Association of State Election Directors, and the Election Assistance Commission, shall issue rules to carry out this section, including rules for automatic Federal registration, Federal voting residence, residence transition, no-fixed-address voters, protected voters, Federal-only ballots, provisional Federal ballots, residence attestation, verification tokens, public voter records, data minimization, State election official access, and coordination with section 1058.

(i) Pilots, testing, and deployments.—The Secretary may conduct pilots, testing, and limited deployments of automatic Federal registration, Federal voting residence assignment, protected-voter procedures, Federal-only ballot procedures, provisional Federal ballot procedures, and election-specific verification tokens before or after the issuance of rules under subsection (h), if the Secretary determines that such use protects ballot secrecy, privacy, account security, and the integrity of elections for Federal office.

(j) Mandatory implementation.—Beginning on January 1, 2028, each State election official shall implement this section for elections for Federal office.

Subtitle F—Expansion of Congress

SEC. 1061. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The House of Representatives was designed to be the chamber of Congress most directly accountable to the people. Article I of the Constitution of the United States ties representation in the House of Representatives to population, recurring enumeration, and apportionment among the States.

(2) The First Congress proposed, as Article the first of the proposed Bill of Rights, an amendment that would have further directed the enlargement of the House of Representatives as the population of the United States increased.

(3) For more than a century, Congress generally honored the principle that the House of Representatives should grow as the people grew. The current 435-member House is the result of congressional gridlock following the 1920 decennial census, not a constitutional limit on representation.

(4) Since the House reached 435 members in 1913, the average congressional district has grown to nearly 4 times its former size, weakening the connection between Representatives and the people they serve.

(5) A fixed House turns representation into a zero-sum game, in which one State's gain in representation must come at another State's loss.

(6) A fixed House also intensifies partisan conflict because, when the number of seats is frozen, the only way for one political party to gain seats is for another political party to lose seats.

(7) Expanding the House creates an abundance of new representation, allowing the people of multiple States and communities to gain a stronger voice in Congress without requiring every gain to be matched by a loss.

(8) Expanding the House also creates a fair and orderly occasion for a one-time national congressional redistricting process under uniform standards that promote equal representation, competitive elections, and accountability to voters.

(9) The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is an appropriate occasion for Congress to renew the promise of republican representation by expanding the House, restoring the House as the people's chamber.

(10) The spirit of expansion can be further served by providing a path to full representation for residents of the District of Columbia, and offering an opportunity for self-determination for the people of Puerto Rico.

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this subtitle is to unstack the current House in a way that more closely aligns with the Framers' vision.

SEC. 1062. EXPANSION AND APPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) Number of Representatives.—[Section 2 of title 2](#), United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Number of Representatives

"(a) In general.—Beginning with the 121st Congress and in each Congress thereafter until the taking effect of a reapportionment under section 2a or a subsequent statute, the House of Representatives shall be composed of 535 Representatives, plus any Representatives added upon the admission of a State after the apportionment under subsection (b) and before the next census-based reapportionment under section 2a.

"(b) Transitional apportionment for 121st Congress.—

"(1) Statement by President.—Not later than January 10, 2027, the President shall transmit to Congress and to the Clerk of the House of Representatives a statement showing the number of Representatives to which each State is entitled in the 121st Congress under an apportionment of 535 Representatives by the method known as the method of equal proportions, no State to receive less than 1 Member, using the population ascertained under the 24th decennial census.

"(2) Certification to States.—Not later than 15 calendar days after receiving the statement required under paragraph (1), the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send to the executive of each State a certificate of the number of Representatives to which the State is entitled in the 121st Congress.

"(3) Vacancies.—A vacancy in the representation of a State in the 120th Congress shall be filled only as a vacancy in a seat existing for that Congress and shall not authorize the filling of any additional seat apportioned under paragraph (1)."

(b) Permanent apportionment rule.—Section 22 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for apportionment of Representatives in Congress", approved June 18, 1929 ([2 U.S.C. 2a](#)), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) On the 1st day, or within 1 week thereafter, of the 1st regular session of the 122nd Congress and of each 5th Congress thereafter, the President shall transmit to Congress a statement showing the whole number of persons in each State, as ascertained under the 25th and each subsequent decennial census of population, and the number of Representatives to which each State would be entitled under an apportionment determined by subsection (c).";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "Eighty-third" and inserting "123rd";

(B) by striking "one" and inserting "1";

(C) by striking "fifteen" and inserting "15"; and

(D) by striking "or of his absence or inability to discharge this duty" and inserting "or the absence or inability of the Clerk to discharge this duty"; and

(3) in subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) Automatic determination of number of Representatives.—

"(1) In general.—For the apportionment occurring after the 25th and each subsequent decennial census, the number of Representatives shall be the number determined by multiplying—

"(A) the number of Representatives in the current Congress; by

"(B) the quotient obtained by dividing—

"(i) the apportionment population of the several States, as ascertained under the decennial census; by

"(ii) the apportionment population of such States, as ascertained under the preceding decennial census.

"(2) Rounding.—If the number determined under paragraph (1) is not a whole number, the number shall be rounded upward to the next whole number.

"(3) No reduction.—If the number determined under paragraph (1) is less than the number of Representatives in the current Congress, the number of Representatives shall not be reduced.

"(4) Apportionment among States.—After determining the number of Representatives under this subsection, the President shall determine the number of Representatives to which each State is entitled by apportioning that number of Representatives among the several States by the method known as the method of equal proportions, no State to receive less than 1 Member.

"(5) Apportionment population defined.—In this subsection, the term 'apportionment population' means the population used for the apportionment of Representatives under this section."; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

"(d) If the tabulation of the number of persons in a State under subsection (a) includes an individual incarcerated in a State, Federal, county, or municipal correctional facility, or in a youth correctional facility or detention center, who is treated as a resident of the State because the tabulation attributes the individual to the individual's last usual place of residence before incarceration, as provided under [section 141\(h\) of title 13](#), United States Code, the State shall treat the individual's last usual place of residence in the State before incarceration as the individual's place of residence for purposes of congressional redistricting."

(c) Single-member congressional districts.—[Section 2c of title 2](#), United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2c. Single-member congressional districts

"In each State entitled in the 121st Congress or in any subsequent Congress to more than 1 Representative under an apportionment made pursuant to section 2 or 2a of this title, or any subsequent statute, there shall be established by law a number of congressional districts equal to the number of Representatives to which the State is entitled, each Representative shall be elected only from 1 such district, and no district shall elect more than 1 Representative."

(d) Conforming repeal of obsolete transitional apportionment provision.—[Section 2b of title 2](#), United States Code, is repealed.

(e) Conforming amendment.—[Section 141 of title 13](#), United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) Effective beginning with the 2030 decennial census of population and every census thereafter, in taking any census of population under subsection (a) the Secretary shall, with respect to an individual incarcerated in a State, Federal, county, or municipal correctional facility, or in a youth correctional facility or detention center, as of the decennial census date, attribute such individual to such individual's last usual place of residence before incarceration."

SEC. 1063. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.

(a) Official representative ensembles.—[Chapter 1 of title 2](#), United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2c the following:

"Sec. 3. Official representative ensembles for congressional redistricting

"(a) Definitions.—In this section, section 4, and section 5:

"(1) Community of interest.—The term 'community of interest' means a geographically identifiable population that shares social, cultural, ethnic, economic, civic, Tribal, geographic, occupational, or policy interests that should be preserved in a congressional district plan, except that a community of interest may not be defined primarily by common support for a political party, incumbent, candidate, or prospective candidate.

"(2) Competitive district.—The term 'competitive district' means a congressional district for which the Republican electoral baseline is not less than 46.5 percent and not greater than 53.5 percent.

"(3) Congressional district plan.—The term 'congressional district plan' means the map, law, order, or plan establishing the districts from which Representatives are elected in a State entitled to more than 1 Representative.

"(4) Contiguous.—The term 'contiguous' means, with respect to a congressional district, that every part of the district is geographically connected to every other part of the district by territory assigned to the same district, except that—

"(A) territory separated only by water shall be treated as contiguous if the territory is an actual island, peninsula, or other water-separated area and is assigned in a geographically reasonable manner within the same State;

"(B) territory described in subparagraph (A) shall not be treated as noncontiguous solely because there is no bridge, road, ferry route, or other direct means of transportation between the connected areas;

"(C) territory connected only at a single point shall not be treated as contiguous;

"(D) territory physically separated from the remainder of a district by land assigned to another district shall not be treated as contiguous merely because the separated territory is part of the same municipality, county, political subdivision, or other governmental unit as territory assigned to the district;

"(E) territory separated from the remainder of a district by a mountain range, canyon, desert, wilderness area, military reservation, Federal land unit, or other substantial physical barrier shall not be treated as contiguous unless the separated areas are connected by a reasonable route of travel that does not require substantial travel through another congressional district; and

"(F) nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to permit a district that violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965 or another requirement of this section, section 4, or section 5.

"(5) Election-return unit.—The term 'election-return unit' means an election precinct, voting tabulation district, ward, election district, or other equivalent geographic unit for which official election returns are reported or tabulated.

"(6) Incumbent data.—The term 'incumbent data' means the residential address, office address, voting history, electoral performance, fundraising data, campaign data, or other individually identifying political information of an incumbent, candidate, prospective candidate, or immediate family member of an incumbent, candidate, or prospective candidate.

"(7) Material partisan distortion.—The term 'material partisan distortion' means that the number of districts in a congressional district plan in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 50 percent falls outside the representative range for the State, unless the deviation is necessary to comply with a higher priority standard under section 4.

"(8) Neutral redistricting criteria.—The term 'neutral redistricting criteria' means the following criteria, and, if simultaneous compliance with all such criteria is not practicable, such criteria shall be applied in the following order:

"(A) compliance with the Constitution of the United States;

"(B) compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

"(C) contiguity;

"(D) preservation of political subdivisions;

"(E) compactness; and

"(F) preservation of communities of interest.

"(9) Principal opposing candidate.—The term 'principal opposing candidate' means, with respect to a baseline election, the candidate other than the Republican candidate who received the highest number of votes in the election.

"(10) Public redistricting benchmark data.—The term 'public redistricting benchmark data' means public election results and any public data or public outputs published or made available by the Comptroller General under this section, except that such term does not include restricted redistricting targeting data.

"(11) Redistricting cycle.—The term 'redistricting cycle' means the period beginning on the date on which the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmits to the executive of a State a certificate of the number of Representatives to which the State is entitled and ending on the date on which the next such certificate is transmitted.

"(12) Regular general election.—The term 'regular general election' means, with respect to an election for President, Senator, or Governor, the regularly scheduled election established by Federal or State law for selecting the person to hold that office, including an all-candidate primary, general election, or runoff election if such election is the election at which the person elected to the office is selected.

"(13) Representative range.—The term 'representative range' means the range from the 10th percentile through the 90th percentile of the number of districts in the official representative ensemble in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 50 percent, except that a number shall be included in such range only if a majority of the alternative congressional district plans producing that number fall within such percentile range.

"(14) Republican electoral baseline.—The term 'Republican electoral baseline' means, with respect to a State, congressional district, congressional district plan, or alternative congressional district plan, the weighted Republican vote share calculated under subsection (d) from the baseline elections.

"(15) Restricted redistricting targeting data.—The term 'restricted redistricting targeting data' means voter registration by political party, voter file data, individual voting history, incumbent data, household level data, individual level data, consumer data, commercial data, credit data, financial data, demographic profiling data, psychographic data, geolocation data, political

consultant data, campaign data, modeled partisan scores, modeled voter attributes, vote propensity scores, turnout propensity scores, persuasion scores, or any substantially similar data that identifies, predicts, estimates, or models the political behavior, partisan preference, voting behavior, electoral participation, electoral responsiveness, or candidate preference of a person, household, incumbent, candidate, prospective candidate, census block, precinct, district, or other geographic unit.

"(16) Safe district.—The term 'safe district' means a congressional district for which the Republican electoral baseline is less than 40 percent or greater than 60 percent.

"(17) Voter file data.—The term 'voter file data' means a voter registration record, voter history record, voter contact record, vote propensity score, turnout propensity score, persuasion score, modeled voter attribute, or other record or score that identifies, predicts, estimates, models, or scores the political behavior, electoral participation, partisan preference, candidate preference, or electoral responsiveness of an individual voter or household.

"(b) Comptroller General to publish.—

"(1) In general.—For each redistricting cycle, the Comptroller General of the United States shall establish and publish an official representative ensemble and a Republican electoral baseline for each State entitled to more than 1 Representative.

"(2) Deadline.—For each redistricting cycle, the Comptroller General shall establish and publish the official representative ensemble for each State not later than 117 days after the start of the final Congress of the prior cycle.

"(3) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Comptroller General to wait for the President's statement of apportionment pursuant to section 2(b) or 2a(a) before beginning work on the ensemble or electoral baseline.

"(4) Single Representative States.—The Comptroller General shall publish a Republican electoral baseline for a State entitled to only 1 Representative.

"(c) Representative ensemble defined.—

"(1) Minimum number of alternative plans.—

"(A) In general.—An official representative ensemble for a State shall include not fewer than the greater of—

"(i) 50,000 alternative congressional district plans; or

"(ii) 20,000 alternative congressional district plans for each Representative to which the State is entitled.

"(B) Infeasibility.—If the Comptroller General determines that the number of qualifying alternative congressional district plans required under subparagraph (A) cannot be generated for a State while complying with contiguity, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ([52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.](#)), and the whole election-return unit requirement under this section, the Comptroller General shall generate and publish the maximum number of qualifying

alternative congressional district plans practicable and a written explanation of the constraint that prevented compliance with subparagraph (A).

