



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 28, 2009

**H.R. 2499
Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 22, 2009

H.R. 2499 would allow Puerto Rico to conduct a vote on whether the island should retain its current relationship (a commonwealth) with the United States or pursue a different political status. If the vote favored retaining its current political status, Puerto Rico would be authorized to conduct an additional vote every eight years. If the vote favored a different political status, the legislation would allow Puerto Rico to conduct a second vote among three self-determination options (independence, sovereignty in association with the United States, or statehood). CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget because costs of conducting the votes would be paid by Puerto Rico.

H.R. 2499 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.