

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 11 of the United States Code to treat Puerto Rico as a State for purposes of chapter 9 of such title relating to the adjustment of debts of municipalities.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REID, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 11 of the United States Code to treat Puerto Rico as a State for purposes of chapter 9 of such title relating to the adjustment of debts of municipalities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Chapter  
5 9 Uniformity Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.**

7 Section 101(52) of title 11, United States Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

1           “(52) The term ‘State’ includes Puerto Rico  
2           and, except for the purpose of defining who may be  
3           a debtor under chapter 9 of this title, includes the  
4           District of Columbia.”.

5 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.**

6           (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in sub-  
7           section (b), this Act and the amendment made by this Act  
8           shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

9           (b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—The amendment  
10          made by this Act shall apply with respect to—

11           (1) cases commenced under title 11 of the  
12          United States Code on or after the date of the en-  
13          actment of this Act; and

14           (2) debts, claims, and liens created before, on,  
15          or after such date.

16 **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.**

17          If any provision of this Act or any amendment made  
18          by this Act, or the application of such provision or amend-  
19          ment to any person or circumstance, is held to be uncon-  
20          stitutional, the remainder of this Act and the amendments  
21          made by this Act, or the application of that provision or  
22          amendment to other persons or circumstances, shall not  
23          be affected.