"(2) Data used to generate alternative plans.—Each alternative congressional district plan included in an official representative ensemble shall be generated using only—

"(A) population tabulations furnished under [section 141\(c\) of title 13](#), United States Code;

"(B) official geographic data furnished by the Bureau of the Census;

"(C) political subdivision boundaries of such State;

"(D) physical geography; and

"(E) publicly available governmental, geographic, census, public infrastructure, or other neutral public data, prescribed by the Comptroller General by rule, that is necessary to identify or evaluate objectively identifiable communities of interest, transportation connections, or other neutral geographic relationships relevant to compliance with this section, except that such data may not include restricted redistricting targeting data.

"(3) Neutral generation requirements.—Each alternative congressional district plan included in an official representative ensemble shall—

"(A) be composed of undivided election-return units;

"(B) satisfy neutral redistricting criteria to the greatest extent practicable;

"(C) be generated through a transparent, documented, and reproducible computational method; and

"(D) not be configured, weighted, optimized, selected, or excluded to favor or disfavor a political party, incumbent, candidate, or prospective candidate.

"(d) Republican electoral baseline calculated.—

"(1) In general.—The Republican electoral baseline for an election-return unit of a State shall be calculated by—

"(A) identifying 6 baseline elections according to paragraph (2);

"(B) determining, for each baseline election, the Republican vote share, which shall be the quotient of—

"(i) the number of votes received by the Republican candidate; divided by

"(ii) the combined number of votes received by the Republican candidate and the principal opposing candidate; and

"(C) averaging the Republican vote shares according to the weighting in paragraph (3).

"(2) Baseline elections.—

"(A) In general.—The baseline elections for a State shall consist of—

"(i) the 2 most recent regular general elections for President;

"(ii) the 2 most recent regular general elections for Senator; and

"(iii) the 2 most recent regular general elections for Governor; provided that if the term for Governor in such State is 2 years, the 2 most recent regular general elections for Governor held in nonpresidential even-numbered years shall be deemed the 2 most recent.

"(B) Qualification of baseline elections.—A regular general election may be used as a baseline election only if—

"(i) the Republican candidate is 1 of the 2 candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the election;

"(ii) the Republican candidate and the principal opposing candidate together received not less than 95 percent of the valid votes cast for candidates in the election; and

"(iii) reliable precinct-level or equivalent geographic returns are available for the election, except that a baseline election shall not be disqualified solely because returns are not available for an election-return unit included in the population tabulations furnished under [section 141\(c\) of title 13](#), United States Code, provided the Comptroller General can allocate the returns to such unit under paragraph (4).

"(C) Replacement elections.—If any election described in subparagraph (A) is not qualified as a baseline election, the Comptroller General shall use substitutions until there are 6 qualified baseline elections or clauses (i) through (iv) are exhausted. In order, the Comptroller General shall use:

"(i) the next most recent regular general election for Senator;

"(ii) the next most recent regular general election for President;

"(iii) the next most recent regular general election for Senator; and

"(iv) the next most recent regular general election for Governor.

"(3) Weighting.—

"(A) In general.—The Comptroller General shall rank the 6 baseline elections in chronological order, from most recent to least recent, and shall weight the Republican vote share calculated for each baseline election as follows:

"(i) 19 percent for each of the 2 most recent baseline elections.

"(ii) 17 percent for each of the 3rd and 4th most recent baseline elections.

"(iii) 14 percent for each of the 5th and 6th most recent baseline elections.

"(B) Fewer than 6 baseline elections.—If fewer than 6 qualified baseline elections are available under paragraph (2), the Comptroller General shall proportionally adjust the weights specified in subparagraph (A) so that the total weight assigned equals 100 percent.

"(C) Elections held on same date.—If 2 or more baseline elections were held on the same date and would receive different weights under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall average the weights applicable to those baseline elections and apply the averaged weight equally to each such baseline election.

"(4) Special case for allocation of returns among new election-return units.—

"(A) In general.—If official returns for a baseline election used under this subsection are reported for geographic units that are not identical to the election-return units used under this section, or are otherwise not available for 1 or more such election-return units, the Comptroller General shall allocate the official returns for that baseline election to the election-return units used under this section under a reproducible methodology established and published by the Comptroller General.

"(B) Required principles.—A methodology established under subparagraph (A) shall—

"(i) ensure that allocated returns for the election-return units used under this section equal the official aggregate returns from which the allocation is made;

"(ii) allocate votes received by the Republican candidate and votes received by the principal opposing candidate separately;

"(iii) use official election returns for predecessor election-return units, successor election-return units, related election-return units, and other partisan elections to the extent such returns assist in allocating the baseline election returns among the election-return units used under this section;

"(iv) use population tabulations furnished under [section 141\(c\) of title 13](#), United States Code, official geographic data furnished by the Bureau of the Census, and other governmental or public data to the extent such data assist in allocating the baseline election returns among the election-return units used under this section.

"(C) Use of voter file data.—

"(i) In general.—If necessary, the Comptroller General may use voter file data to the minimum extent possible in order to allocate returns under this paragraph, and may not publish personally identifiable voter file data, household level voter file data, individual level voter file data, or any record that identifies the political preference, voting history, turnout propensity, persuasion propensity, or electoral responsiveness of a person or household.

"(ii) Not indirect use.—Any allocation made using voter file data in development of the Republican electoral baseline shall not be considered indirect use of voter file data for the purposes of section 4(b).

"(D) Other partisan elections.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii), the Comptroller General may use official returns from another partisan election only if the election satisfies the requirement of paragraph (2)(B)(ii).

"(E) Uniform use.—An allocation under this paragraph shall be used in calculating the Republican electoral baseline for each affected election-return unit.

"(5) Election-return unit and district baselines.—

"(A) Election-return units.—For each election-return unit, the Comptroller General shall calculate the Republican vote share for each baseline election and the resulting Republican electoral baseline.

"(B) Districts.—For each congressional district, the Republican electoral baseline shall be the population-weighted average of the Republican electoral baselines of the election-return units assigned to the district.

"(C) Calculation.—The Comptroller General shall calculate the Republican electoral baseline of a congressional district by multiplying the Republican electoral baseline of each election-return unit assigned to the district by the population of that election-return unit, adding the resulting products, and dividing the sum by the total population of the district.

"(D) Plans.—For a congressional district plan or alternative congressional district plan, the Republican electoral baseline shall be calculated separately for each congressional district in the plan under subparagraphs (B) and (C).

"(e) Required scoring of ensemble plans.—For each alternative congressional district plan included in an official representative ensemble, the Comptroller General shall calculate—

"(1) the Republican electoral baseline of each district;

"(2) the number of—

"(A) competitive districts;

"(B) safe districts; and

"(C) districts in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 53.5 percent but does not exceed 60 percent, or is less than 46.5 percent but not less than 40 percent;

"(3) the number of districts in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 50 percent;

"(4) 1 or more measures of compactness prescribed by the Comptroller General by rule;
and

"(5) any additional neutral statistical measure prescribed by the Comptroller General by rule.

"(f) Competitiveness benchmarks.—

"(1) In general.—For each State, the Comptroller General shall sort the alternative congressional district plans included in the official representative ensemble by the number of competitive districts.

"(A) The sorted plans shall be divided into 5 quintiles, with the 1st quintile consisting of the most favorable plans with the greatest number of competitive districts and the 5th quintile consisting of the least favorable plans with the fewest number of competitive districts.

"(B) A quintile may include more than 1 number of competitive districts.

"(2) Competitiveness threshold.—For each State, the competitiveness threshold shall be the minimum number of competitive districts contained in any alternative congressional district plan assigned to the 2nd quintile.

"(3) Competitiveness target.—For each State, the competitiveness target shall be the minimum number of competitive districts contained in any alternative congressional district plan assigned to the 1st quintile.

"(g) Use of same ensemble.—The official representative ensemble established for a State under this section shall be used to evaluate each congressional district plan proposed, adopted, implemented, challenged, ordered, or considered for that State during the same redistricting cycle, unless the Comptroller General determines that a new official representative ensemble is required because of a change in the number of Representatives to which the State is entitled, a change in controlling law, a final judgment or order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or a material error in the data, method, or computation used to establish the official representative ensemble.

"(h) Publication.—The Comptroller General shall publish and make available to the public through a government website—

"(1) for each State, a Republican electoral baseline, which shall consist of—

"(A) the baseline elections used under subsection (d) and the statewide Republican vote share calculated for each;

"(B) any allocation for incomplete election returns made under subsection (d)(4), including a summary of the method used to make the allocation; and

"(C) for each election-return unit in the State, the resulting Republican electoral baseline; and

"(2) for each State entitled to more than 1 Representative—

"(A) a machine-readable file or repository sufficient to identify, reproduce, and score each alternative congressional district plan included in the official representative ensemble;

"(B) the representative range;

"(C) the competitiveness quintiles, competitiveness threshold, and competitiveness target established under subsection (f);

"(D) the methods, assumptions, software, source code, random seeds or sampling methods, weighting rules, exclusion rules, input data, version information, and scoring formulas used to establish the official representative ensemble; and

"(E) a plain language explanation of the official representative ensemble and the benchmark thresholds established under this section.

"(i) Consultation.—In carrying out this section, the Comptroller General shall consult with the Director of the Bureau of the Census, the Election Assistance Commission, and such independent experts in redistricting, statistics, election administration, computer science, and voting rights law as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

"(j) Technical assistance.—The Comptroller General shall provide technical assistance to States, courts, special masters, and parties in civil actions under section 5 regarding the use of official representative ensembles and benchmark thresholds established under this section."

SEC. 1064. CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Congressional redistricting standards.—[Chapter 1 of title 2](#), United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 3 the following new sections:

"Sec. 4. Congressional redistricting standards

"(a) Prohibition on unauthorized congressional redistricting.—It shall be unlawful for a State to adopt, implement, or use a new congressional district plan except—

"(1) once after a decennial census and the taking effect of an apportionment under section 2a;

"(2) as required by an Act of Congress; or

"(3) as required by a final judgment or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

"(b) Permitted data for congressional redistricting.—

"(1) In general.—It shall be unlawful for a State, directly or indirectly, to use any data in drawing, revising, evaluating, selecting, adopting, implementing, or using a congressional district plan other than—

"(A) population and demographic tabulations furnished under [section 141\(c\) of title 13](#), United States Code;

"(B) official geographic data furnished by the Bureau of the Census;

"(C) political subdivision boundaries;

"(D) physical geography;

"(E) information identifying communities of interest;

"(F) public redistricting benchmark data; and

"(G) other neutral public data necessary to identify or evaluate objectively identifiable communities of interest, transportation connections, or other neutral geographic relationships relevant to compliance with subsection (c), except that such data may not include restricted redistricting targeting data.

"(2) Restricted redistricting targeting data.—A State's use of restricted redistricting targeting data, directly or indirectly, in drawing, revising, evaluating, or selecting a congressional district plan shall be a violation of this subsection; provided that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the use of restricted redistricting targeting data solely to audit, investigate, or prove whether a violation of section 3, section 4, or section 5 has occurred.

"(c) Priority of standards.—

"(1) In general.—A State's congressional district plan shall satisfy the following standards in the following order of priority:

"(A) Whole election-return units.—Each congressional district shall be composed of whole election-return units, except in cases of infeasibility as provided by paragraph (2).

"(B) Neutral redistricting criteria.—Each plan shall meet neutral redistricting criteria.

"(C) Representative range.—To the extent consistent with subparagraphs (A) and (B), each plan shall have the number of congressional districts in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 50 percent fall within the representative range.

"(D) Competitiveness threshold.—To the extent consistent with subparagraphs (A) through (C), a congressional district plan shall satisfy the competitiveness threshold established under section 3(f).

"(E) Competitiveness target.—To the extent consistent with subparagraphs (A) through (D), a congressional district plan shall satisfy the competitiveness target established under section 3(f).

"(2) Exception for infeasibility of whole election-return units.—

"(A) In general.—A congressional district plan may divide an election-return unit only if the State demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that no congressional district plan can comply with subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1) while preserving whole election-return units.

"(B) Minimum division required.—If an election-return unit is divided under this paragraph, the congressional district plan shall divide the minimum number of election-return units necessary to comply with paragraph (1).

"(C) Allocation for divided election-return units.—If an election-return unit is divided under this paragraph, the Republican electoral baseline for any district containing part of such divided unit shall be calculated using an allocation method prescribed by the Comptroller General.

"(d) Competitiveness compliance.—

"(1) Use of Republican electoral baseline.—A State shall use the Republican electoral baseline to determine the number of competitive districts in a congressional district plan.

"(2) Competitiveness threshold and target.—

"(A) In general.—A congressional district plan satisfies the competitiveness threshold if the number of competitive districts in the plan is equal to or greater than the competitiveness threshold established for the State under section 3(f), and satisfies the competitiveness target if the number of competitive districts in the plan is equal to or greater than the competitiveness target established for the State under section 3(f).

"(B) Exception for higher priority standards.—If the State demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that failure to satisfy the competitiveness threshold is necessary to comply with a higher priority standard under subsection (c), a congressional district plan shall not be treated as violating subsection (c)(1)(D).

"(3) Alternative scoring prohibited.—A State may not substitute any other partisan index, electoral baseline, competitiveness measure, or ensemble for the Republican electoral baseline, competitiveness threshold, or competitiveness target published by the Comptroller General under section 3 for purposes of determining whether a congressional district plan complies with this section.

"(4) Compliance certification.—Before adopting, implementing, or using a congressional district plan, a State shall publish a compliance certification identifying the data used to draw the plan, the number of competitive districts, the number of safe districts, the number of districts in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 50 percent, whether the plan falls within the representative range, whether the plan satisfies the competitiveness threshold and competitiveness target, and whether the plan complies with this section.

"(e) Partisan gerrymandering prohibited.—

"(1) In general.—It shall be unlawful for a State, directly or indirectly, to adopt a congressional district plan that has the purpose or effect of materially favoring or disfavoring a political party, incumbent, candidate, or prospective candidate.

