

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3966

To provide that provisions of title 46, United States Code, popularly known as the Jones Act and relating to carriage of passenger and merchandise in coastwise trade shall not apply for 5 years with respect to such carriage to and from Puerto Rico.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2017

Mr. PALMER (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. BRAT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide that provisions of title 46, United States Code, popularly known as the Jones Act and relating to carriage of passenger and merchandise in coastwise trade shall not apply for 5 years with respect to such carriage to and from Puerto Rico.

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 Humanitarian Relief Act”.  
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1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION OF PUERTO RICO FROM RESTRICTIONS**  
2 **ON COASTWISE TRADE.**

3 (a) EXEMPTION.—During the 5-year period begin-  
4 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act, provisions  
5 of title 46, United States Code, formerly enacted as provi-  
6 sions of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 and the Merchant  
7 Marine Act, 1920 (popularly known as the Jones Act) and  
8 relating to carriage of passenger and merchandise, respec-  
9 tively, in coastwise trade shall not apply with respect to  
10 such carriage to and from Puerto Rico.

11 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 4 years  
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
13 troller General of the United States shall conduct a study  
14 and submit to Congress a report analyzing the economic  
15 impact of this section on the economy of Puerto Rico, in-  
16 cluding regarding shipping costs, commodity prices, job  
17 creation, and utility and food costs.

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