

SB-15

To honor our elections by creating a federal holiday on Election Day and to protect millions of currently unrepresented Americans by admitting Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. to the Union as states.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Bertschi of Ohio introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To honor our elections by creating a federal holiday on Election Day and to protect millions of currently unrepresented Americans by admitting Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. to the Union as states.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preserving Democracy Act".

SECTION 2 PROVISIONS FOR CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM.

(1) Upon passage of this bill, the next Tuesday after the first Monday in November in all even-numbered years will henceforth be a federal holiday referred to as "Freedom Day";

(2) "Freedom Day" will have the full status of federal holiday, and will be a paid holiday for all governmental employees.

SECTION 3 WASHINGTON D.C. STATEHOOD.

(1) In acknowledgement of the results in favor of statehood from the 2016 Washington, D.C. statehood Referendum, Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.) is hereby declared to be the 51st state of the United States of America;

(A) In accordance with H.R. 51 of the 117th Congress, the state will be officially known as the "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth (D.C.)" and given an abbreviation of DC;

(B) In concurrence with H.R. 51 of the 117th Congress, the state will consist of all territorial lands and waters currently under the jurisdiction of Washington, D.C. (excluding federal buildings, monuments, and their respective land properties, all of which will be incorporated into a "Capital District" under the authority of the United States Congress);

(C) The state will have the right to create and elect a state legislative body to replace the existing city council;

(D) The new state legislature will have the authority to draft and ratify a state constitution, and must do so within two years of being admitted as a state.

SECTION 4 PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD.

(1) In acknowledgement of the results in favor of statehood from the Puerto Rican Status Referendums of 2017 and 2020, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby declared to be the 52nd state of the United States of America;

(A) The state will be officially known as the "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and given an abbreviation of PR;

(B) The state will consist of all territorial lands and waters currently under the jurisdiction of Puerto Rico;

(C) The state will adopt the existing Puerto Rican Constitution as its state Constitution, unless the state Legislature moves to draft and ratify a new Constitution.

SECTION 5 CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

(1) Upon the admission of the states of Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, the United States government will reapportion the distribution of Representatives of the House among all states while keeping the total number of Representatives at 435;

(2) The states of Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico will each be given two Senators, raising the total number of Senators to 104;

(3) The states of Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico will be given a number of electoral college delegates proportionate to the sum of the number of Senators and Representatives in each state respectively, and the delegates will be able to vote in the 2024 Presidential Election.