"(2) Presumption of partisan gerrymandering.—A congressional district plan shall be presumed to have the purpose or effect described in paragraph (1) if—

"(A) the plan violates the competitiveness threshold requirement of subsection (c)(1)(D);

"(B) the State used restricted redistricting targeting data in violation of subsection (b);

"(C) the plan divides an election-return unit in violation of subsection (c)(1)(A);

"(D) the number of congressional districts in which the Republican electoral baseline exceeds 50 percent falls outside the representative range for the State; or

"(E) the State implemented the plan at a time not authorized under subsection (a).

"(3) Rebuttal.—A State may rebut a presumption under this subsection only by demonstrating by clear and convincing evidence that the challenged congressional district plan is necessary to comply with a higher priority standard under subsection (c).

"(f) Single Representative States.—This section shall not apply to a State entitled to only 1 Representative.

"Sec. 5. Enforcement and judicial relief

"(a) Civil actions.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate United States district court for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief to enforce section 3 or 4. A person who is eligible to vote in a regular general election for Representative in a State to which a challenged congressional district plan applies, or an organization with at least 1 member who is such a person, may bring a civil action in an appropriate United States district court for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief to enforce section 4.

"(b) Parties, venue, and procedure.—

"(1) Proper defendants.—A civil action under this section may be brought against a State, the chief State election official, a redistricting commission or other redistricting authority of a State, or any officer or employee of a State responsible for adopting, implementing, using, administering, or certifying a congressional district plan.

"(2) Venue.—A civil action under this section may be brought in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, in the United States district court for any judicial district in which a plaintiff resides, or in any other United States district court in which venue is otherwise proper.

"(3) Three-judge court.—A civil action under this section challenging the validity of a congressional district plan or seeking statewide relief shall be heard by a district court of 3 judges convened under [section 2284 of title 28](#).

"(4) Expedited consideration.—A court hearing a civil action under this section shall expedite the action to the greatest practicable extent, including by expediting discovery, briefing, hearing, decision, and any remedial proceeding.

"(c) Prima facie showing and burden of proof.—

"(1) Prima facie showing.—A plaintiff establishes a prima facie violation of section 4 if the plaintiff shows that—

"(A) a State adopted, implemented, or used a congressional district plan without an official representative ensemble established under section 3;

"(B) a State adopted, implemented, or used a congressional district plan that fails to satisfy the competitiveness threshold established under section 3;

"(C) a State adopted, implemented, or used a congressional district plan that creates material partisan distortion;

"(D) a State used restricted redistricting targeting data in violation of section 4(b);

"(E) a State adopted or used a congressional district plan that divides an election-return unit in violation of section 4(c)(1)(A);

"(F) a State adopted, implemented, or used a congressional district plan at a time not authorized under section 4(a); or

"(G) a State otherwise failed to comply with section 4.

"(2) Burden of proof.—If a plaintiff establishes a prima facie violation under paragraph (1), the State shall have the burden of demonstrating by clear and convincing evidence that the congressional district plan complies with section 4, that any failure to satisfy the competitiveness threshold established under section 3 is necessary to comply with a higher priority standard under section 4, or that any material partisan distortion is necessary to comply with a higher priority standard under section 4.

"(d) Relief and court-ordered plans.—

"(1) Relief.—

"(A) In general.—In a civil action under this section, the court may declare a congressional district plan unlawful, enjoin the adoption, implementation, use, administration, or certification of an unlawful congressional district plan, require compliance with section 4, require publication of materials required under section 3, order the adoption or use of a lawful congressional district plan, or grant any other equitable relief necessary to enforce section 3 or 4.

"(B) Costs and attorney fees.—In a civil action under this section, the court may allow a prevailing plaintiff, other than the United States, reasonable attorney fees, litigation expenses, expert fees, and costs.

"(C) No damages.—No damages may be awarded under this section.

"(2) Failure to adopt lawful plan.—If a State fails to enact or adopt a congressional district plan that complies with section 4 in time to administer a regular general election for Representative, the court shall order or adopt a congressional district plan that complies with section 4.

"(3) Selection among lawful plans.—

"(A) The court may appoint a special master to prepare a plan, or invite interested parties to submit plans, provided that any plan to be considered by the court shall comply with section 4.

"(B) The court shall order or adopt a plan that does not create material partisan distortion, unless ordering or adopting such plan would conflict with a higher priority standard under section 4.

"(C) If more than 1 congressional district plan before the court satisfies subparagraph (B), the court shall order or adopt the plan with the greatest number of competitive districts, unless ordering or adopting such plan would conflict with a higher priority standard under section 4.

"(4) Duration of court-ordered plan.—A congressional district plan ordered or adopted by a court under this section shall be treated as the congressional district plan of the State for purposes of section 4(a), and shall remain in effect until the next redistricting authorized under section 4(a)(1), unless superseded by an Act of Congress or modified by a subsequent judgment or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

"(e) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any authority of the Attorney General, any private right of action, or any remedy otherwise available under the Constitution of the United States, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, or any other Federal law."

(b) Repeal of obsolete reduction of representation provision.—[Section 6 of title 2](#), United States Code, is repealed.

(c) Clerical amendment.—The table of sections for [chapter 1 of title 2](#), United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 3 through 6 and inserting the following:

"3. Official representative ensembles for congressional redistricting.

"4. Congressional redistricting standards.

"5. Enforcement and judicial relief."

SEC. 1065. ADMISSION OF WASHINGTON, DOUGLASS COMMONWEALTH.

(a) Definitions.—In sections 1065 through 1067:

(1) Board.—The term "Board" means the District of Columbia Board of Elections.

(2) Capital.—The term "Capital" means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in subsection (f).

(3) Council.—The term "Council" means the Council of the District of Columbia.

(4) Mayor.—The term "Mayor" means the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

(5) State.—Except as otherwise provided, the term "State" means the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.

(6) State Constitution.—The term "State Constitution" means the proposed Constitution of the State of Washington, DC, as approved by the Council on October 18, 2016, pursuant to the Constitution and Boundaries for the State of Washington, D.C. Approval Resolution of 2016 (D.C. Resolution R21–621), ratified by District of Columbia voters in Advisory Referendum B approved on November 8, 2016, and certified by the District of Columbia Board of Elections on November 18, 2016.

(b) Admission into the Union.—

(1) Presidential proclamation.—Not later than June 30, 2028, the President shall issue a proclamation declaring that the State shall be admitted into the Union on July 1, 2028.

(2) Admission.—Subject to the provisions of this section, on July 1, 2028, the State is declared to be a State of the United States of America and is declared admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States in all respects whatever.

(c) Constitution of the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.—

(1) Constitution of State.—The Constitution of the State shall always be republican in form and shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

(2) Ratification.—The State Constitution is found to be republican in form and in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and is accepted, ratified, and confirmed as the constitution of the State.

(3) State may amend.—Any amendment or revision ratified under this subsection shall be deemed accepted, ratified, and confirmed as part of the constitution of the State if the amendment or revision is republican in form and not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

(4) Election of delegates.—The Council shall provide for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention on March 9, 2027, to propose amendments or revisions of the State Constitution for use upon admission.

(5) Initial meeting.—Not later than 30 days after the election of delegates under paragraph (4), the elected delegates shall meet at such time and place as the Council shall determine.

(6) Submission; ratification.—Any amendment or revision proposed under this subsection shall be submitted to the voters of the District of Columbia for ratification or rejection in a special election held in the manner prescribed by the Council.

(7) Majority vote required.—An amendment or revision submitted under paragraph (6) shall be deemed ratified if approved by a majority of the valid votes cast on the question.

(8) Effect of failure to ratify.—Failure to ratify an amendment or revision under this subsection shall not delay or prevent admission of the State under subsection (b).

(d) First elections for Senators and Representative; Presidential electors.—

(1) In general.—The first Senators and Representative from the State shall be elected to serve in the 121st Congress and shall be entitled, upon taking office, to all the rights and privileges of Senators and Representatives of the other States in Congress.

(2) Delegate.—The office of Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia shall cease to exist at the conclusion of the 120th Congress.

(3) First election of Senators.—In the first election of Senators, the 2 senatorial offices shall be separately identified and designated, and no person may be a candidate for both offices. Nothing in this section shall impair the privilege of the Senate to determine the class and term to which each of the Senators elected shall be assigned, except that the Senators shall not be in the same class.

(4) First Representative election.—The State shall be entitled to elect 1 Representative until the next census-based reapportionment. Such Representative shall be a permanent increase in the number of Representatives under [section 2 of title 2](#), United States Code.

(5) Certification of results.—Election results shall be certified in the manner required by the laws of the District of Columbia, except that the Mayor shall also provide written certification of the results of such elections to the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(6) Presidential electors.—For purposes of [chapter 1 of title 3](#), United States Code, the State shall appoint electors for President and Vice President in the 2028 election and each subsequent election in the same manner as each other State.

(e) Territory and boundaries of State.—

(1) In general.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the State shall consist of all of the territory of the District of Columbia as of the date of enactment of this section, subject to the results of the metes and bounds survey conducted under paragraph (3).

(2) Exclusion of Capital.—The territory of the State shall not include the Capital, which shall serve as the seat of the Government of the United States, as provided in clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

(3) Metes and bounds survey.—Not later than July 1, 2027, the President, in consultation with the Chair of the National Capital Planning Commission, shall conduct a metes and bounds survey of the Capital, as described in subsection (f)(2).

(f) Description of Capital.—

(1) In general.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), upon the admission of the State into the Union, the Capital shall consist of the property described in this subsection and shall include the principal Federal monuments, the White House, the Capitol Building, the United States Supreme Court Building, and the Federal executive, legislative, and judicial office buildings located adjacent to the Mall and the Capitol Building, as such terms are used in [section 8501\(a\) of title 40](#), United States Code.

(2) Boundaries.—Upon the admission of the State into the Union, the boundaries of the Capital shall be as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the southern right-of-way of F Street NE and the eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street NE; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street NE to its intersection with the northeastern right-of-way of Maryland Avenue NE; thence southwest along said northeastern right-of-way of Maryland Avenue NE to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Constitution Avenue NE; thence west along said northern right-of-way of Constitution Avenue NE to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 1st Street NE; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 1st Street NE to its intersection with the southeastern right-of-way of Maryland Avenue NE; thence northeast along said southeastern right-of-way of Maryland Avenue NE to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street NE; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street NE to the eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street SE; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street SE to its intersection with the northern property boundary of the property designated as Square 760 Lot 803; thence east along said northern property boundary of Square 760 Lot 803

to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 3rd Street SE; thence south along said western right-of-way of 3rd Street SE to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Independence Avenue SE; thence west along said northern right-of-way of Independence Avenue SE to its intersection with the northeastern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue SE; thence northwest along said northeastern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue SE to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street SE; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street SE to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of C Street SE; thence west along said southern right-of-way of C Street SE to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 1st Street SE; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 1st Street SE to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of D Street SE; thence west along said southern right-of-way of D Street SE to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of South Capitol Street; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of South Capitol Street to its intersection with the northeastern right-of-way of Canal Street SE; thence southeast along said northeastern right-of-way of Canal Street SE to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of E Street SE; thence east along said southern right-of-way of E Street SE to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 1st Street SE; thence south along said western right-of-way of 1st Street SE to its intersection with the southernmost corner of the property designated as Square 736S Lot 801; thence west along a line extended due west from said corner of said property designated as Square 736S Lot 801 to its intersection with the southwestern right-of-way of New Jersey Avenue SE; thence southeast along said southwestern right-of-way of New Jersey Avenue SE to its intersection with the northeastern right-of-way of Virginia Avenue SE; thence northwest along said northeastern right-of-way of Virginia Avenue SE to its intersection with the western right-of-way of South Capitol Street; thence north along said western right-of-way of South Capitol Street to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of E Street SW; thence west along said southern right-of-way of E Street SW to its end; thence west along a line extending said southern right-of-way of E Street SW westward to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street SW; thence north along said eastern right-of-way of 2nd Street SW to its intersection with the southwestern right-of-way of Virginia Avenue SW; thence northwest along said southwestern right-of-way of Virginia Avenue SW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 3rd Street SW; thence north along said western right-of-way of 3rd Street SW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of D Street SW; thence west along said northern right-of-way of D Street SW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 4th Street SW; thence north along said eastern right-of-way of 4th Street SW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of C Street SW; thence west along said northern right-of-way of C Street SW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 6th Street SW; thence north along said eastern right-of-way of 6th Street SW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Independence Avenue SW; thence west along said northern right-of-way of Independence Avenue SW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 12th Street SW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 12th Street SW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of D Street SW; thence west along said northern right-of-way of D Street SW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 14th Street SW; thence south along said eastern right-of-way of 14th Street SW to its intersection with the northwestern boundary of the Consolidated Rail Corporation railroad easement; thence southwest along said northwestern boundary of the Consolidated Rail Corporation railroad easement to its intersection with the eastern shore of the Potomac River; thence generally northwest along said eastern shore of the Potomac River to its intersection with a line extending westward from the northern boundary of the property designated as Square 12 Lot 806; thence east along said line extending westward

from the northern boundary of the property designated as Square 12 Lot 806 to the northern boundary of the property designated as Square 12 Lot 806, and continuing east along the northern boundary of the property designated as Square 12 Lot 806 to its northeast corner; thence east along a line extending east from said northeast corner of the property designated as Square 12 Lot 806 to its intersection with the western boundary of the property designated as Square 33 Lot 87; thence south along said western boundary of the property designated as Square 33 Lot 87 to its intersection with the northwest corner of the property designated as Square 33 Lot 88; thence counter-clockwise around the boundary of said property designated as Square 33 Lot 88 to its southeast corner, which is along the northern right-of-way of E Street NW; thence east along said northern right-of-way of E Street NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 18th Street NW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 18th Street NW to its intersection with the southwestern right-of-way of Virginia Avenue NW; thence southeast along said southwestern right-of-way of Virginia Avenue NW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Constitution Avenue NW; thence east along said northern right-of-way of Constitution Avenue NW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 17th Street NW; thence north along said eastern right-of-way of 17th Street NW to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of H Street NW; thence east along said southern right-of-way of H Street NW to its intersection with the northwest corner of the property designated as Square 221 Lot 35; thence counter-clockwise around the boundary of said property designated as Square 221 Lot 35 to its southeast corner, which is along the boundary of the property designated as Square 221 Lot 37; thence counter-clockwise around the boundary of said property designated as Square 221 Lot 37 to its southwest corner, which it shares with the property designated as Square 221 Lot 42; thence south along the boundary of said property designated as Square 221 Lot 42 to its southwest corner; thence east along the southern border of said property designated as Square 221 Lot 42 to its intersection with the northwest corner of the property designated as Square 221 Lot 41; thence south along the western boundary of said property designated as Square 221 Lot 41 to its southwest corner, which is along the northern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW; thence east along said northern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 15th Street NW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 15th Street NW to its intersection with a line extending northwest from the southern right-of-way of the portion of Pennsylvania Avenue NW north of Pershing Square; thence southeast along said line extending the southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW to the southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, and continuing southeast along said southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 14th Street NW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 14th Street NW to its intersection with a line extending west from the southern right-of-way of D Street NW; thence east along said line extending west from the southern right-of-way of D Street NW to the southern right-of-way of D Street NW, and continuing east along said southern right-of-way of D Street NW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 13½ Street NW; thence north along said eastern right-of-way of 13½ Street NW to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW; thence east and southeast along said southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 12th Street NW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 12th Street NW to its intersection with a line extending to the west from the southern boundary of the property designated as Square 324 Lot 809; thence east along said line to the southwest corner of said property designated as Square 324 Lot 809, and continuing northeast along the southern boundary of said property designated as

