

House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BLAND MANLOVE.

2098H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States acquired Puerto Rico by military victory over Spain in
2 the Spanish-American War in 1898 and designated it as a territory; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, citizenship was not granted to the people of Puerto Rico until 1917 under
5 the Jones-Shafroth Act; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, Congress did not allow the formation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
8 with its own governing constitution until 1952; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the people of Puerto Rico are not afforded representation in Congress or
11 the right to vote in presidential elections; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court has repeatedly confirmed that the people
14 of Puerto Rico are subject to federal laws but lack many fundamental constitutional rights
15 afforded to other citizens of the United States and, as described by Tom C.W. Lin in his article
16 *Americans, Almost and Forgotten*, 107 CALIF. L. REV. 1249 (2019), the Court has shown no
17 inclination to overrule its longstanding Insular Cases, that condition constitutional rights in
18 unincorporated territories upon Congressional passage of federal laws; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the doctrines espoused in the Insular Cases are subject to longstanding and
21 widespread legal critique as anachronistic and racist; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria have given rise to great hardship
24 on the island of Puerto Rico in recent years; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the people of Puerto Rico have favored joining the United States as a state
27 instead of remaining as a territory or becoming an independent nation in several referendums,
28 including a referendum in 2020 in which 52.34% of voters favored the admission of Puerto Rico
29 as a state; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States has power, under Section 3, Article IV
32 of the Constitution of the United States, to authorize the admission of existing territories such
33 as Puerto Rico as new states upon the passage of a federal law:

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35 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
36 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
37 concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to authorize the admission of
38 Puerto Rico as the fifty-first state of the United States; and

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40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
41 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for House
42 Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the members of the Missouri
43 Congressional delegation, and the legislatures of each state.

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