Square 324 Lot 809 to its eastern corner, which it shares with the property designated as Square 323 Lot 802; thence east along the southern boundary of said property designated as Square 323 Lot 802 to its southeast corner, which it shares with the property designated as Square 324 Lot 808; thence counter-clockwise around the boundary of said property designated as Square 324 Lot 808 to its northeastern corner, which is along the southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW; thence southeast along said southern right-of-way of Pennsylvania Avenue NW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 4th Street NW; thence north along a line extending north from said eastern right-of-way of 4th Street NW to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of C Street NW; thence east along said southern right-of-way of C Street NW to its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of 3rd Street NW; thence north along said eastern right-of-way of 3rd Street NW to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of D Street NW; thence east along said southern right-of-way of D Street NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 1st Street NW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 1st Street NW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of C Street NW; thence west along said northern right-of-way of C Street NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of 2nd Street NW; thence south along said western right-of-way of 2nd Street NW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Constitution Avenue NW; thence east along said northern right-of-way of Constitution Avenue NW to its intersection with the northwestern right-of-way of Louisiana Avenue NW; thence northeast along said northwestern right-of-way of Louisiana Avenue NW to its intersection with the southwestern right-of-way of New Jersey Avenue NW; thence northwest along said southwestern right-of-way of New Jersey Avenue NW to its intersection with the northern right-of-way of D Street NW; thence east along said northern right-of-way of D Street NW to its intersection with the northwestern right-of-way of Louisiana Avenue NW; thence northeast along said northwestern right-of-way of Louisiana Avenue NW to its intersection with the western right-of-way of North Capitol Street; thence north along said western right-of-way of North Capitol Street to its intersection with the southwestern right-of-way of Massachusetts Avenue NW; thence southeast along said southwestern right-of-way of Massachusetts Avenue NW to the southwestern right-of-way of Massachusetts Avenue NE; thence southeast along said southwestern right-of-way of Massachusetts Avenue NE to the southern right-of-way of Columbus Circle NE; thence counter-clockwise along said southern right-of-way of Columbus Circle NE to its intersection with the southern right-of-way of F Street NE; and thence east along said southern right-of-way of F Street NE to the point of beginning.

(3) Exclusion of building serving as State capitol.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, after the admission of the State into the Union, the Capital shall not be considered to include the building known as the "John A. Wilson Building", as described and designated under section 601(a) of the Omnibus Spending Reduction Act of 1993 (sec. 10–1301(a), D.C. Official Code).

(4) Clarification of treatment of Frances Perkins Building.—The entirety of the Frances Perkins Building, including any portion of the Building which is north of D Street NW, shall be considered to be included in the Capital.

(g) Retention of title to property.—

(1) Federal title.—The United States shall have and retain title to, or jurisdiction over, for purposes of administration and maintenance, all real and personal property with respect to

which the United States holds title or jurisdiction for such purposes on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) State title.—The State shall have and retain title to, or jurisdiction over, for purposes of administration and maintenance, all real and personal property with respect to which the District of Columbia holds title or jurisdiction for such purposes on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(h) Effect of admission on laws and legal status.—

(1) Laws of Capital.—Except as otherwise provided in sections 1065 through 1067, the laws of the District of Columbia which are in effect on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, without regard to whether such laws were enacted by Congress or by the District of Columbia, shall apply in the Capital in the same manner and to the same extent beginning on the date of the admission of the State into the Union, and shall be deemed laws of the United States which are applicable only in or to the Capital.

(2) Municipal status of Capital.—Notwithstanding section 2 of the Revised Statutes relating to the District of Columbia (sec. 1–102, D.C. Official Code) or any other provision of law codified in subchapter I of chapter 1 of the District of Columbia Official Code, effective upon the date of the admission of the State into the Union, the Capital, or any portion thereof, shall not serve as a government and shall not be a body corporate for municipal purposes.

(3) Legislative power.—The legislative power of the State shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation in the State, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, including the restrictions and limitations imposed upon the States by article I, section 10, and subject to sections 1065 through 1067.

(4) Continuation of State offices.—Upon the admission of the State into the Union, members of executive, legislative, and judicial offices of the District of Columbia shall be deemed members of the respective executive, legislative, and judicial offices of the State, as provided by the State Constitution and the laws of the State.

(5) Treatment of Federal laws.—To the extent that any law of the United States applies to the States generally, the law shall have the same force and effect in the State as elsewhere in the United States, except as such law may otherwise provide.

(6) Existing contracts.—Nothing in the admission of the State into the Union shall affect any obligation under any contract or agreement under which the District of Columbia or the United States is a party, as in effect on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(7) Interstate compacts.—The State shall be deemed to be the successor to the District of Columbia for purposes of any interstate compact which is in effect on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(8) Federal members on boards and commissions.—Nothing in the admission of the State into the Union shall affect the authority of a representative of the Federal Government who, as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, is a member of a board or commission of the District of Columbia to serve as a member of such board or commission

or as a member of a successor to such board or commission after the admission of the State into the Union, as may be provided by the State Constitution and the laws of the State.

(9) Federal law enforcement authorities.—The United States Capitol Police, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division may not enforce any law of the State in the State, except to the extent authorized by the State. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the authority of the United States Capitol Police, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division to enforce any law in the Capital.

(i) Pending actions and proceedings.—

(1) Legal successor.—The State shall be the legal successor to the District of Columbia in all matters.

(2) Pending proceedings.—All existing writs, actions, suits, judicial and administrative proceedings, civil or criminal liabilities, prosecutions, judgments, sentences, orders, decrees, appeals, causes of action, claims, demands, titles, and rights shall continue unaffected by the admission of the State into the Union with respect to the State or the United States, except as may be provided under sections 1065 through 1067, as may be modified in accordance with the provisions of the State Constitution, and as may be modified by the laws of the State or the United States, as the case may be.

(j) Limitation on authority to tax Federal property.—The State may not impose any tax on any real or personal property owned or acquired by the United States, except to the extent that Congress may permit.

(k) United States nationality.—No provision of sections 1065 through 1067 shall operate to confer United States nationality, to terminate nationality lawfully acquired, or to restore nationality terminated or lost under any law of the United States or under any treaty to which the United States is or was a party.

(l) Nonseverability of admission.—If any provision of subsection (b), or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions of sections 1065 through 1067 and any amendments made by such sections shall be treated as invalid.

SEC. 1066. FEDERAL INTERESTS AND TRANSITION TO STATEHOOD.

(a) Treatment of military lands.—

(1) Reservation of Federal authority.—Subject to paragraph (2) and subsection (b), and notwithstanding the admission of the State into the Union, authority is reserved in the United States for the exercise by Congress of the power of exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such tracts or parcels of land located in the State that, on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, are controlled or owned by the United States and held for defense or Coast Guard purposes.

(2) Limitation on authority.—The power of exclusive legislation described in paragraph (1) shall vest and remain in the United States only so long as the particular tract or parcel of land

involved is controlled or owned by the United States and held for defense or Coast Guard purposes.

(3) Authority of State.—The reservation of authority in the United States under paragraph (1) shall not operate to prevent such tracts or parcels of land from being a part of the State, or to prevent the State from exercising over or upon such lands, concurrently with the United States, any jurisdiction which it would have in the absence of such reservation of authority and which is consistent with laws enacted by Congress pursuant to such reservation of authority.

(4) Service of process.—The State shall have the right to serve civil or criminal process in such tracts or parcels of land in which the authority of the United States is reserved under paragraph (1) in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred, or crimes committed in the State but outside of such lands.

(b) Waiver of claims to Federal property.—

(1) In general.—As a compact with the United States, the State and its people disclaim all right and title to any real or personal property not granted or confirmed to the State by or under the authority of sections 1065 through 1067, the right or title to which is held by the United States or subject to disposition by the United States.

(2) Effect on claims against United States.—Nothing in sections 1065 through 1067 shall recognize, deny, enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any claim against the United States, and any such claim shall be governed by applicable laws of the United States.

(3) Rule of construction.—Nothing in sections 1065 through 1067 is intended or shall be construed as a finding, interpretation, or construction by Congress that any applicable law authorizes, establishes, recognizes, or confirms the validity or invalidity of any claim referred to in paragraph (2), and the determination of the applicability to or the effect of any law on any such claim shall be unaffected by sections 1065 through 1067.

(c) Capital National Guard.—

(1) Title 32 definitions.—[Section 101 of title 32](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraphs (4), (6), and (19), by striking "District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Capital"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(20) 'Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act."

(2) Title 32 conforming amendments; National Guard terminology.—Title 32, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 112(h)(2), section 505, section 702(a), and section 708(a), by striking "National Guard of the District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Capital National Guard"; and

(B) in section 901, by adding at the end the following:

"(3) The term 'Governor' means, with respect to the Capital, the commanding general of the Capital National Guard."

(3) Title 32 conforming amendments; District of Columbia to Capital.—Title 32, United States Code, is amended by striking "District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Capital" in section 103, subsections (c) and (d) of section 104, section 107(b), subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 109, section 112(h), section 304, section 314, section 315, section 324(b), subsections (a) and (b) of section 325, sections 326 and 327, section 328(a), section 501(b), section 503(b), section 504(b), subsections (c)(1), (g)(2), (j), (k), and (l)(1) of section 509, subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 702, subsections (a) and (b) of section 703, section 704, section 708(d), subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 710, section 711, paragraph (1) of section 712, section 715(c), and section 901(2).

(4) Title 10 definitions.—[Section 101 of title 10](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(22) The term 'Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act.";

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (4) of subsection (c), by striking "District of Columbia" both places it appears and inserting "Capital"; and

(C) in subsection (d)(5), by striking "District of Columbia" and inserting "Capital".

(5) Title 10 conforming amendments; National Guard of the District of Columbia.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "National Guard of the District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Capital National Guard" in section 12406 and section 18238.

(6) Title 10 conforming amendments; District of Columbia to Capital.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended in section 771a(c), section 1076f(c)(2), section 2732(2)(B), section 7401(c), section 9401(c), section 10148(b), section 10502(a)(1), section 10505(a)(1)(A), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 10506(a)(1), section 10508(b)(1), section 12204(b), section 12301(b), section 12406, section 12642(c), and section 18238 by striking "District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Capital".

(7) Title 10 conforming amendments; chief executive terminology.—[Section 1076f of title 10](#), United States Code, is amended in subsections (a) and (c)(1) by striking "with respect to the District of Columbia, the mayor of the District of Columbia" both places it appears and inserting "with respect to the Capital, the commanding general of the Capital National Guard".

(d) Federal courts and Department of Justice.—

(1) Residency requirements for certain Federal officials.—Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 44(c)—

(i) by striking "Except in the District of Columbia, each" and inserting "Each"; and

(ii) by striking "within fifty miles of the District of Columbia" and inserting "within fifty miles of the Capital";

(B) in section 134(b), in the first sentence, by striking "the District of Columbia, the Southern District of New York, and" and inserting "the Southern District of New York and";

(C) in section 545(a), by striking the first sentence and inserting "Each United States attorney shall reside in the district for which they are appointed, except that those officers of the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York may reside within 20 miles thereof.";

(D) in section 561(e)(1), by striking the paragraph and inserting the following:

"(1) the marshal for the Southern District of New York may reside within 20 miles of the district; and";

(E) in section 751(c), by striking "the District of Columbia and"; and

(F) the amendments made by this paragraph shall apply only to individuals appointed after the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) Renaming of Federal courts.—Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 41—

(i) in the first column, by striking "District of Columbia" and inserting "Capital"; and

(ii) in the second column, by striking "District of Columbia" and inserting "Capital; Washington, Douglass Commonwealth";

(B) in section 88—

(i) in the heading, by striking "District of Columbia" and inserting "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital";

(ii) by striking the first paragraph and inserting "The State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital comprise 1 judicial district."; and

(iii) in the second paragraph, by striking "Washington" and inserting "the Capital"; and

(C) in the table of sections for chapter 5, by striking the item relating to section 88 and inserting the following:

"88. Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital.".

(3) Conforming amendments relating to Federal courts.—Title 28, United States Code, is further amended—

(A) in section 44(a), in the first column, in section 48(a), in the first and second columns, and in sections 49, 2265(c)(2), and 2343, by striking "District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Capital";

(B) in section 48(a), in the second column, by striking "Washington" and inserting "Capital";

(C) in section 133(a), in the first column; section 152(a)(2), in the first column; section 594(c), the first place it appears; and sections 581(a)(4), 596(a)(3), 1346(e), 1355(b)(2), 1391(f)(4), 1402(a)(2), 1413, and 2467(c)(2)(B), by striking the applicable phrase "District of Columbia" or "the District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital";

(D) in sections 173, 175, 462(d), and 798(a), by striking "the District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "the Capital";

(E) in section 594(c), by striking "the District of Columbia" the second place it appears and inserting "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth";

(F) in section 456(b), by striking the subsection and inserting the following:

"(b) The official duty station of the Chief Justice of the United States, the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit shall be the Capital.";

(G) in sections 798(a), 1608(a)(4), and 2410(b), by striking "Washington, District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "the Capital";

(H) in [section 451](#), by adding at the end the following new undesignated paragraph:

"The term 'Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act."; and

(I) in any Federal law, rule, or regulation other than a provision amended by this paragraph—

(i) a reference to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia shall be deemed to refer to the United States Court of Appeals for the Capital;

(ii) a reference to the District of Columbia Circuit shall be deemed to refer to the Capital Circuit; and

(iii) a reference to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia shall be deemed to refer to the United States District Court for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital.

(4) Pretrial services in Federal district court.—[Section 3152 of title 18](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "(other than the District of Columbia)" and inserting "(subject to subsection (d), other than the District of Columbia)"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) Judicial district of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital.—In the case of the judicial district of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth and the Capital—

"(1) upon the admission of the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth into the Union, the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth Pretrial Services Agency shall continue to provide pretrial services in the judicial district in the same manner and to the same extent as the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency provided such services in the judicial district of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union; and

"(2) upon receipt by the President of certification from the State under section 1066(i)(10) of the POPULIST Act that the State has in effect laws providing for the State to provide pretrial services, paragraph (1) shall no longer apply, and the Director shall provide for the establishment of pretrial services in the judicial district under this section.".

(5) Effective date.—Except as provided in paragraph (1)(F), this subsection and the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect upon the admission of the State into the Union.

(e) Retirement and employee benefits.—

(1) Federal benefit payments under certain retirement programs.—Any individual who, as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, is entitled to a Federal benefit payment under the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 shall continue to be entitled to such a payment after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such Act.

(2) Federal obligations under retirement protection law.—Any obligation of the Federal Government under the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 that exists with respect to any individual or with respect to the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall remain in effect with respect to such individual and with respect to the State after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such Act.

(3) State obligations under retirement protection law.—Any obligation of the District of Columbia under the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 that exists with respect to any individual or with respect to the Federal Government as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall become an obligation of the State with respect to such individual and with respect to the Federal Government after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such Act.

(4) D.C. Federal Pension Fund.—Any obligation of the Federal Government under chapter 9 of the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 with respect to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund that exists as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall remain in effect with respect to such Fund after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such chapter.

(5) Federal civil service obligations for certain employees.—Any obligation of the Federal Government under title 5, United States Code, that exists with respect to an individual described in paragraph (7) or with respect to the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall remain an obligation of the Federal Government with respect to such individual and with respect to the State after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such title.

(6) State civil service obligations for certain employees.—Any obligation of the District of Columbia under title 5, United States Code, that exists with respect to an individual described in paragraph (7) or with respect to the Federal Government as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall become an obligation of the State with respect to such individual and with respect to the Federal Government after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such title.

(7) Individuals described.—An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who was first employed by the government of the District of Columbia before October 1, 1987.

(8) Judges' retirement program.—Any obligation of the Federal Government under [subchapter III of chapter 15 of title 11](#), District of Columbia Official Code, that exists with respect to any individual and the District of Columbia as the result of service accrued prior to the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall remain in effect with respect to such individual and with respect to the State after the admission of the State into the Union, in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such subchapter.

(9) Service after admission.—Subject to paragraph (10), any obligation of the Federal Government under [subchapter III of chapter 15 of title 11](#), District of Columbia Official Code, shall exist with respect to any individual and the State as the result of service accrued after the date of the admission of the State into the Union in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under such subchapter as such obligation existed with respect to individuals and the District of Columbia as of the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(10) Termination for State judges' retirement program.—Paragraph (9) shall not apply to service accrued on or after the date on which the State provides written certification to the President that the State has in effect laws requiring the State to appropriate and make available funds for the retirement of judges of the State.

(f) Public Defender Service.—

(1) Continuation of operations and funding.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (6), title III of the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970 shall apply with respect to the State and to the public defender service of the State after the date of the admission of the State into the Union in the same manner and to the same extent as such title applied with respect to the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) Responsibility for employer contribution.—For purposes of paragraph (2) of section 305(c) of the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970, the Federal Government shall be treated as the employing agency with respect to the benefits provided under such section to an individual who is an employee of the public defender service of the State and who, pursuant to section 305(c) of such Act, is treated as an employee of the Federal Government for purposes of receiving benefits under any chapter of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code.

(3) Renaming.—Effective upon the date of the admission of the State into the Union, the State may rename the public defender service of the State.

(4) Continuation of Federal benefits for employees.—Any individual who is an employee of the public defender service of the State as of the day before the termination date described in paragraph (6) and who, on or after such date, is an employee of the office of the State that provides the services described in title III of the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970 shall continue to be treated as an employee of the Federal Government for purposes of receiving benefits under any chapter of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding termination under paragraph (6).

(5) Responsibility for employer contribution after termination.—Beginning on the termination date described in paragraph (6), the State shall be treated as the employing agency with respect to benefits described in paragraph (4).

(6) Termination.—Paragraph (1) shall terminate upon the date on which the State provides written certification to the President that the State has in effect laws requiring the State to appropriate and make available funds for the operation of the office of the State which provides the services described in title III of the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970.

(g) Prosecutions and clemency.—

(1) Assignment of assistant United States attorneys.—In accordance with [subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5](#), United States Code, the Attorney General, with the concurrence of the District of Columbia or the State, as the case may be, shall provide for the assignment of assistant United States attorneys to the State to carry out the functions described in paragraph (3).

(2) Detail without reimbursement by State.—In accordance with [section 3373 of title 5](#), United States Code, an assistant United States attorney who is assigned to the State under this subsection shall be deemed under subsection (a) of such section to be on detail to a regular work assignment in the Department of Justice, and the assignment shall be made without reimbursement by the State of the pay of the attorney or any related expenses.

(3) Functions described.—The functions described in this paragraph are criminal prosecutions conducted in the name of the State that would have been conducted in the name of the United States by the United States attorney for the District of Columbia or such attorney's assistants, as provided under section 23–101(c), District of Columbia Official Code, but for the admission of the State into the Union.

(4) Minimum number assigned.—The number of assistant United States attorneys assigned under this subsection may not be less than the number of assistant United States attorneys whose principal duties as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union were to conduct criminal prosecutions in the name of the United States under section 23–101(c), District of Columbia Official Code.

(5) Termination.—The obligation of the Attorney General to provide for the assignment of assistant United States attorneys under this subsection shall terminate upon written certification by the State to the President that the State has appointed attorneys of the State to carry out the functions described in paragraph (3).

(6) Clemency.—Effective upon the admission of the State into the Union, the authority to grant clemency for offenses against the District of Columbia or the State shall be exercised by such person or persons, and under such terms and conditions, as provided by the State Constitution and the laws of the State, without regard to whether the prosecution for the offense was conducted by the District of Columbia, the State, or the United States.

(7) Clemency defined.—In this subsection, the term "clemency" means a pardon, reprieve, or commutation of sentence, or a remission of a fine or other financial penalty.

(h) Marshals and Bureau of Prisons.—

(1) United States Marshals Service.—The United States Marshals Service shall provide services with respect to the courts and court system of the State in the same manner and to the same extent as the Service provided services with respect to the courts and court system of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, except that the President shall not appoint a United States Marshal under [section 561 of title 28](#), United States Code, for any court of the State.

(2) Termination of marshals service obligation.—The obligation of the United States Marshals Service to provide services under paragraph (1) shall terminate upon written certification by the State to the President that the State has appointed personnel of the State to provide such services.

(3) Bureau of Prisons designation.—Chapter 1 of subtitle C of title XI of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 and the amendments made by such chapter shall continue to apply with respect to individuals convicted of offenses under the laws of the District of Columbia prior to the date of the admission of the State into the Union and shall apply with respect to individuals convicted of offenses under the laws of the State after the date of the admission of the State into the Union in the same manner and to the same extent as such chapter and amendments applied with respect to individuals convicted of offenses under the laws of the District of Columbia prior to the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(4) Termination of Bureau of Prisons designation.—Paragraph (3) shall terminate upon written certification by the State to the President that the State has in effect laws for the housing of individuals described in paragraph (3) in correctional facilities.

(i) Parole, supervision, and pretrial services.—

(1) Parole.—The United States Parole Commission shall continue to exercise the authority to grant, deny, and revoke parole, and to impose conditions upon an order of parole, in the case of any individual who is an imprisoned felon who is eligible for parole or reparole under the laws of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, as provided under section 11231 of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, and shall exercise such authority in the case of any individual who is an imprisoned felon who is eligible for parole or reparole under the laws of the State in the same manner and to the same extent as the Commission exercised in the case of such individuals under the laws of the District of Columbia.

(2) Supervision of released offenders.—The United States Parole Commission shall continue to exercise authority over individuals who are released offenders of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, as provided under section 11233(c)(2) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, and shall exercise authority over individuals who are released offenders of the State in the same manner and to the same extent as the Commission exercised authority over such individuals under the laws of the District of Columbia.

(3) Continuation of Federal benefits for employees of Parole Commission.—Any individual who is an employee of the United States Parole Commission as of the later of the day before the termination date described in paragraph (5)(A) or the day before the termination date described in paragraph (5)(B), and who, on or after such date, is an employee of the office of the State which exercises the authority described in either such subparagraph, shall continue to be treated as an employee of the Federal Government for purposes of receiving benefits under any chapter of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code.

(4) Responsibility for employer contribution.—Beginning on the later of the termination date described in paragraph (5)(A) or the termination date described in paragraph (5)(B), the State shall be treated as the employing agency with respect to benefits described in paragraph (3).

(5) Termination of Parole Commission authority.—

(A) Parole.—Paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date on which the State provides written certification to the President that the State has in effect laws providing for the State to exercise the authority to grant, deny, and revoke parole, and to impose conditions upon an order of parole, in the case of any individual who is an imprisoned felon who is eligible for parole or reparole under the laws of the State.

(B) Supervision of released offenders.—Paragraph (2) shall terminate on the date on which the State provides written certification to the President that the State has in effect laws providing for the State to exercise authority over individuals who are released offenders of the State.

(6) Renaming of Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.—Effective upon the date of the admission of the State into the Union, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia shall be known and designated as the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, and the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency shall be known and designated as the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth Pretrial Services Agency.

(7) References.—Any reference in any law, rule, or regulation to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia shall be deemed to refer to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth. Any reference in any law, rule, or regulation to the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency shall be deemed to refer to the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth Pretrial Services Agency.

(8) Continuation of services.—The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, including the Washington, Douglass Commonwealth Pretrial Services Agency, shall continue to provide pretrial services with respect to individuals who are charged with an offense in the District of Columbia, provide supervision for individuals who are offenders on probation, parole, and supervised release pursuant to the laws of the District of Columbia, and carry out sex offender registration functions with respect to individuals who are sex offenders in the District of Columbia, as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, and shall provide pretrial services, supervision, and sex offender registration functions with respect to the State in the same manner and to the same extent.

(9) Continuation of Federal benefits for agency employees.—Any individual who is an employee of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for Washington, Douglass Commonwealth as of the day before the termination date described in paragraph (10), and who, on or after such date, is an employee of the office of the State which provides the services and carries out the functions described in paragraph (10), shall continue to be treated as an employee of the Federal Government for purposes of receiving benefits under any chapter of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code.

(10) Termination of agency functions.—Paragraph (8) shall terminate on the date on which the State provides written certification to the President that the State has in effect laws providing for the State to provide pretrial services, supervise offenders on probation, parole, and supervised release, and carry out sex offender registration functions in the State.

(j) Courts of the State.—

(1) Continuation of operations.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) and paragraph (9), title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, as in effect on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, shall apply with respect to the State and the courts and court system of the State after the date of the admission of the State into the Union in the same manner and to the same extent as such title applied with respect to the District of Columbia and the courts and court system of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) Responsibility for employer contribution.—For purposes of section 11–1726(b)(2) and section 11–1726(c)(2), District of Columbia Official Code, the Federal Government shall be treated as the employing agency with respect to benefits provided under such section to an individual who is an employee of the courts and court system of the State and who, pursuant to either such paragraph, is treated as an employee of the Federal Government for purposes of receiving benefits under any chapter of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code.

(3) Selection and renaming of courts.—Effective upon the date of the admission of the State into the Union, the State shall select judges for any vacancy on the courts of the State and may rename any of its courts and any of the other offices of its court system.

(4) Rules of construction.—Nothing in paragraph (3) shall be construed to affect the service of any judge serving on a court of the District of Columbia on the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union, to require the State to select such a judge for a vacancy on a court of the State, or to waive any requirement of [chapter 15 of title 11](#), District of Columbia Official Code, other than section 11–1501(a), with respect to the appointment and service of judges of the courts of the State.

(5) Continuation of Federal benefits for court employees.—Any individual who is an employee of the courts or court system of the State as of the day before the termination date described in paragraph (9) and who, pursuant to section 11–1726(b) or section 11–1726(c), District of Columbia Official Code, is treated as an employee of the Federal Government for purposes of receiving benefits under any chapter of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code, shall continue to be treated as an employee of the Federal Government for such purposes.

(6) Responsibility for employer contribution after termination.—Beginning on the termination date described in paragraph (9), the State shall be treated as the employing agency with respect to benefits described in paragraph (5).

(7) Continuation of funding.—Section 11241 of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 shall apply with respect to the State and the courts and court system of the State after the date of the admission of the State into the Union in the same manner and to the same extent as such section applied with respect to the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia and the courts and court system of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(8) Treatment of court receipts.—Except as otherwise provided under State law after termination under paragraph (9), all money received by the courts and court system of the State shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States, except that amounts designated for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund shall apply with respect to the courts and court system of the State in the same manner and to the same extent as such amounts applied to the courts and court system of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(9) Termination.—This subsection, other than paragraph (3) and except as provided under paragraph (5), shall terminate on the date on which the State provides written certification to the President that the State has in effect laws requiring the State to appropriate and make available funds for the operation of the courts and court system of the State.

(k) Education, health, planning, and other program continuity.—

(1) College Access Act.—The District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 shall apply with respect to the State, and to the public institution of higher education designated by the State as the successor to the University of the District of Columbia, after the date of the

admission of the State into the Union in the same manner and to the same extent as such Act applied with respect to the District of Columbia and the University of the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) Termination of College Access Act continuation.—Paragraph (1), other than with respect to the public institution of higher education designated by the State as the successor to the University of the District of Columbia, shall terminate upon written certification by the State to the President that the State has in effect laws requiring the State to provide tuition assistance substantially similar to the assistance provided under the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

(3) Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act.—The Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act shall apply with respect to the State after the date of the admission of the State into the Union in the same manner and to the same extent as such Act applied with respect to the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(4) Termination of Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act continuation.—Paragraph (3) shall terminate upon written certification by the State to the President that the State has in effect laws requiring the State to provide tuition assistance substantially similar to the assistance provided under the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act and to provide supplemental funds to the public schools and public charter schools of the State in the amounts provided in the most recent fiscal year for public schools and public charter schools of the State or the District of Columbia, as the case may be, under such Act.

(5) Medicaid Federal medical assistance percentage.—Notwithstanding section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act ([42 U.S.C. 1396d\(b\)](#)), during the period beginning on the date of the admission of the State into the Union and ending on September 30 of the fiscal year during which the State submits the certification described in paragraph (6), the Federal medical assistance percentage for the State under title XIX of such Act shall be the Federal medical assistance percentage for the District of Columbia under such title as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(6) Medicaid certification.—The certification described in paragraph (5) is a written certification by the State to the President that, during each of the first 5 fiscal years beginning after the date of the certification, the estimated revenues of the State will be sufficient to cover any reduction in revenues that may result from termination of paragraph (5).

(I) Federal planning commissions, water supply, and location requirements.—

(1) National Capital Planning Commission continuing application.—Subject to the amendments made by paragraphs (2) and (3), upon the admission of the State into the Union, [chapter 87 of title 40](#), United States Code, shall apply as follows:

(A) Such chapter shall apply with respect to the Capital in the same manner and to the same extent as such chapter applied with respect to the District of Columbia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(B) Such chapter shall apply with respect to the State in the same manner and to the same extent as such chapter applied with respect to the State of Maryland and the

Commonwealth of Virginia as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) National Capital Planning Commission composition.—[Section 8711\(b\) of title 40](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking "five citizens with experience in city or regional planning, who shall be appointed by the President" and inserting "four citizens with experience in city or regional planning, who shall be appointed by the President"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the matter after "Of the" and inserting "four citizen members, one shall be a resident of Virginia, one shall be a resident of Maryland, and one shall be a resident of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.".

(3) National Capital Planning Commission definitions.—[Section 8702 of title 40](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "the territory surrounding the District of Columbia" and inserting "the territory surrounding the National Capital";

(B) in paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) National Capital.—The term 'National Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act, and the territory the Federal Government owns in the environs."; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(A) to read as follows:

"(A) the National Capital and the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth;".

(4) Commission of Fine Arts.—[Chapter 91 of title 40](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 9102(a)(1) and section 9101(d), by striking "the District of Columbia" each place it appears and inserting "the Capital"; and

(B) in section 9102 by adding at the end the following:

"(d) Definition.—In this chapter, the term 'Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act.".

(5) Commemorative Works Act.—[Chapter 89 of title 40](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 8902 by adding at the end the following:

"(c) Limiting application to Capital.—This chapter applies only with respect to commemorative works in the Capital and its environs.";

(B) in section 8902(a)(2) to read as follows:

"(2) Capital and its environs.—The term 'Capital and its environs' means—

"(A) the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act; and

"(B) those lands and properties administered by the National Park Service and the General Services Administration located in the Reserve, Area I, and Area II as depicted on the map entitled 'Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs', numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003, that are located outside of the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.";

(C) in section 8907(a), by striking "the District of Columbia" and inserting "the Capital and its environs";

(D) in sections 8901(2), 8901(4), 8902(a)(4), 8903(d), 8904(c), 8905(a), 8906(a), 8909(a), and 8909(b), by striking "the District of Columbia and its environs" each place it appears and inserting "the Capital and its environs"; and

(E) in section 8901(2), by striking "the urban fabric of the District of Columbia" and inserting "the urban fabric of the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act".

(6) Army Corps of Engineers water supply.—[Chapter 95 of title 40](#), United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Sec. 9508. Applicability to Capital and State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth

"(a) In general.—Effective upon the admission of the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth into the Union, any reference in this chapter to the District of Columbia shall be deemed to refer to the Capital or the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, as the case may be.

"(b) Definition.—In this section, the term 'Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act.".

(7) Clerical amendment.—The table of sections for [chapter 95 of title 40](#), United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"9508. Applicability to Capital and State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.".

(8) Location requirements.—The location of any person in the Capital or the State on the day after the date of the admission of the State into the Union shall be deemed to satisfy any requirement under any law in effect as of the day before the date of the admission of the State into the Union that the person be located in the District of Columbia, including [section 72 of title 4](#), United States Code, and title 36, United States Code.

(9) Effective date.—This subsection and the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(m) Statehood Transition Commission.—

(1) Establishment.—There is established the Statehood Transition Commission.

(2) Composition.—The Statehood Transition Commission shall be composed of 18 members as follows:

(A) 3 members appointed by the President.

- (B) 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (C) 2 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.
- (D) 2 members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.
- (E) 2 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.
- (F) 3 members appointed by the Mayor.
- (G) 3 members appointed by the Council.
- (H) The Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

(3) Appointment date.—The appointments of the members of the Statehood Transition Commission shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section. If 1 or more appointments under paragraph (2) is not made by such date, the authority to make such appointment or appointments shall expire, and the number of members of the Statehood Transition Commission shall be reduced by the number equal to the number of appointments so not made.

(4) Term of service; vacancy.—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Statehood Transition Commission. A vacancy in the Statehood Transition Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(5) No compensation.—Members shall serve without pay, but shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under [subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5](#), United States Code.

(6) Chair and Vice Chair.—The Chair and Vice Chair of the Statehood Transition Commission shall be elected by the members of the Statehood Transition Commission. The Chair shall be elected from among the members described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (2), and the Vice Chair shall be elected from among the members described in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of paragraph (2).

(7) Staff.—The Statehood Transition Commission shall have a Director appointed by the Chair. The Director may appoint and fix the pay of such additional personnel as the Director considers appropriate. The Director and staff may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to chapter 51 and [subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5](#), United States Code, except that an individual so appointed may not receive pay in excess of the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under [section 5316 of title 5](#), United States Code.

(8) Experts and consultants.—The Statehood Transition Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under [section 3109\(b\) of title 5](#), United States Code, at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under [section 5316 of title 5](#), United States Code.

(9) Duties.—The Statehood Transition Commission shall advise the President, Congress, the Mayor or, upon the admission of the State into the Union, the chief executive officer of the State, and the Council or, upon the admission of the State into the Union, the legislature of the

State, concerning an orderly transition to statehood for the District of Columbia or the State, as the case may be, and to a reduced geographical size of the seat of the Government of the United States, including with respect to property, funding, programs, projects, and activities.

(10) Powers.—The Statehood Transition Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out sections 1065 through 1067, hold hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate; may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to carry out such sections; may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States; and, upon request, shall receive from the Administrator of General Services the administrative support services necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

(11) Initial meeting; quorum.—The Statehood Transition Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair and shall hold its first meeting not later than the earlier of 30 days after the date on which all members have been appointed or 90 days after the date of enactment of this section if the number of members is reduced under paragraph (3). A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(12) Reports.—The Statehood Transition Commission shall submit such reports as the Commission considers appropriate or as may be requested by the President, Congress, or the District of Columbia or, upon the admission of the State into the Union, the State.

(13) Termination.—The Statehood Transition Commission shall cease to exist 2 years after the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(n) Effective date.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, this section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect upon the admission of the State into the Union.

SEC. 1067. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND CAPITAL VOTING.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Absent Capital voter.—The term "absent Capital voter" means, with respect to a covered State, a person who resides in the Capital and is qualified to vote in the covered State, or who would be qualified to vote in the covered State but for residing in the Capital, but only if the covered State is the last place in which the person was domiciled before residing in the Capital.

(2) Covered State.—The term "covered State" means each of the several States, including the State.

(b) Voting by absent Capital voters.—

(1) In general.—Each covered State shall—

(A) permit absent Capital voters to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for Federal office; and

(B) accept and process, with respect to any general, special, primary, or runoff election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application from an absent Capital

voter, if the application is received by the appropriate covered State election official not less than 30 days before the election.

(2) Lifelong Capital residents.—For purposes of this section, a person who resides in the Capital and has never been domiciled in a covered State shall be treated as an absent Capital voter of the State.

(c) Recommendations to covered States.—To afford maximum access to the polls by absent Capital voters, it is the sense of Congress that covered States should—

(1) waive registration requirements for absent Capital voters who, by reason of residence in the Capital, do not have an opportunity to register;

(2) expedite processing of balloting materials with respect to such individuals; and

(3) assure that absentee ballots are mailed to such individuals at the earliest opportunity.

(d) Enforcement.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate district court of the United States for such declaratory or injunctive relief as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(e) Effect on certain other laws.—The exercise of any right under this section shall not affect, for purposes of a Federal tax, a State tax, or a local tax, the residence or domicile of a person exercising such right.

(f) Repeal of Office of District of Columbia Delegate.—

(1) In general.—Sections 202 and 204 of the District of Columbia Delegate Act ([Public Law 91–405](#); sections 1–401 and 1–402, D.C. Official Code), and [section 25a of title 2](#), United States Code, are repealed.

(2) Conforming amendments to District of Columbia Elections Code of 1955.—The District of Columbia Elections Code of 1955 is amended—

(A) in section 1 (sec. 1–1001.01, D.C. Official Code), by striking "the Delegate to the House of Representatives,";

(B) in section 2 (sec. 1–1001.02, D.C. Official Code)—

(i) by striking paragraph (6);

(ii) in paragraph (12), by striking "(except the Delegate to Congress for the District of Columbia)"; and

(iii) in paragraph (13), by striking "the Delegate to Congress for the District of Columbia,";

(C) in section 8 (sec. 1–1001.08, D.C. Official Code)—

(i) by striking "Delegate," in the heading; and

(ii) by striking "Delegate," each place it appears in subsections (d), (h)(1)(A), (h)(2), (i)(1), (j)(1), (j)(3), and (k)(3);

(D) in section 10 (sec. 1–1001.10, D.C. Official Code)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(3); and

(ii) in subsection (d)—

(I) by striking "Delegate," each place it appears in paragraph (1); and

(II) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(E) in section 11(a)(2) (sec. 1–1001.11(a)(2), D.C. Official Code), by striking "Delegate to the House of Representatives,";

(F) in section 15(b) (sec. 1–1001.15(b), D.C. Official Code), by striking "Delegate,"; and

(G) in section 17(a) (sec. 1–1001.17(a), D.C. Official Code), by striking "except the Delegate to the Congress from the District of Columbia".

(g) Capital electors for President and Vice President.—

(1) Amendment to title 3 definitions.—[Section 21 of title 3](#), United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "the District of Columbia" and inserting "the Capital, solely for purposes of the appointment, ascertainment, transmission, and counting of electors of President and Vice President appointed by the Capital under section 23"; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "(or, in the case of the District of Columbia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia)" and inserting "(or, in the case of the Capital, the Archivist of the United States)".

(2) Capital elector appointment.—[Chapter 1 of title 3](#), United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Sec. 23. Capital electors

"(a) Appointment by national popular vote.—For any election of President and Vice President taking place after the admission of the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth into the Union and before repeal of the twenty-third article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the electors of President and Vice President appointed by the Capital shall be appointed to the slate of electors pledged to the candidates for President and Vice President who receive the greatest number of valid votes cast nationwide for President and Vice President.

"(b) Filing of Capital slates.—Not later than 60 days before election day, a candidate for President who is qualified to appear on the ballot in enough States to be eligible to receive a majority of the electors appointed may file with the Archivist of the United States a slate of individuals eligible to serve as electors of President and Vice President for the Capital. A slate filed under this subsection shall include a number of individuals equal to the number of electors of President and Vice President to be appointed by the Capital under the twenty-third article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"(c) Ascertainment.—Not later than 5 days before the time fixed for the meeting of electors under section 7, the Archivist of the United States shall determine the candidates for President and Vice President who received the greatest number of valid votes cast nationwide for President and Vice President, based on the certificates of ascertainment issued under section 5 and received by the Archivist as of that time and any certificate or Federal judicial determination that is conclusive under section 5, and shall ascertain the appointment of the Capital electors pledged to such candidates.

"(d) Certificate of ascertainment.—Not later than 5 days before the time fixed for the meeting of electors under section 7, the Archivist of the United States shall issue a certificate of ascertainment for the Capital electors that sets forth the names of the Capital electors appointed and the determination made under subsection (c). A certificate issued under this subsection shall have the same force and effect under this chapter as a certificate of ascertainment issued by the executive of a State under section 5, except that the certificate shall bear the seal of the National Archives and Records Administration. The Archivist shall preserve such certificate as a public record in the same manner as a certificate received under section 5 is preserved under section 6 and shall transmit duplicate originals of such certificate to the Capital electors in the same manner and to the same extent as the executive of a State transmits duplicate originals to electors under section 5.

"(e) Superseding certificates or judicial determinations.—If, before the time fixed for the meeting of electors under section 7, the Archivist receives a certificate or Federal judicial determination that is conclusive under section 5 and that would change the candidates who received the greatest number of valid votes cast nationwide for President and Vice President, the Archivist shall promptly issue and transmit a revised certificate of ascertainment for the Capital electors.

"(f) Capital defined.—In this section, the term 'Capital' means the area serving as the seat of the Government of the United States, as described in section 1065(f) of the POPULIST Act."

(3) Clerical amendment.—The table of sections for [chapter 1 of title 3](#), United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"23. Capital electors."

(h) Effective date.—

(1) In general.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect upon the date of the admission of the State into the Union.

(2) Delegate repeal and election conforming amendments.—Subsection (f)(2), and the amendments made by subsection (f)(2), shall take effect on January 1, 2028. Subsection (f)(1) shall take effect at the conclusion of the 120th Congress.

SEC. 1068. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Approved status option.—The term "approved status option" means a status option that receives a majority of the valid votes cast in the initial plebiscite, after the ranked choice

tabulation required under subsection (b), or in a runoff plebiscite conducted under subsection (b)(8).

(2) Continuing status option.—The term "continuing status option" means a status option that has not been eliminated under subsection (b).

(3) Elections Commission.—The term "Elections Commission" means the Puerto Rico State Elections Commission (Comisión Estatal de Elecciones de Puerto Rico in Spanish).

(4) Eligible voter.—The term "eligible voter" means a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico who is otherwise qualified to vote in general elections in Puerto Rico.

(5) Exhausted ballot.—The term "exhausted ballot" means a valid vote cast that does not contain a unique ranking for any continuing status option.

(6) Initial plebiscite.—The term "initial plebiscite" means the plebiscite required under subsection (b)(1).

(7) Majority.—The term "majority" means more than 50 percent.

(8) Runoff plebiscite.—The term "runoff plebiscite" means the plebiscite required under subsection (b)(8).

(9) State.—The term "State" means the State of Puerto Rico.

(10) Status option.—The term "status option" means independence, sovereignty in free association with the United States, or statehood.

(11) Valid vote cast.—The term "valid vote cast" means a ballot cast by an eligible voter in the initial plebiscite or a runoff plebiscite that contains at least 1 valid ranking or valid mark for a status option and is not otherwise invalid under this section, the laws of Puerto Rico, or other applicable Federal law.

(b) Plebiscite.—

(1) Initial plebiscite.—A plebiscite to resolve Puerto Rico's political status shall be held on July 11, 2027.

(2) Options.—The initial plebiscite shall offer eligible voters the opportunity to rank each of the following 3 status options:

(A) Independence.

(B) Sovereignty in free association with the United States.

(C) Statehood.

(3) Majority vote required.—Approval of a status option must be by a majority of the valid votes cast.

(4) First-choice tabulation.—The Elections Commission shall first tabulate the number of valid votes cast ranking each status option first.

(5) Majority on first-choice tabulation.—If a status option receives a majority of the valid votes cast in the first-choice tabulation, that status option shall be deemed the approved status option.

(6) First elimination and transfer.—If no status option receives a majority of the valid votes cast in the first-choice tabulation, the status option receiving the fewest first-choice rankings shall be eliminated, and each valid vote cast that ranks the eliminated status option first shall be transferred to the continuing status option ranked next on that ballot.

(7) Majority after first transfer.—

(A) Approval.—If a continuing status option receives a majority of the valid votes cast after the transfer required under paragraph (6), that status option shall be deemed the approved status option.

(B) Final majority-confirmation transfer.—If no continuing status option receives a majority of the valid votes cast after the transfer required under paragraph (6), the continuing status option receiving fewer votes after such transfer shall be eliminated, and each valid vote cast counting for the eliminated status option shall be transferred to the sole remaining status option if the ballot ranks the sole remaining status option.

(C) Approval after final majority-confirmation transfer.—If the sole remaining status option receives a majority of the valid votes cast after the transfer required under subparagraph (B), that status option shall be deemed the approved status option.

(D) No majority after final majority-confirmation transfer.—If the sole remaining status option does not receive a majority of the valid votes cast after the transfer required under subparagraph (B), no status option shall be deemed approved in the initial plebiscite, and a runoff plebiscite shall be held under paragraph (8).

(8) Runoff plebiscite.—

(A) In general.—If no status option is approved under paragraph (5) or (7), a runoff plebiscite shall be held on September 12, 2027.

(B) Options.—The runoff plebiscite shall offer eligible voters a choice of the 2 status options that remained after the elimination and transfer required under paragraph (6).

(C) Approval.—The status option receiving a majority of the valid votes cast in the runoff plebiscite shall be deemed the approved status option.

(D) No majority.—If no status option receives a majority of the valid votes cast in the runoff plebiscite, no status option shall be deemed approved.

(9) Ties and tabulation rules.—The Elections Commission shall resolve tie votes, skipped rankings, duplicate rankings, overvotes, undervotes, and other tabulation issues consistent with regulations adopted by the Elections Commission, the laws of Puerto Rico, and this section, except that no rule may exclude an exhausted ballot from the number of valid votes cast after the ballot becomes exhausted.

(c) Ballot language.—

(1) Instructions.—The ballot for the initial plebiscite shall include the following instructions: "Rank the status options in your order of preference. Mark 1 for your first choice, 2 for your second choice, and 3 for your third choice. Ranking all 3 options gives your ballot the greatest opportunity to count if a preferred option is eliminated. A ballot that ranks no status option shall not be counted. A ballot shall count for the highest-ranked continuing status option that is ranked uniquely. If the highest-ranked continuing ranking on a ballot is assigned to more than 1 continuing status option, the ballot shall not count for any status option in that round or any later round."

(2) Independence.—The ballot shall present the status option of independence as follows:

(A) Puerto Rico is a sovereign nation that has full authority and responsibility over its territory and population under a constitution of its own adoption which shall be the supreme law of the nation.

(B) Puerto Rico is vested with full powers and responsibilities consistent with the rights and responsibilities that devolve upon a sovereign nation under international law, including its own fiscal and monetary policy, immigration, trade, and the conduct in its own name and right of relations with other nations and international organizations.

(C) Puerto Rico has full authority and responsibility over its citizenship and immigration laws, and birth in Puerto Rico or relationship to persons with statutory United States citizenship by birth in the former territory shall cease to be a basis for United States nationality or citizenship, except that persons who have such United States citizenship have a right to retain United States nationality and citizenship for life, by entitlement or election as provided by Federal law.

(D) Puerto Rico will no longer be a possession of the United States for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code. In general, United States citizens and United States businesses in the nation of Puerto Rico will be subject to United States Federal tax laws, as is the case with any other United States citizen or United States business abroad, and to Puerto Rican tax laws. Puerto Rico's status as an independent, sovereign nation will be the controlling factor in the taxation of Puerto Rican taxpayers.

(E) The Constitution and laws of the United States no longer apply in Puerto Rico and United States sovereignty in Puerto Rico is ended.

(3) Sovereignty in free association with the United States.—The ballot shall present the status option of sovereignty in free association with the United States as follows:

(A) Puerto Rico is a sovereign nation that has full authority and responsibility over its territory and population under a constitution of its own adoption which shall be the supreme law of the nation.

(B) Puerto Rico is vested with full powers and responsibilities consistent with the rights and responsibilities that devolve upon a sovereign nation under international law, including its own fiscal and monetary policy, immigration, trade, and the conduct in its own name and right of relations with other nations and international organizations, except as otherwise provided for in the Articles of Free Association to be negotiated by Puerto Rico and the United States.

(C) Puerto Rico has full authority and responsibility over its citizenship and immigration laws, and persons who have United States citizenship have a right to retain United States nationality and citizenship for life by entitlement or election as provided by Federal law.

(D) Birth in Puerto Rico shall cease to be a basis for United States nationality or citizenship. Individuals born in Puerto Rico to at least 1 parent who is a citizen of the United States shall be United States citizens at birth, consistent with the immigration laws of the United States, for the duration of the first agreement of the Articles of Free Association.

(E) Puerto Rico enters into Articles of Free Association with the United States, with such devolution and reservation of governmental functions and other bilateral arrangements as may be agreed to by both Parties under the Articles, which shall be terminable at will by either the United States or Puerto Rico at any time.

(F) Puerto Rico will no longer be a possession of the United States for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code. In general, United States citizens and United States businesses in the nation of Puerto Rico will be subject to United States Federal tax laws, as is the case with any other United States citizen or United States business abroad, and to Puerto Rican tax laws. Puerto Rico's status as an independent, sovereign nation will be the controlling factor in the taxation of Puerto Rican taxpayers. In addition, Puerto Rico will enter into an agreement with the United States to provide for Sovereignty in Free Association between the 2 nations. This agreement may modify the otherwise applicable tax rules, subject to negotiation and ratification by the 2 nations.

(G) The Constitution of the United States no longer applies in Puerto Rico, the laws of the United States no longer apply in Puerto Rico except as otherwise provided in the Articles of Free Association, and United States sovereignty in Puerto Rico is ended.

(H) All matters pertaining to the government-to-government relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, which may include foreign affairs, trade, finance, taxation, currency, economic assistance, security and defense, dispute resolution, and termination, shall be provided for in the Articles of Free Association.

(4) Statehood.—The ballot shall present the status option of statehood as follows:

(A) The State of Puerto Rico is admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States in all respects whatever and is a part of the permanent union of the United States of America, subject to the United States Constitution, with powers not prohibited by the Constitution to the States and reserved to the State of Puerto Rico or to its residents.

(B) The residents of Puerto Rico are fully self-governing with their rights secured under the United States Constitution, which shall be fully applicable in Puerto Rico and which, with the laws and treaties of the United States, is the supreme law and has the same force and effect in Puerto Rico as in the other States of the Union.

(C) United States citizenship of those born in Puerto Rico is recognized, protected, and secured under the United States Constitution in the same way such citizenship is for all United States citizens born in the other States.

(D) Puerto Rico will no longer be a possession of the United States for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code. Instead, the State of Puerto Rico will become a State on equal footing with each of the current 50 States in the United States of America. Individuals and businesses resident in the State of Puerto Rico will be subject to United States Federal tax laws as well as applicable State tax laws.

(5) Runoff ballot language.—A ballot for a runoff plebiscite shall omit the status option eliminated under subsection (b)(6), shall present the 2 remaining status options using the descriptions required under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), as applicable, and shall include instructions requiring each eligible voter to mark 1 status option.

(d) Implementation, results, and jurisdiction.—

(1) Implementation of plebiscites.—The initial plebiscite and any runoff plebiscite required under this section shall be implemented by the Elections Commission, consistent with the laws of Puerto Rico and Federal law.

(2) Results.—The Elections Commission shall inform the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives of—

(A) the results of the initial plebiscite not later than 30 calendar days after the initial plebiscite is held; and

(B) the results of the runoff plebiscite, if held, not later than 30 calendar days after the runoff plebiscite is held.

(3) Public reporting.—The Elections Commission shall publish—

(A) the results of the initial plebiscite in a format that reports first-choice rankings, each elimination, each transfer, exhausted ballots, valid votes cast, and whether any status option received a majority of the valid votes cast; and

(B) if a runoff plebiscite is held, the results of the runoff plebiscite in a format that reports the votes cast for each status option, valid votes cast, and whether a status option received a majority of the valid votes cast.

(4) Jurisdiction of district court.—The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction of any civil action alleging a dispute or controversy pertaining to electoral processes conducted under this section.

(e) Bilingual voter educational materials and ballots.—All voter educational materials and ballots used to carry out this section shall be made available in English and Spanish.

(f) Nonpartisan voter education campaign.—

(1) In general.—The Elections Commission shall carry out a nonpartisan voter education campaign through traditional paid media and social media, and make available at all voting locations voter education materials related to the plebiscites authorized under this section consistent with approval by the Attorney General under subsection (g).

(2) Voter education materials.—At a minimum, the voter education materials shall address for each status option—

- (A) international representation;
- (B) citizenship and immigration;
- (C) access and treatment under Federal law and programs;
- (D) the legal effect of each approved status option under subsections (j), (k), and (l); and
- (E) the ranked choice voting process.

(g) Oversight.—

(1) Submission of materials.—Not later than March 1, 2027, the Elections Commission shall submit the ballot design, ballot instructions, and voter education material for the plebiscites authorized under this section to the Attorney General for review, and the Elections Commission shall make not more than 1 initial submission of the ballot design, ballot instructions, and voter education materials to the Attorney General for review.

(2) Effect of failure to comply.—If the Attorney General fails to comply with paragraph (3) within the 45-day period, the ballot design, ballot instructions, and voter education materials shall be considered approved.

(3) Review.—Not later than 45 days after receiving the ballot design, ballot instructions, and voter education materials under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall review the ballot design and voter education materials to ensure consistency with this section and to ensure that the 3 status options are represented fairly, especially in the event that any of the 3 status options are not represented on the Elections Commission by a member of a political party that supports such option, and shall—

(A) return the materials to the Elections Commission with comments and instructions for changes; or

(B) before the expiration of the 45-day period, inform the Elections Commission that no instructions or requests for changes shall be made under subparagraph (A), but that the Attorney General reserves the right to submit instructions for changes in accordance with this section if additional information comes to the attention of the Attorney General during the remainder of the 45-day period.

(4) Revision.—Not later than 45 days after receiving comments and instructions for changes from the Attorney General under paragraph (3), the Elections Commission shall revise the materials submitted under paragraph (1) as requested by the Attorney General and may resubmit the revised materials to the Attorney General solely to demonstrate compliance with the comments and instructions. A resubmission under this paragraph shall not be treated as an initial submission under paragraph (1).

(5) Election observers.—To ensure transparency and confidence in the electoral process, the Elections Commission shall invite national and international election observers to be present during the initial plebiscite vote and during the runoff plebiscite vote, if held.

(h) Funds for voter education and plebiscites.—

(1) Authorization of appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary for the Elections Commission to carry out a nonpartisan voter education campaign, the initial plebiscite, and, if necessary, the runoff plebiscite under this section.

(2) Existing funds.—Notwithstanding any provision of [Public Law 113–76](#), funds made available under such Act to carry out a plebiscite on Puerto Rico's status shall be made available to carry out this section.

(i) Constitutional convention.—

(1) Election of delegates.—The legislature of Puerto Rico shall provide for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention on July 11, 2027, to propose amendments to, revisions of, or a replacement for the Constitution of Puerto Rico for use under the approved status option.

(2) Eligible voters.—All eligible voters may vote in the election of delegates to the constitutional convention.

(3) General applicability of electoral law.—The laws of Puerto Rico relating to the electoral process shall apply to the election of delegates under this subsection.

(4) Initial meeting.—Not later than 30 days after the election of delegates under paragraph (1), the elected delegates shall meet at such time and place as the legislature of Puerto Rico shall determine.

(5) Character of constitution.—Any constitution, amendment, or revision proposed under this subsection shall be republican in form and shall guarantee the protection of fundamental human rights, including—

(A) due process and equal protection under the law;

(B) freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, and religion;

(C) the civil rights of the accused;

(D) any other economic, social, and cultural civil rights that the constitutional convention deems appropriate and necessary; and

(E) provisions to ensure that no individual born in Puerto Rico shall be stateless at birth.

(6) Submission; ratification.—Any constitution, amendment, or revision proposed under this subsection shall be submitted to eligible voters for ratification or rejection in a special election held in the manner prescribed by the legislature of Puerto Rico.

(7) Majority vote required.—A constitution, amendment, or revision submitted under paragraph (6) shall be deemed ratified if approved by a majority of the valid votes cast on the question.

(8) Effect of failure to ratify.—Failure to ratify a constitution, amendment, or revision under this subsection shall not delay or prevent admission of the State under subsection (l).

(j) Effect of approval of independence.—

(1) Recognition of result.—If independence is the approved status option, Congress recognizes the result as the freely expressed choice of eligible voters for Puerto Rico to become an independent sovereign nation.

(2) Implementation through separate legislation.—Approval of independence under this section shall not itself alter the sovereignty, nationality, citizenship, tax, benefit, defense, property, judicial, or other legal status of Puerto Rico, any person, any property, any claim, any case, any program, or any obligation. Congress shall carry out the approved status option of independence only through separate legislation.

(3) Presidential proposal.—Not later than 180 days after certification of the result under subsection (d), the President shall submit to Congress proposed implementing legislation to carry out the approved status option of independence. Such legislation shall be consistent with the approved description in subsection (c)(2) and include—

(A) consideration of any constitution, amendment, or revision ratified under subsection (i);

(B) a review process for Federal law with respect to Puerto Rico;

(C) the establishment of a Joint Transition Committee to expedite the transition; and

(D) a timeline for withdrawal of United States control of Puerto Rico.

(k) Effect of approval of sovereignty in free association with the United States.—

(1) Recognition of result.—If sovereignty in free association with the United States is the approved status option, Congress recognizes the result as the freely expressed choice of eligible voters for Puerto Rico to become a sovereign nation in free association with the United States.

(2) Implementation through separate legislation.—Approval of sovereignty in free association with the United States under this section shall not itself alter the sovereignty, nationality, citizenship, tax, benefit, defense, property, judicial, or other legal status of Puerto Rico, any person, any property, any claim, any case, any program, or any obligation. Congress shall carry out the approved status option of sovereignty in free association with the United States only through separate legislation.

(3) Presidential negotiations and proposal.—Not later than 180 days after certification of the result under subsection (d), the President shall submit to Congress proposed implementing legislation to carry out the approved status option of sovereignty in free association with the

United States. Such legislation shall be consistent with the approved description in subsection (c)(3) and include—

(A) consideration of any constitution, amendment, or revision ratified under subsection (i);

(B) the establishment of a Bilateral Negotiating Committee to develop Articles of Free Association;

(C) a review process for Federal law with respect to Puerto Rico;

(D) the establishment of a Joint Transition Committee to expedite the transition; and

(E) a timeline for withdrawal of United States control of Puerto Rico.

(I) Effect of approval of statehood.—If statehood is the approved status option, the admission of the State into the Union shall proceed as follows—

(1) Presidential proclamation and admission into the Union.—

(A) Presidential proclamation; date of admission.—Upon receipt of the Elections Commission's certification that statehood is the approved status option, the President shall issue a proclamation declaring that Puerto Rico shall be admitted as a State of the Union on July 1, 2028.

(B) Submission of proclamation.—The President shall cause such proclamation to be submitted to the Governor of Puerto Rico, the legislature of Puerto Rico, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(C) Admission into the Union.—Subject to this section, on July 1, 2028, the territory of Puerto Rico shall be a State of the United States of America and as such admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States in all respects. Upon admission, Puerto Rico shall be known as the State of Puerto Rico.

(D) Incorporation.—Puerto Rico shall remain unincorporated until its admission as a State of the Union under this paragraph.

(2) Conforming amendments to existing law.—

(A) Review.—Not later than 30 days after the certification of a plebiscite result under this section in favor of statehood, the President shall initiate a review of Federal law with respect to Puerto Rico, including those regarding—

(i) taxation of persons and businesses;

(ii) health care;

(iii) housing;

(iv) transportation;

(v) education; and

(vi) entitlement programs.

(B) Recommendations.—Not later than December 15, 2027, the President shall submit any recommendations to Congress for changes to Federal law identified during such review, as the President deems appropriate.

(3) Territory and boundaries.—The State shall consist of all of the islands, together with their appurtenant reefs, seafloor, submerged lands, and territorial waters in the seaward boundary, presently under the jurisdiction of the territory of Puerto Rico.

(4) Constitution.—

(A) Constitution of State.—The Constitution of the State shall always be republican in form and shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

(B) Ratification.—The Constitution of the territory of Puerto Rico, as approved by [Public Law 82–447](#) and subsequently amended as of the date of enactment of this Act, is found to be republican in form and in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and is accepted, ratified, and confirmed as the State Constitution.

(C) State may amend.—Any amendment or revision ratified under subsection (i) shall be deemed accepted, ratified, and confirmed as part of the Constitution of the State if the amendment or revision is republican in form and not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

(5) Elections of Senators and Representatives, certification, and legal disputes.—

(A) Elections of Senators and Representatives.—The first Senators and Representatives from the State shall be elected at the regular election for Federal office held on November 7, 2028. Not later than January 15, 2028, the Governor of Puerto Rico shall issue a declaration that shall designate and announce the dates and other requirements for primary and general elections under applicable Federal and local law for such representation, including primaries to be held on June 4, 2028, and the general election to be held on November 7, 2028.

(B) Resident Commissioner.—The office of Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico shall cease to exist at the conclusion of the 120th Congress.

(C) Senators and Representatives.—

(i) In general.—Upon admission into the Union, the State shall be entitled to Senators and Representatives, except that the first Senators and Representatives elected under this paragraph shall be seated in the 121st Congress and shall be entitled, upon taking office, to all the rights and privileges of Senators and Representatives of the other States in Congress.

(ii) First election of Senators.—In the first election of Senators, the 2 senatorial offices shall be separately identified and designated, and no person may be a candidate for both offices. Nothing in this section shall impair the privilege of the Senate to determine the class and term to which each of the Senators elected shall be assigned, except that the Senators shall not be in the same class.

(iii) First election of Representatives.—

(I) In general.—In the first election of Representatives, and subsequent elections until the next census-based reapportionment, the State shall be entitled to 5 Representatives. Such Representatives shall be a permanent increase in the number of Representatives under [section 2 of title 2](#), United States Code.

(II) Initial congressional districting.—Not later than January 15, 2028, Puerto Rico shall enact a congressional districting plan for election of Representatives. The plan may be enacted or adopted before admission and shall take effect upon admission of the State.

(III) Districting rules.—The congressional districting plan shall—

(aa) comply with any applicable Federal law, except that sections 3 through 5 of title 2, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the plan until the taking effect of the first apportionment under section 2a of such title after the admission of Puerto Rico as a State;

(bb) consist of contiguous, single-member districts that are as nearly equal in population as practicable; and

(cc) preserve political subdivisions and communities of interest to the extent practicable.

(IV) If Puerto Rico fails to enact or adopt a congressional districting plan by January 15, 2028, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall order or adopt a plan not later than March 1, 2028.

(iv) Presidential electors.—For purposes of [chapter 1 of title 3](#), United States Code, the State shall appoint electors for President and Vice President in the 2028 election and each subsequent election in the same manner as each other State.

(D) Certification of results.—The Elections Commission shall certify the results of primary and general elections for representation in the Senate and the House of Representatives to the Governor. Not later than 10 days after the date of each certification, the Governor shall declare the results of the primary and general elections and transmit the results of each election to the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(E) Jurisdiction of district court.—The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction of any civil action alleging a dispute or controversy pertaining to electoral processes conducted under this paragraph.

(6) State title to land and property.—

(A) State title.—The State and its political subdivisions and dependencies shall have and retain title to all property, real and personal, held by the territory of Puerto Rico and its political subdivisions and dependencies on the date of the admission of Puerto Rico into the Union.

(B) Federal title.—Any lands and other properties that, as of the date of admission of Puerto Rico into the Union, are set aside pursuant to law for the use of the United States under any—

(i) Act of Congress;

(ii) Executive order;

(iii) proclamation of the President; or

(iv) proclamation of the Governor of the territory of Puerto Rico;

shall remain the property of the United States.

(C) Continental shelf.—The State shall have the exclusive right to explore, exploit, lease, possess, and use all seabed, natural, and mineral resources lying within 3 marine leagues from its shore, as granted under section 8 of the Act of March 2, 1917 ([48 U.S.C. 749](#); 39 Stat. 954). All other rights of sovereignty with respect to the continental shelf and waters shall belong to the United States, except those already vested in Puerto Rico.

(7) Continuity of laws, government, and obligations.—Upon the admission of the State into the Union:

(A) Continuity of laws.—All of the territorial laws in force in Puerto Rico on the day before the date of admission of the State into the Union not inconsistent with this section or the Constitution of the State shall be and continue in force and effect throughout the State, until amended, modified, or repealed by the State. All of the laws of the United States shall have the same force and effect within the State as in the other several States.

(B) Continuity of government.—The individuals holding legislative, executive, and judicial offices of Puerto Rico shall continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices when Puerto Rico becomes a State of the Union in, under, or by authority of the government of the State, as provided by the constitution and laws of the State.

(C) Continuity of obligations.—All contracts, obligations, liabilities, debts, and claims of the territory of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities at the moment of admission shall continue in full force and effect as the contracts, obligations, liabilities, debts, and claims of the State and its instrumentalities when Puerto Rico becomes a State of the Union.

(D) Use and enjoyment of property.—All laws of the United States reserving to the United States the free use or enjoyment of property which vests in or is conveyed to the State or its political subdivisions pursuant to this section, or reserving the right to alter, amend, or repeal laws relating thereto, shall cease to be effective.

(8) Termination of Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.—Upon the admission of the State into the Union, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and

Economic Stability Act ([48 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.](#)) shall no longer apply to the State, the Financial Oversight and Management Board established under section 101 of that Act ([48 U.S.C. 2121](#)) shall terminate, and any property, records, funds, contracts, rights, duties, or obligations of the Financial Oversight and Management Board shall transfer to the State, except as otherwise provided by Federal law.

(9) Judicial pronouncements.—

(A) Pending.—No writ, action, indictment, cause, or proceeding pending in any court of the territory of Puerto Rico shall abate by reason of the admission of the State into the Union, but shall proceed within such appropriate State courts as shall be established under the Constitution of the State, or shall continue in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, as the nature of the case may require.

(B) Not yet pending.—All civil causes of action and all criminal offenses that shall have arisen or been committed before the admission of the State, but as to which no writ, action, indictment, or proceeding shall be pending at the date of such admission, shall be subject to prosecution in the appropriate State courts or in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico in like manner, to the same extent, and with like right of appellate review, as if such State had been created and such State courts had been established prior to the accrual of such causes of action or the commission of such offenses. The admission of the State shall effect no change in the procedural or substantive laws governing causes of action and criminal offenses which shall have arisen or been committed, and any such criminal offenses as shall have been committed against the laws of the territory of Puerto Rico shall be tried and punished by the appropriate courts of the State, and any such criminal offenses as shall have been committed against the laws of the United States shall be tried and punished in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

(C) Appeals.—Parties shall have the same rights of judicial review of final decisions of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico or the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, in any case finally decided prior to the admission of the State into the Union, whether or not an appeal therefrom shall have been perfected prior to such admission. The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States shall have the same jurisdiction in such cases as by law provided prior to the admission of the State into the Union. Any mandate issued subsequent to the admission of the State shall be to the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico or a court of the State, as appropriate. Parties shall have the same rights of appeal from and appellate review of all orders, judgments, and decrees of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, in any case pending at the time of admission of the State into the Union, and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States shall have the same jurisdiction therein, as by law provided in any case arising subsequent to the admission of the State into the Union.

Subtitle G—Complaints.gov

SEC. 1071. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following: