

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

Examples of Presidential Recess Appointments of territorial Governors and Secretaries in the absence of statutory recess-appointment authority:

- Lewis Cass, Governor of Michigan Territory, 2 Sen. Exec. J. 464 (Jan. 31, 1814); *cf.* 2 Stat. 309 (1805) (Michigan Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- John Chambers, Governor of Iowa Territory, 6 Sen. Exec. J. 361 (Dec. 18, 1844); *cf.* 5 Stat. 235 (1838) (Iowa Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- Henry Dodge, Governor of Wisconsin Territory, 7 Sen. Exec. J. 10 (Dec. 23, 1845); *cf.* 5 Stat. 10 (1836) (Wisconsin Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointments provision).
- James Clarke, Governor of Iowa Territory, 7 Sen. Exec. J. 10 (Dec. 23, 1845).
- Jesse Williams, Secretary of Iowa Territory, 7 Sen. Exec. J. 10 (Dec. 23, 1845).
- John W. Davis, Governor of Oregon Territory, 9 Sen. Exec. J. 229 (Feb. 4, 1854); *cf.* 9 Stat. 323 (1848) (Oregon Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- David Meriwether, Governor of New Mexico Territory, 9 Sen. Exec. J. 230 (Feb. 4, 1854); *cf.* 9 Stat. 446 (1850) (New Mexico

Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).

- Charles H. Mason, Secretary of Washington Territory, 9 Sen. Exec. J. 230 (Feb. 4, 1854); *cf.* 10 Stat. 172 (1853) (Washington Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- Almon W. Babbitt, Secretary of Utah Territory, 9 Sen. Exec. J. 230 (Feb. 4, 1854); *cf.* 9 Stat. 453 (1850) (Utah Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- Wilson Shannon, Governor of Kansas Territory, 10 Sen. Exec. J. 1 (Dec. 7, 1855); *cf.* 10 Stat. 277 (1854) (Kansas Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- Charles L. Chase, Secretary of Minnesota Territory, 10 Sen. Exec. J. 408 (May 11, 1858); *cf.* 9 Stat. 403 (1849) (Minnesota Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- Henry Connelly, Governor of New Mexico Territory, 11 Sen. Exec. J. 376 (July 10, 1861).
- Leander J.S. Turney, Secretary of Washington Territory, 11 Sen. Exec. J. 376 (July 10, 1861).
- A.S. Paddock, Secretary of Nebraska Territory, 11 Sen. Exec. J. 376 (July 10, 1861); *cf.* 10 Stat. 277 (1854) (Nebraska Territory

organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).

- Miguel A. Otero, Secretary of New Mexico Territory, 11 Sen. Exec. J. 376 (July 10, 1861).
- Oscar Whitney, Secretary of Dakota Territory, 19 Sen. Exec. J. 186 (Dec. 15, 1873); *cf.* 12 Stat. 239 (1861) (Dakota Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- George H. Hand, Secretary of Dakota Territory, 19 Sen. Exec. J. 398 (Dec. 10, 1874).
- John P. Hoyt, Governor of Arizona Territory, 21 Sen. Exec. J. 37 (Oct. 17, 1877); *cf.* 12 Stat. 664 (1863) (Arizona Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- John J. Gosper, Secretary of Arizona Territory, 21 Sen. Exec. J. 37 (Oct. 17, 1877).
- Lewis Wallace, Governor of New Mexico Territory, 21 Sen. Exec. J. 386 (Dec. 4, 1878).
- C. Meyer Zulick, Governor of Arizona Territory, 25 Sen. Exec. J. 55 (Dec. 10, 1885).
- Edward A. Stevenson, Governor of Idaho Territory, 25 Sen. Exec. J. 55 (Dec. 10, 1885); *cf.* 12 Stat. 808 (1863) (Idaho Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).

- Edmund G. Ross, Governor of New Mexico Territory, 25 Sen. Exec. J. 55 (Dec. 10, 1885).
- Arthur L. Thomas, Governor of Utah Territory, 27 Sen. Exec. J. 83 (Dec. 9, 1889).
- Elijah Sells, Secretary of Utah Territory, 27 Sen. Exec. J. 83 (Dec. 9, 1889).
- Lyman E. Knapp, Governor of Alaska Territory, 27 Sen. Exec. J. 167 (Dec. 17, 1889); *cf.* 23 Stat. 24 (1884) (Alaska Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- John W. Meldrum, Secretary of Wyoming Territory, 27 Sen. Exec. J. 167 (Dec. 17, 1889); *cf.* 15 Stat. 178 (1868) (Wyoming Territory organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- William H. Hunt, Governor of Puerto Rico, 5 *Permanent and Temporary Presidential Commissions 1789-1962*, at 3 (Aug. 27, 1901), General Records of the Dep't of State, Record Group 59 (RG 59), National Archives College Park; *see* Aurelius Reply at 47, No. 17-bk-3283 (D.P.R.), Doc. 1833 (reproducing recess appointment); *cf.* 31 Stat. 77 (1900) (Puerto Rico organic statute, which lacks a recess-appointment provision).
- Regis H. Post, Governor of Puerto Rico, 5 *Permanent and Temporary Presidential Commissions 1789-1962*, at 202 (Mar. 6, 1907), General Records of the Dep't of State, Record Group 59 (RG 59), National

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Archives College Park; *see* Aurelius Reply
at 49, No. 17-bk-3283 (D.P.R.), Doc. 1833
(reproducing recess appointment).

APPENDIX B

Relevant Constitutional Provisions

U.S. Const. art. I, § 7

“Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States”

U.S. Const. art. II, § 2, cl. 2:

“The President ... shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law....”

U.S. Const. art. II, § 3

“He shall ... commission all the officers of the United States.”

U.S. Const. art. IV, § 3, cl. 2:

“The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States....”

APPENDIX C

Relevant Statutory Provisions

48 U.S.C. § 2105. Placement

The Law Revision Counsel is directed to place this Act as chapter 20 of title 48.

48 U.S.C. § 2121. Financial Oversight and Management Board

(a) Purpose

The purpose of the Oversight Board is to provide a method for a covered territory to achieve fiscal responsibility and access to the capital markets.

(b) Establishment

(1) Puerto Rico

A Financial Oversight and Management Board is hereby established for Puerto Rico.

(2) Constitutional basis

The Congress enacts this chapter pursuant to article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States, which provides Congress the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations for territories.

(c) Treatment

An Oversight Board established under this section—

(1) shall be created as an entity within the territorial government for which it is established in accordance with this subchapter; and

(2) shall not be considered to be a department, agency, establishment, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

(d) Oversight of territorial instrumentalities

(1) Designation

(A) In general

An Oversight Board, in its sole discretion at such time as the Oversight Board determines to be appropriate, may designate any territorial instrumentality as a covered territorial instrumentality that is subject to the requirements of this chapter.

(B) Budgets and reports

The Oversight Board may require, in its sole discretion, the Governor to submit to the Oversight Board such budgets and monthly or quarterly reports regarding a covered territorial instrumentality as the Oversight Board determines to be necessary and may designate any covered territorial instrumentality to be included in the Territory Budget; except that the Oversight Board may not designate a covered territorial instrumentality to be included in the Territory Budget if applicable territory law does not require legislative approval of such covered territorial instrumentality's budget.

(C) Separate Instrumentality Budgets and reports

The Oversight Board in its sole discretion may or, if it requires a budget from a covered territorial instrumentality whose budget does not

require legislative approval under applicable territorial law, shall designate a covered territorial instrumentality to be the subject of an Instrumentality Budget separate from the applicable Territory Budget and require that the Governor develop such an Instrumentality Budget.

(D) Inclusion in Territory Fiscal Plan

The Oversight Board may require, in its sole discretion, the Governor to include a covered territorial instrumentality in the applicable Territory Fiscal Plan. Any covered territorial instrumentality submitting a separate Instrumentality Fiscal Plan must also submit a separate Instrumentality Budget.

(E) Separate Instrumentality Fiscal Plans

The Oversight Board may designate, in its sole discretion, a covered territorial instrumentality to be the subject of an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan separate from the applicable Territory Fiscal Plan and require that the Governor develop such an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan. Any covered territorial instrumentality submitting a separate Instrumentality Fiscal Plan shall also submit a separate Instrumentality Budget.

(2) Exclusion

(A) In general

An Oversight Board, in its sole discretion, at such time as the Oversight Board determines to be appropriate, may exclude any territorial instrumentality from the requirements of this chapter.

(B) Treatment

A territorial instrumentality excluded pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered to be a covered territorial instrumentality.

(e) Membership

(1) In general

(A) The Oversight Board shall consist of seven members appointed by the President who meet the qualifications described in subsection (f) and section 2129(a) of this title.

(B) The Board shall be comprised of one Category A member, one Category B member, two Category C members, one Category D member, one Category E member, and one Category F member.

(2) Appointed members

(A) The President shall appoint the individual members of the Oversight Board, of which—

(i) the Category A member should be selected from a list of individuals submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(ii) the Category B member should be selected from a separate, non-overlapping list of individuals submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(iii) the Category C members should be selected from a list submitted by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(iv) the Category D member should be selected from a list submitted by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Category E member should be selected from a list submitted by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and (vi) the Category F member may be selected in the President's sole discretion.

(B) After the President's selection of the Category F Board member, for purposes of subparagraph (A) and within a timely manner—

(i) the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall submit two non-overlapping lists of at least three individuals to the President; one list shall include three individuals who maintain a primary residence in the territory or have a primary place of business in the territory;

(ii) the Senate Majority Leader shall submit a list of at least four individuals to the President;

(iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall submit a list of at least three individuals to the President; and (iv) the Minority Leader of the Senate shall submit a list of at least three individuals to the President.

(C) If the President does not select any of the names submitted under subparagraphs (A) and (B), then whoever submitted such list may supplement the lists provided in this subsection with additional names.

(D) The Category A member shall maintain a primary residence in the territory or have a primary place of business in the territory.

(E) With respect to the appointment of a Board member in Category A, B, C, D, or E, such an ap-

pointment shall be by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, unless the President appoints an individual from a list, as provided in this subsection, in which case no Senate confirmation is required.

(F) In the event of a vacancy of a Category A, B, C, D, or E Board seat, the corresponding congressional leader referenced in subparagraph (A) shall submit a list pursuant to this subsection within a timely manner of the Board member's resignation or removal becoming effective.

(G) With respect to an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico, in the event any of the 7 members have not been appointed by September 1, 2016, then the President shall appoint an individual from the list for the current vacant category by September 15, 2016, provided that such list includes at least 2 individuals per vacancy who meet the requirements set forth in subsection (f) and section 2129 of this title, and are willing to serve.

(3) Ex officio member

The Governor, or the Governor's designee, shall be an ex officio member of the Oversight Board without voting rights.

(4) Chair

The voting members of the Oversight Board shall designate one of the voting members of the Oversight Board as the Chair of the Oversight Board (referred to hereafter in this chapter as the "Chair") within 30 days of the full appointment of the Oversight Board.

(5) Term of service

(A) In general

Each appointed member of the Oversight Board shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(B) Removal

The President may remove any member of the Oversight Board only for cause.

(C) Continuation of service until successor appointed

Upon the expiration of a term of office, a member of the Oversight Board may continue to serve until a successor has been appointed.

(D) Reappointment

An individual may serve consecutive terms as an appointed member, provided that such reappointment occurs in compliance with paragraph (6).

(6) Vacancies

A vacancy on the Oversight Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original member was appointed.

(f) Eligibility for appointments

An individual is eligible for appointment as a member of the Oversight Board only if the individual—

- (1) has knowledge and expertise in finance, municipal bond markets, management, law, or the organization or operation of business or government; and

(2) prior to appointment, an individual is not an officer, elected official, or employee of the territorial government, a candidate for elected office of the territorial government, or a former elected official of the territorial government.

(g) No compensation for service

Members of the Oversight Board shall serve without pay, but may receive reimbursement from the Oversight Board for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by reason of service on the Oversight Board.

(h) Adoption of bylaws for conducting business of Oversight Board

(1) In general

As soon as practicable after the appointment of all members and appointment of the Chair, the Oversight Board shall adopt bylaws, rules, and procedures governing its activities under this chapter, including procedures for hiring experts and consultants. Such bylaws, rules, and procedures shall be public documents, and shall be submitted by the Oversight Board upon adoption to the Governor, the Legislature, the President, and Congress. The Oversight Board may hire professionals as it determines to be necessary to carry out this chapter.

(2) Activities requiring approval of majority of members

Under the bylaws adopted pursuant to paragraph (1), the Oversight Board may conduct its operations under such procedures as it considers appropriate, except that an affirmative vote of a major-

ity of the members of the Oversight Board's full appointed membership shall be required in order for the Oversight Board to approve a Fiscal Plan under section 2141 of this title, to approve a Budget under section 2142 of this title, to cause a legislative act not to be enforced under section 2144 of this title, or to approve or disapprove an infrastructure project as a Critical Project under section 2213 of this title.

(3) Adoption of rules and regulations of territorial government

The Oversight Board may incorporate in its by-laws, rules, and procedures under this subsection such rules and regulations of the territorial government as it considers appropriate to enable it to carry out its activities under this chapter with the greatest degree of independence practicable.

(4) Executive session

Upon a majority vote of the Oversight Board's full voting membership, the Oversight Board may conduct its business in an executive session that consists solely of the Oversight Board's voting members and any professionals the Oversight Board determines necessary and is closed to the public, but only for the business items set forth as part of the vote to convene an executive session.

48 U.S.C. § 2122. Location of Oversight Board

The Oversight Board shall have an office in the covered territory and additional offices as it deems necessary. At any time, any department or agency of the United States may provide the Oversight Board use of Federal facilities and equipment on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis and subject

to such terms and conditions as the head of that department or agency may establish.

48 U.S.C. § 2123. Executive Director and staff of Oversight Board

(a) Executive Director

The Oversight Board shall have an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Chair with the consent of the Oversight Board. The Executive Director shall be paid at a rate determined by the Oversight Board.

(b) Staff

With the approval of the Chair, the Executive Director may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel as the Executive Director considers appropriate, except that no individual appointed by the Executive Director may be paid at a rate greater than the rate of pay for the Executive Director unless the Oversight Board provides for otherwise. The staff shall include a Revitalization Coordinator appointed pursuant to subchapter V of this chapter. Any such personnel may include private citizens, employees of the Federal Government, or employees of the territorial government, provided, however, that the Executive Director may not fix the pay of employees of the Federal Government or the territorial government.

(c) Inapplicability of certain employment and procurement laws

The Executive Director and staff of the Oversight Board may be appointed and paid without regard to any provision of the laws of the covered ter-

ritory or the Federal Government governing appointments and salaries. Any provision of the laws of the covered territory governing procurement shall not apply to the Oversight Board.

(d) Staff of Federal agencies

Upon request of the Chair, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, and in accordance with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (5 U.S.C. 3371–3375), any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Oversight Board to assist it in carrying out its duties under this chapter.

(e) Staff of territorial government

Upon request of the Chair, the head of any department or agency of the covered territory may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Oversight Board to assist it in carrying out its duties under this chapter.

48 U.S.C. § 2124. Powers of Oversight Board

(a) Hearings and sessions

The Oversight Board may, for the purpose of carrying out this chapter, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Oversight Board considers appropriate. The Oversight Board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

(b) Powers of members and agents

Any member or agent of the Oversight Board may, if authorized by the Oversight Board, take any action that the Oversight Board is authorized to take by this section.

(c) Obtaining official data**(1) From Federal government**

Notwithstanding sections 552 (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), 552a (commonly known as the Privacy Act of 1974), and 552b (commonly known as the Government in the Sunshine Act) of title 5, the Oversight Board may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this chapter, with the approval of the head of that department or agency.

(2) From territorial government

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Oversight Board shall have the right to secure copies, whether written or electronic, of such records, documents, information, data, or metadata from the territorial government necessary to enable the Oversight Board to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter. At the request of the Oversight Board, the Oversight Board shall be granted direct access to such information systems, records, documents, information, or data as will enable the Oversight Board to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter. The head of the entity of the territorial government responsible shall provide the Oversight Board with such information and assistance (including granting the Oversight Board direct access to automated or

other information systems) as the Oversight Board requires under this paragraph.

(d) Obtaining creditor information

(1) Upon request of the Oversight Board, each creditor or organized group of creditors of a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality seeking to participate in voluntary negotiations shall provide to the Oversight Board, and the Oversight Board shall make publicly available to any other participant, a statement setting forth—

(A) the name and address of the creditor or of each member of an organized group of creditors; and

(B) the nature and aggregate amount of claims or other economic interests held in relation to the issuer as of the later of—

(i) the date the creditor acquired the claims or other economic interests or, in the case of an organized group of creditors, the date the group was formed; or

(ii) the date the Oversight Board was formed.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, an organized group shall mean multiple creditors that are—

(A) acting in concert to advance their common interests, including, but not limited to, retaining legal counsel to represent such multiple entities; and

(B) not composed entirely of affiliates or insiders of one another.

(3) The Oversight Board may request supplemental statements to be filed by each creditor or organized group of creditors quarterly, or if any fact in the most recently filed statement has changed materially.

(e) Gifts, bequests, and devises

The Oversight Board may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Oversight Board. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be deposited in such account as the Oversight Board may establish and shall be available for disbursement upon order of the Chair, consistent with the Oversight Board's bylaws, or rules and procedures. All gifts, bequests or devises and the identities of the donors shall be publicly disclosed by the Oversight Board within 30 days of receipt.

(f) Subpoena power

(1) In general

The Oversight Board may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, electronic files, metadata, tapes, and materials of any nature relating to any matter under investigation by the Oversight Board. Jurisdiction to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of such materials shall be governed by the statute setting forth the scope of personal jurisdiction exercised by

the covered territory, or in the case of Puerto Rico, 32 L.P.R.A. App. III. R. 4. 7., as amended.

(2) Failure to obey a subpoena

If a person refuses to obey a subpoena issued under paragraph (1), the Oversight Board may apply to the court of first instance of the covered territory. Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court in accordance with civil contempt laws of the covered territory.

(3) Service of subpoenas

The subpoena of the Oversight Board shall be served in the manner provided by the rules of procedure for the courts of the covered territory, or in the case of Puerto Rico, the Rules of Civil Procedure of Puerto Rico, for subpoenas issued by the court of first instance of the covered territory.

(g) Authority to enter into contracts

The Executive Director may enter into such contracts as the Executive Director considers appropriate (subject to the approval of the Chair) consistent with the Oversight Board's bylaws, rules, and regulations to carry out the Oversight Board's responsibilities under this chapter.

(h) Authority to enforce certain laws of the covered territory

The Oversight Board shall ensure the purposes of this chapter are met, including by ensuring the prompt enforcement of any applicable laws of the covered territory prohibiting public sector employees from participating in a strike or lockout. In the application of this subsection, with respect to

Puerto Rico, the term “applicable laws” refers to 3 L.P.R.A. 1451q and 3 L.P.R.A. 1451r, as amended.

(i) Voluntary agreement certification

(1) In general

The Oversight Board shall issue a certification to a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality if the Oversight Board determines, in its sole discretion, that such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, has successfully reached a voluntary agreement with holders of its Bond Claims to restructure such Bond Claims—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (C), if an applicable Fiscal Plan has been certified, in a manner that provides for a sustainable level of debt for such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, and is in conformance with the applicable certified Fiscal Plan;

(B) except as provided in subparagraph (C), if an applicable Fiscal Plan has not yet been certified, in a manner that provides, in the Oversight Board’s sole discretion, for a sustainable level of debt for such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality;
or

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), if an applicable Fiscal Plan has not yet been certified and the voluntary agreement is limited solely to an extension of applicable principal maturities and interest on Bonds issued by such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable,

for a period of up to one year during which time no interest will be paid on the Bond Claims affected by the voluntary agreement.

(2) Effectiveness

The effectiveness of any voluntary agreement referred to in paragraph (1) shall be conditioned on—

(A) the Oversight Board delivering the certification described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the agreement of a majority in amount of the Bond Claims of a covered territory or a covered territorial instrumentality that are to be affected by such agreement, provided, however, that such agreement is solely for purposes of serving as a Qualifying Modification pursuant to subsection ¹ 2231(g) of this title and shall not alter existing legal rights of holders of Bond Claims against such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality that have not assented to such agreement until an order approving the Qualifying Modification has been entered pursuant to section 2231(m)(1)(D) of this title.

(3) Preexisting voluntary agreements

Any voluntary agreement that the territorial government or any territorial instrumentality has executed before May 18, 2016, with holders of a majority in amount of Bond Claims that are to be affected by such agreement to restructure such Bond Claims shall be deemed to be in conformance with the requirements of this subsection.

(j) Restructuring filings

(1) In general

Subject to paragraph (3), before taking an action described in paragraph (2) on behalf of a debtor or potential debtor in a case under subchapter III, the Oversight Board must certify the action.

(2) Actions described

The actions referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) the filing of a petition; or

(B) the submission or modification of a plan of adjustment.

(3) Condition for plans of adjustment

The Oversight Board may certify a plan of adjustment only if it determines, in its sole discretion, that it is consistent with the applicable certified Fiscal Plan.

(k) Civil actions to enforce powers

The Oversight Board may seek judicial enforcement of its authority to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.

(l) Penalties

(1) Acts prohibited

Any officer or employee of the territorial government who prepares, presents, or certifies any information or report for the Oversight Board or any of its agents that is intentionally false or misleading, or, upon learning that any such information is false or misleading, fails to

immediately advise the Oversight Board or its agents thereof in writing, shall be subject to prosecution and penalties under any laws of the territory prohibiting the provision of false information to government officials, which in the case of Puerto Rico shall include 33 L.P.R.A. 4889, as amended.

(2) Administrative discipline

In addition to any other applicable penalty, any officer or employee of the territorial government who knowingly and willfully violates paragraph (1) or takes any such action in violation of any valid order of the Oversight Board or fails or refuses to take any action required by any such order, shall be subject to appropriate administrative discipline, including (when appropriate) suspension from duty without pay or removal from office, by order of the Governor.

(3) Report by Governor on disciplinary actions taken

In the case of a violation of paragraph (2) by an officer or employee of the territorial government, the Governor shall immediately report to the Oversight Board all pertinent facts together with a statement of the action taken thereon.

(m) Electronic reporting

The Oversight Board may, in consultation with the Governor, ensure the prompt and efficient payment and administration of taxes through the adoption of electronic reporting, payment and auditing technologies.

(n) Administrative support services

Upon the request of the Oversight Board, the Administrator of General Services or other appropriate Federal agencies shall promptly provide to the Oversight Board, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Oversight Board to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.

(o) Investigation of disclosure and selling practices

The Oversight Board may investigate the disclosure and selling practices in connection with the purchase of bonds issued by a covered territory for or on behalf of any retail investors including any underrepresentation of risk for such investors and any relationships or conflicts of interest maintained by such broker, dealer, or investment adviser as provided in applicable laws and regulations.

(p) Findings of any investigation

The Oversight Board shall make public the findings of any investigation referenced in subsection (o).

48 U.S.C. § 2125. Exemption from liability for claims

The Oversight Board, its members, and its employees shall not be liable for any obligation of or claim against the Oversight Board or its members or employees or the territorial government resulting from actions taken to carry out this chapter.

48 U.S.C. § 2126. Treatment of actions arising from chapter**(a) Jurisdiction**

Except as provided in section 2124(f)(2) of this title (relating to the issuance of an order enforcing a subpoena), and subchapter III (relating to adjustments of debts), any action against the Oversight Board, and any action otherwise arising out of this chapter, in whole or in part, shall be brought in a United States district court for the covered territory or, for any covered territory that does not have a district court, in the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

(b) Appeal

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any order of a United States district court that is issued pursuant to an action brought under subsection (a) shall be subject to review only pursuant to a notice of appeal to the applicable United States Court of Appeals.

(c) Timing of relief

Except with respect to any orders entered to remedy constitutional violations, no order of any court granting declaratory or injunctive relief against the Oversight Board, including relief permitting or requiring the obligation, borrowing, or expenditure of funds, shall take effect during the pendency of the action before such court, during the time appeal may be taken, or (if appeal is taken) during the period before the court has entered its final order disposing of such action.

(d) Expedited consideration

It shall be the duty of the applicable United States District Court, the applicable United States Court of Appeals, and, as applicable, the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of any matter brought under this chapter.

(e) Review of Oversight Board certifications

There shall be no jurisdiction in any United States district court to review challenges to the Oversight Board's certification determinations under this chapter.

48 U.S.C. § 2127. Budget and funding for operation of Oversight Board**(a) Submission of budget**

The Oversight Board shall submit a budget for each fiscal year during which the Oversight Board is in operation, to the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor, and the Legislature.

(b) Funding

The Oversight Board shall use its powers with respect to the Territory Budget of the covered territory to ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover all expenses of the Oversight Board.

(1) Permanent funding

Within 30 days after June 30, 2016, the territorial government shall designate a dedicated fund-

ing source, not subject to subsequent legislative appropriations, sufficient to support the annual expenses of the Oversight Board as determined in the Oversight Board's sole and exclusive discretion.

(2)(A) Initial funding

On the date of establishment of an Oversight Board in accordance with section 2121(b) of this title and on the 5th day of each month thereafter, the Governor of the covered territory shall transfer or cause to be transferred the greater of \$2,000,000 or such amount as shall be determined by the Oversight Board pursuant to subsection (a) to a new account established by the territorial government, which shall be available to and subject to the exclusive control of the Oversight Board, without any legislative appropriations of the territorial government.

(B) Termination

The initial funding requirements under subparagraph (A) shall terminate upon the territorial government designating a dedicated funding source not subject to subsequent legislative appropriations under paragraph (1).

(3) Remission of excess funds

If the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion that any funds transferred under this subsection exceed the amounts required for the Oversight Board's operations as established pursuant to subsection (a), any such excess funds shall be periodically remitted to the territorial government.

48 U.S.C. § 2128. Autonomy of Oversight Board

(a) In general

Neither the Governor nor the Legislature may—

(1) exercise any control, supervision, oversight, or review over the Oversight Board or its activities; or

(2) enact, implement, or enforce any statute, resolution, policy, or rule that would impair or defeat the purposes of this chapter, as determined by the Oversight Board.

(b) Oversight Board legal representation

In any action brought by, on behalf of, or against the Oversight Board, the Oversight Board shall be represented by such counsel as it may hire or retain so long as the representation complies with the applicable professional rules of conduct governing conflicts of interests.

48 U.S.C. § 2129. Ethics

(a) Conflict of interest

Notwithstanding any ethics provision governing employees of the covered territory, all members and staff of the Oversight Board shall be subject to the Federal conflict of interest requirements described in section 208 of title 18.

(b) Financial disclosure

Notwithstanding any ethics provision governing employees of the covered territory, all members of the Oversight Board and staff designated by the Oversight Board shall be subject to disclosure of their financial interests, the contents of which shall

conform to the same requirements set forth in section 102 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

48 U.S.C. § 2141. Approval of Fiscal Plans

(a) In general

As soon as practicable after all of the members and the Chair have been appointed to the Oversight Board in accordance with section 2121(e) of this title in the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, and in each fiscal year thereafter during which the Oversight Board is in operation, the Oversight Board shall deliver a notice to the Governor providing a schedule for the process of development, submission, approval, and certification of Fiscal Plans. The notice may also set forth a schedule for revisions to any Fiscal Plan that has already been certified, which revisions must be subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Oversight Board. The Oversight Board shall consult with the Governor in establishing a schedule, but the Oversight Board shall retain sole discretion to set or, by delivery of a subsequent notice to the Governor, change the dates of such schedule as it deems appropriate and reasonably feasible.

(b) Requirements

(1) In general

A Fiscal Plan developed under this section shall, with respect to the territorial government or covered territorial instrumentality, provide a method to achieve fiscal responsibility and access to the capital markets, and—

(A) provide for estimates of revenues and expenditures in conformance with agreed accounting standards and be based on—

(i) applicable laws; or

(ii) specific bills that require enactment in order to reasonably achieve the projections of the Fiscal Plan;

(B) ensure the funding of essential public services;

(C) provide adequate funding for public pension systems;

(D) provide for the elimination of structural deficits;

(E) for fiscal years covered by a Fiscal Plan in which a stay under subchapters III or IV is not effective, provide for a debt burden that is sustainable;

(F) improve fiscal governance, accountability, and internal controls;

(G) enable the achievement of fiscal targets;

(H) create independent forecasts of revenue for the period covered by the Fiscal Plan;

(I) include a debt sustainability analysis;

(J) provide for capital expenditures and investments necessary to promote economic growth;

(K) adopt appropriate recommendations submitted by the Oversight Board under section 2145(a) of this title;

(L) include such additional information as the Oversight Board deems necessary;

(M) ensure that assets, funds, or resources of a territorial instrumentality are not loaned to, transferred to, or otherwise used for the benefit of a covered territory or another covered territorial instrumentality of a covered territory, unless permitted by the constitution of the territory, an approved plan of adjustment under subchapter III, or a Qualifying Modification approved under subchapter VI; and

(N) respect the relative lawful priorities or lawful liens, as may be applicable, in the constitution, other laws, or agreements of a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality in effect prior to June 30, 2016.

(2) Term

A Fiscal Plan developed under this section shall cover a period of fiscal years as determined by the Oversight Board in its sole discretion but in any case a period of not less than 5 fiscal years from the fiscal year in which it is certified by the Oversight Board.

(c) Development, review, approval, and certification of Fiscal Plans

(1) Timing requirement

The Governor may not submit to the Legislature a Territory Budget under section 2142 of this title for a fiscal year unless the Oversight Board has certified the Territory Fiscal Plan for that fiscal year

in accordance with this subsection, unless the Oversight Board in its sole discretion waives this requirement.

(2) Fiscal Plan developed by Governor

The Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board any proposed Fiscal Plan required by the Oversight Board by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a).

(3) Review by the Oversight Board

The Oversight Board shall review any proposed Fiscal Plan to determine whether it satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (b) and, if the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion that the proposed Fiscal Plan—

(A) satisfies such requirements, the Oversight Board shall approve the proposed Fiscal Plan; or

(B) does not satisfy such requirements, the Oversight Board shall provide to the Governor—

(i) a notice of violation that includes recommendations for revisions to the applicable Fiscal Plan; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct the violation in accordance with subsection (d)(1).

(d) Revised Fiscal Plan

(1) In general

If the Governor receives a notice of violation under subsection (c)(3), the Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board a revised proposed Fiscal Plan

in accordance with subsection (b) by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). The Governor may submit as many revised Fiscal Plans to the Oversight Board as the schedule established in the notice delivered under subsection (a) permits.

(2) Development by Oversight Board

If the Governor fails to submit to the Oversight Board a Fiscal Plan that the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (b) by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall develop and submit to the Governor and the Legislature a Fiscal Plan that satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (b).

(e) Approval and certification

(1) Approval of Fiscal Plan developed by Governor

If the Oversight Board approves a Fiscal Plan under subsection (c)(3), it shall deliver a compliance certification for such Fiscal Plan to the Governor and the Legislature.

(2) Deemed approval of Fiscal Plan developed by Oversight Board

If the Oversight Board develops a Fiscal Plan under subsection (d)(2), such Fiscal Plan shall be deemed approved by the Governor, and the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification for such Fiscal Plan to the Governor and the Legislature.

(f) Joint development of Fiscal Plan

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the Governor and the Oversight Board jointly develop a Fiscal Plan for the fiscal year that meets the requirements under this section, and that the Governor and the Oversight Board certify that the fiscal plan reflects a consensus between the Governor and the Oversight Board, then such Fiscal Plan shall serve as the Fiscal Plan for the territory or territorial instrumentality for that fiscal year.

48 U.S.C. § 2142. Approval of Budgets**(a) Reasonable schedule for development of Budgets**

As soon as practicable after all of the members and the Chair have been appointed to the Oversight Board in the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, and in each fiscal year thereafter during which the Oversight Board is in operation, the Oversight Board shall deliver a notice to the Governor and the Legislature providing a schedule for developing, submitting, approving, and certifying Budgets for a period of fiscal years as determined by the Oversight Board in its sole discretion but in any case a period of not less than one fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the notice is delivered. The notice may also set forth a schedule for revisions to Budgets that have already been certified, which revisions must be subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Oversight Board. The Oversight Board shall consult with the Governor and the Legislature in establishing a schedule, but the Oversight Board shall retain

sole discretion to set or, by delivery of a subsequent notice to the Governor and the Legislature, change the dates of such schedule as it deems appropriate and reasonably feasible.

(b) Revenue forecast

The Oversight Board shall submit to the Governor and Legislature a forecast of revenues for the period covered by the Budgets by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), for use by the Governor in developing the Budget under subsection (c).

(c) Budgets developed by Governor

(1) Governor's proposed budgets

The Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board proposed Budgets by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). In consultation with the Governor in accordance with the process specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall determine in its sole discretion whether each proposed Budget is compliant with the applicable Fiscal Plan and—

(A) if a proposed Budget is a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall—

(i) approve the Budget; and

(ii) if the Budget is a Territory Budget, submit the Territory Budget to the Legislature; or

(B) if the Oversight Board determines that the Budget is not a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall provide to the Governor—

(i) a notice of violation that includes a description of any necessary corrective action; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct the violation in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) Governor's revisions

The Governor may correct any violations identified by the Oversight Board and submit a revised proposed Budget to the Oversight Board in accordance with paragraph (1). The Governor may submit as many revised Budgets to the Oversight Board as the schedule established in the notice delivered under subsection (a) permits. If the Governor fails to develop a Budget that the Oversight Board determines is a compliant budget by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall develop and submit to the Governor, in the case of an Instrumentality Budget, and to the Governor and the Legislature, in the case of a Territory Budget, a revised compliant budget.

(d) Budget approval by Legislature

(1) Legislature adopted budget

The Legislature shall submit to the Oversight Board the Territory Budget adopted by the Legislature by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). The Oversight Board shall determine whether the adopted Territory Budget is a compliant budget and—

(A) if the adopted Territory Budget is a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification for such compliant budget pursuant to subsection (e); and

(B) if the adopted Territory Budget is not a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall provide to the Legislature—

(i) a notice of violation that includes a description of any necessary corrective action; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct the violation in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) Legislature’s revisions

The Legislature may correct any violations identified by the Oversight Board and submit a revised Territory Budget to the Oversight Board in accordance with the process established under paragraph (1) and by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). The Legislature may submit as many revised adopted Territory Budgets to the Oversight Board as the schedule established in the notice delivered under subsection (a) permits. If the Legislature fails to adopt a Territory Budget that the Oversight Board determines is a compliant budget by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall develop a revised Territory Budget that is a compliant budget and submit it to the Governor and the Legislature.

(e) Certification of Budgets

(1) Certification of developed and approved Territory Budgets

If the Governor and the Legislature develop and approve a Territory Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Territory Budget is being developed and in accordance with the process established

under subsections (c) and (d), the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification to the Governor and the Legislature for such Territory Budget.

(2) Certification of developed Instrumentality Budgets

If the Governor develops an Instrumentality Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Instrumentality Budget is being developed and in accordance with the process established under subsection (c), the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification to the Governor for such Instrumentality Budget.

(3) Deemed certification of Territory Budgets

If the Governor and the Legislature fail to develop and approve a Territory Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Territory Budget is being developed, the Oversight Board shall submit a Budget to the Governor and the Legislature (including any revision to the Territory Budget made by the Oversight Board pursuant to subsection (d)(2)) and such Budget shall be—

(A) deemed to be approved by the Governor and the Legislature;

(B) the subject of a compliance certification issued by the Oversight Board to the Governor and the Legislature; and

(C) in full force and effect beginning on the first day of the applicable fiscal year.

(4) Deemed certification of Instrumentality Budgets

If the Governor fails to develop an Instrumentality Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Instrumentality Budget is being developed, the Oversight Board shall submit an Instrumentality Budget to the Governor (including any revision to the Instrumentality Budget made by the Oversight Board pursuant to subsection (c)(2)) and such Budget shall be—

(A) deemed to be approved by the Governor;

(B) the subject of a compliance certification issued by the Oversight Board to the Governor; and

(C) in full force and effect beginning on the first day of the applicable fiscal year.

(f) Joint development of Budgets

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if, in the case of a Territory Budget, the Governor, the Legislature, and the Oversight Board, or in the case of an Instrumentality Budget, the Governor and the Oversight Board, jointly develop such Budget for the fiscal year that meets the requirements under this section, and that the relevant parties certify that such budget reflects a consensus among them, then such Budget shall serve as the Budget for the territory or territorial instrumentality for that fiscal year.

48 U.S.C. § 2143. Effect of finding of noncompliance with Budget**(a) Submission of reports**

Not later than 15 days after the last day of each quarter of a fiscal year (beginning with the fiscal year determined by the Oversight Board), the Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board a report, in such form as the Oversight Board may require, describing—

(1) the actual cash revenues, cash expenditures, and cash flows of the territorial government for the preceding quarter, as compared to the projected revenues, expenditures, and cash flows contained in the certified Budget for such preceding quarter; and

(2) any other information requested by the Oversight Board, which may include a balance sheet or a requirement that the Governor provide information for each covered territorial instrumentality separately.

(b) Initial action by Oversight Board**(1) In general**

If the Oversight Board determines, based on reports submitted by the Governor under subsection (a), independent audits, or such other information as the Oversight Board may obtain, that the actual quarterly revenues, expenditures, or cash flows of the territorial government are not consistent with the projected revenues, expenditures, or cash flows set forth in the certified Budget for such quarter, the Oversight Board shall—

(A) require the territorial government to provide such additional information as the Oversight Board determines to be necessary to explain the inconsistency; and

(B) if the additional information provided under subparagraph (A) does not provide an explanation for the inconsistency that the Oversight Board finds reasonable and appropriate, advise the territorial government to correct the inconsistency by implementing remedial action.

(2) Deadlines

The Oversight Board shall establish the deadlines by which the territorial government shall meet the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

(c) Certification

(1) Inconsistency

If the territorial government fails to provide additional information under subsection (b)(1)(A), or fails to correct an inconsistency under subsection (b)(1)(B), prior to the applicable deadline under subsection (b)(2), the Oversight Board shall certify to the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor, and the Legislature that the territorial government is inconsistent with the applicable certified Budget, and shall describe the nature and amount of the inconsistency.

(2) Correction

If the Oversight Board determines that the territorial government has initiated such measures as

the Oversight Board considers sufficient to correct an inconsistency certified under paragraph (1), the Oversight Board shall certify the correction to the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor, and the Legislature.

(d) Budget reductions by Oversight Board

If the Oversight Board determines that the Governor, in the case of any then-applicable certified Instrumentality Budgets, and the Governor and the Legislature, in the case of the then-applicable certified Territory Budget, have failed to correct an inconsistency identified by the Oversight Board under subsection (c), the Oversight Board shall—

(1) with respect to the territorial government, other than covered territorial instrumentalities, make appropriate reductions in nondebt expenditures to ensure that the actual quarterly revenues and expenditures for the territorial government are in compliance with the applicable certified Territory Budget or, in the case of the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, the budget adopted by the Governor and the Legislature; and

(2) with respect to covered territorial instrumentalities at the sole discretion of the Oversight Board—

(A) make reductions in nondebt expenditures to ensure that the actual quarterly revenues and expenses for the covered territorial instrumentality are in compliance with the applicable certified Budget or, in the case of the fiscal year in

which the Oversight Board is established, the budget adopted by the Governor and the Legislature or the covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable; or

(B)(i) institute automatic hiring freezes at the covered territorial instrumentality; and (ii) prohibit the covered territorial instrumentality from entering into any contract or engaging in any financial or other transactions, unless the contract or transaction was previously approved by the Oversight Board.

(e) Termination of Budget reductions

The Oversight Board shall cancel the reductions, hiring freezes, or prohibition on contracts and financial transactions under subsection (d) if the Oversight Board determines that the territorial government or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, has initiated appropriate measures to reduce expenditures or increase revenues to ensure that the territorial government or covered territorial instrumentality is in compliance with the applicable certified Budget or, in the case of the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, the budget adopted by the Governor and the Legislature.

48 U.S.C. § 2144. Review of activities to ensure compliance with Fiscal Plan

(a) Submission of legislative acts to Oversight Board

(1) Submission of acts

Except to the extent that the Oversight Board may provide otherwise in its bylaws, rules, and procedures, not later than 7 business days after a territorial government duly enacts any law during any fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is in operation, the Governor shall submit the law to the Oversight Board.

(2) Cost estimate; certification of compliance or noncompliance

The Governor shall include with each law submitted to the Oversight Board under paragraph (1) the following:

(A) A formal estimate prepared by an appropriate entity of the territorial government with expertise in budgets and financial management of the impact, if any, that the law will have on expenditures and revenues.

(B) If the appropriate entity described in subparagraph (A) finds that the law is not significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan for the fiscal year, it shall issue a certification of such finding.

(C) If the appropriate entity described in subparagraph (A) finds that the law is significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan for the fiscal year, it shall issue a certification of such finding, together with the entity's reasons for such finding.

(3) Notification

The Oversight Board shall send a notification to the Governor and the Legislature if—

(A) the Governor submits a law to the Oversight Board under this subsection that is not accompanied by the estimate required under paragraph (2)(A);

(B) the Governor submits a law to the Oversight Board under this subsection that is not accompanied by either a certification described in paragraph (2)(B) or (2)(C); or

(C) the Governor submits a law to the Oversight Board under this subsection that is accompanied by a certification described in paragraph (2)(C) that the law is significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan.

(4) Opportunity to respond to notification**(A) Failure to provide estimate or certification**

After sending a notification to the Governor and the Legislature under paragraph (3)(A) or (3)(B) with respect to a law, the Oversight Board may direct the Governor to provide the missing estimate or certification (as the case may be), in accordance with such procedures as the Oversight Board may establish.

(B) Submission of certification of significant inconsistency with Fiscal Plan and Budget

In accordance with such procedures as the Oversight Board may establish, after sending a notification to the Governor and Legislature under paragraph (3)(C) that a law is significantly inconsistent

with the Fiscal Plan, the Oversight Board shall direct the territorial government to—

(i) correct the law to eliminate the inconsistency; or

(ii) provide an explanation for the inconsistency that the Oversight Board finds reasonable and appropriate.

(5) Failure to comply

If the territorial government fails to comply with a direction given by the Oversight Board under paragraph (4) with respect to a law, the Oversight Board may take such actions as it considers necessary, consistent with this chapter, to ensure that the enactment or enforcement of the law will not adversely affect the territorial government's compliance with the Fiscal Plan, including preventing the enforcement or application of the law.

(6) Preliminary review of proposed acts

At the request of the Legislature, the Oversight Board may conduct a preliminary review of proposed legislation before the Legislature to determine whether the legislation as proposed would be consistent with the applicable Fiscal Plan under this subtitle,¹ except that any such preliminary review shall not be binding on the Oversight Board in reviewing any law subsequently submitted under this subsection.

(b) Effect of approved Fiscal Plan on contracts, rules, and regulations

(1) Transparency in contracting

The Oversight Board shall work with a covered territory's office of the comptroller or any functionally equivalent entity to promote compliance with the applicable law of any covered territory that requires agencies and instrumentalities of the territorial government to maintain a registry of all contracts executed, including amendments thereto, and to remit a copy to the office of the comptroller for inclusion in a comprehensive database available to the public. With respect to Puerto Rico, the term "applicable law" refers to 2 L.P.R.A. 97, as amended.

(2) Authority to review certain contracts

The Oversight Board may establish policies to require prior Oversight Board approval of certain contracts, including leases and contracts to a governmental entity or government-owned corporations rather than private enterprises that are proposed to be executed by the territorial government, to ensure such proposed contracts promote market competition and are not inconsistent with the approved Fiscal Plan.

(3) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that any policies established by the Oversight Board pursuant to paragraph (2) should be designed to make the government contracting process more effective, to increase the public's faith in this process, to make appropriate use of the Oversight Board's time and resources, to make the territorial government a facilitator and

not a competitor to private enterprise, and to avoid creating any additional bureaucratic obstacles to efficient contracting.

(4) Authority to review certain rules, regulations, and executive orders

The provisions of this paragraph shall apply with respect to a rule, regulation, or executive order proposed to be issued by the Governor (or the head of any department or agency of the territorial government) in the same manner as such provisions apply to a contract.

(5) Failure to comply

If a contract, rule, regulation, or executive order fails to comply with policies established by the Oversight Board under this subsection, the Oversight Board may take such actions as it considers necessary to ensure that such contract, rule, executive order or regulation will not adversely affect the territorial government's compliance with the Fiscal Plan, including by preventing the execution or enforcement of the contract, rule, executive order or regulation.

(c) Restrictions on budgetary adjustments

(1) Submissions of requests to Oversight Board

If the Governor submits a request to the Legislature for the reprogramming of any amounts provided in a certified Budget, the Governor shall submit such request to the Oversight Board, which shall analyze whether the proposed reprogramming is significantly inconsistent with

the Budget, and submit its analysis to the Legislature as soon as practicable after receiving the request.

(2) No action permitted until analysis received

The Legislature shall not adopt a reprogramming, and no officer or employee of the territorial government may carry out any reprogramming, until the Oversight Board has provided the Legislature with an analysis that certifies such reprogramming will not be inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan and Budget.

(3) Prohibition on action until Oversight Board is appointed

(A) During the period after a territory becomes a covered territory and prior to the appointment of all members and the Chair of the Oversight Board, such covered territory shall not enact new laws that either permit the transfer of any funds or assets outside the ordinary course of business or that are inconsistent with the constitution or laws of the territory as of June 30, 2016, provided that any executive or legislative action authorizing the movement of funds or assets during this time period may be subject to review and rescission by the Oversight Board upon appointment of the Oversight Board's full membership.

(B) Upon appointment of the Oversight Board's full membership, the Oversight Board may review, and in its sole discretion, rescind, any law that—

(i) was enacted during the period between, with respect to Puerto Rico, May 4, 2016; or with respect to any other territory, 45 days prior to the establishment of the Oversight Board for such territory, and the date of appointment of all members and the Chair of the Oversight Board; and

(ii) alters pre-existing priorities of creditors in a manner outside the ordinary course of business or inconsistent with the territory's constitution or the laws of the territory as of, in the case of Puerto Rico, May 4, 2016, or with respect to any other territory, 45 days prior to the establishment of the Oversight Board for such territory; but such rescission shall only be to the extent that the law alters such priorities.

(d) Implementation of Federal programs

In taking actions under this chapter, the Oversight Board shall not exercise applicable authorities to impede territorial actions taken to—

(1) comply with a court-issued consent decree or injunction, or an administrative order or settlement with a Federal agency, with respect to Federal programs;

(2) implement a federally authorized or federally delegated program;

(3) implement territorial laws, which are consistent with a certified Fiscal Plan, that execute Federal requirements and standards; or

(4) preserve and maintain federally funded mass transportation assets.

48 U.S.C. § 2145. Recommendations on financial stability and management responsibility**(a) In general**

The Oversight Board may at any time submit recommendations to the Governor or the Legislature on actions the territorial government may take to ensure compliance with the Fiscal Plan, or to otherwise promote the financial stability, economic growth, management responsibility, and service delivery efficiency of the territorial government, including recommendations relating to—

(1) the management of the territorial government's financial affairs, including economic forecasting and multiyear fiscal forecasting capabilities, information technology, placing controls on expenditures for personnel, reducing benefit costs, reforming procurement practices, and placing other controls on expenditures;

(2) the structural relationship of departments, agencies, and independent agencies within the territorial government;

(3) the modification of existing revenue structures, or the establishment of additional revenue structures;

(4) the establishment of alternatives for meeting obligations to pay for the pensions of territorial government employees;

(5) modifications or transfers of the types of services that are the responsibility of, and are delivered by the territorial government;

(6) modifications of the types of services that are delivered by entities other than the territorial government under alternative service delivery mechanisms;

(7) the effects of the territory's laws and court orders on the operations of the territorial government;

(8) the establishment of a personnel system for employees of the territorial government that is based upon employee performance standards;

(9) the improvement of personnel training and proficiency, the adjustment of staffing levels, and the improvement of training and performance of management and supervisory personnel; and (10) the privatization and commercialization of entities within the territorial government.

(b) Response to recommendations by the territorial government

(1) In general

In the case of any recommendations submitted under subsection (a) that are within the authority of the territorial government to adopt, not later than 90 days after receiving the recommendations, the Governor or the Legislature (whichever has the authority to adopt the recommendation) shall submit a statement to the Oversight Board that provides notice as to whether the territorial government will adopt the recommendations.

(2) Implementation plan required for adopted recommendations

If the Governor or the Legislature (whichever is applicable) notifies the Oversight Board under paragraph (1) that the territorial government will adopt any of the recommendations submitted under subsection (a), the Governor or the Legislature (whichever is applicable) shall include in the statement a written plan to implement the recommendation that includes—

(A) specific performance measures to determine the extent to which the territorial government has adopted the recommendation; and

(B) a clear and specific timetable pursuant to which the territorial government will implement the recommendation.

(3) Explanations required for recommendations not adopted

If the Governor or the Legislature (whichever is applicable) notifies the Oversight Board under paragraph (1) that the territorial government will not adopt any recommendation submitted under subsection (a) that the territorial government has authority to adopt, the Governor or the Legislature shall include in the statement explanations for the rejection of the recommendations, and the Governor or the Legislature shall submit such statement of explanations to the President and Congress.

48 U.S.C. § 2146. Oversight Board duties related to restructuring

(a) Requirements for restructuring certification

The Oversight Board, prior to issuing a restructuring certification regarding an entity (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11), shall determine, in its sole discretion, that—

(1) the entity has made good-faith efforts to reach a consensual restructuring with creditors;

(2) the entity has—

(A) adopted procedures necessary to deliver timely audited financial statements; and

(B) made public draft financial statements and other information sufficient for any interested person to make an informed decision with respect to a possible restructuring;

(3) the entity is either a covered territory that has adopted a Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board, a covered territorial instrumentality that is subject to a Territory Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board, or a covered territorial instrumentality that has adopted an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board; and

(4)(A) no order approving a Qualifying Modification under section 2231 of this title has been entered with respect to such entity; or

(B) if an order approving a Qualifying Modification has been entered with respect to such entity,

the entity is unable to make its debt payments notwithstanding the approved Qualifying Modification, in which case, all claims affected by the Qualifying Modification shall be subject to a subchapter III case.

(b) Issuance of restructuring certification

The issuance of a restructuring certification under this section requires a vote of no fewer than 5 members of the Oversight Board in the affirmative, which shall satisfy the requirement set forth in section 2162(2) of this title.

48 U.S.C. § 2147. Oversight Board authority related to debt issuance

For so long as the Oversight Board remains in operation, no territorial government may, without the prior approval of the Oversight Board, issue debt or guarantee, exchange, modify, repurchase, redeem, or enter into similar transactions with respect to its debt.

48 U.S.C. § 2149. Termination of Oversight Board

An Oversight Board shall terminate upon certification by the Oversight Board that—

(1) the applicable territorial government has adequate access to short-term and long-term credit markets at reasonable interest rates to meet the borrowing needs of the territorial government; and

(2) for at least 4 consecutive fiscal years—

(A) the territorial government has developed its Budgets in accordance with modified accrual accounting standards; and

(B) the expenditures made by the territorial government during each fiscal year did not exceed the revenues of the territorial government during that year, as determined in accordance with modified accrual accounting standards.

48 U.S.C. § 2150. No full faith and credit of the United States

(a) In general

The full faith and credit of the United States is not pledged for the payment of any principal of or interest on any bond, note, or other obligation issued by a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality. The United States is not responsible or liable for the payment of any principal of or interest on any bond, note, or other obligation issued by a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality.

(b) Subject to appropriations

Any claim to which the United States is determined to be liable under this chapter shall be subject to appropriations.

(c) Funding

No Federal funds shall be authorized by this chapter for the payment of any liability of the territory or territorial instrumentality.

48 U.S.C. § 2164. Petition and proceedings relating to petition**(a) Commencement of case**

A voluntary case under this subchapter is commenced by the filing with the district court of a petition by the Oversight Board pursuant to the determination under section 2146 of this title.

(b) Objection to petition

After any objection to the petition, the court, after notice and a hearing, may dismiss the petition if the petition does not meet the requirements of this subchapter; however, this subsection shall not apply in any case during the first 120 days after the date on which such case is commenced under this subchapter.

(c) Order for relief

The commencement of a case under this subchapter constitutes an order for relief.

(d) Appeal

The court may not, on account of an appeal from an order for relief, delay any proceeding under this subchapter in the case in which the appeal is being taken, nor shall any court order a stay of such proceeding pending such appeal.

(e) Validity of debt

The reversal on appeal of a finding of jurisdiction shall not affect the validity of any debt incurred that is authorized by the court under section 364(c) or 364(d) of title 11.

(f) Joint filing of petitions and plans permitted

The Oversight Board, on behalf of debtors under this subchapter, may file petitions or submit or modify plans of adjustment jointly if the debtors are affiliates; provided, however, that nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as authorizing substantive consolidation of the cases of affiliated debtors.

(g) Joint administration of affiliated cases

If the Oversight Board, on behalf of a debtor and one or more affiliates, has filed separate cases and the Oversight Board, on behalf of the debtor or one of the affiliates, files a motion to administer the cases jointly, the court may order a joint administration of the cases.

(h) Public safety

This chapter may not be construed to permit the discharge of obligations arising under Federal police or regulatory laws, including laws relating to the environment, public health or safety, or territorial laws implementing such Federal legal provisions. This includes compliance obligations, requirements under consent decrees or judicial orders, and obligations to pay associated administrative, civil, or other penalties.

(i) Voting on debt adjustment plans not stayed

Notwithstanding any provision in this subchapter to the contrary, including sections of title 11 incorporated by reference, nothing in this sec-

tion shall prevent the holder of a claim from voting on or consenting to a proposed modification of such claim under subchapter VI of this chapter.

48 U.S.C. § 2161. Applicability of other laws; definitions

(a) Sections applicable to cases under this subchapter

Sections 101 (except as otherwise provided in this section), 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 333, 344, 347(b), 349, 350(b), 351, 361, 362, 364(c), 364(d), 364(e), 364(f), 365, 366, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 507(a)(2), 509, 510, 524(a)(1), 524(a)(2), 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549(a), 549(c), 549(d), 550, 551, 552, 553, 555, 556, 557, 559, 560, 561, 562, 902 (except as otherwise provided in this section), 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 942, 944, 945, 946, 1102, 1103, 1109, 1111(b), 1122, 1123(a)(1), 1123(a)(2), 1123(a)(3), 1123(a)(4), 1123(a)(5), 1123(b), 1123(d), 1124, 1125, 1126(a), 1126(b), 1126(c), 1126(e), 1126(f), 1126(g), 1127(d), 1128, 1129(a)(2), 1129(a)(3), 1129(a)(6), 1129(a)(8), 1129(a)(10), 1129(b)(1), 1129(b)(2)(A), 1129(b)(2)(B), 1142(b), 1143, 1144, 1145, and 1146(a) of title 11 apply in a case under this subchapter and section 930 of title 11 applies in a case under this subchapter; however, section 930 shall not apply in any case during the first 120 days after the date on which such case is commenced under this subchapter.

...

48 U.S.C. § 2166. Jurisdiction

(a) Federal subject matter jurisdiction

The district courts shall have—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), original and exclusive jurisdiction of all cases under this subchapter; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), and notwithstanding any Act of Congress that confers exclusive jurisdiction on a court or courts other than the district courts, original but not exclusive jurisdiction of all civil proceedings arising under this subchapter, or arising in or related to cases under this subchapter.

(b) Property jurisdiction

The district court in which a case under this subchapter is commenced or is pending shall have exclusive jurisdiction of all property, wherever located, of the debtor as of the commencement of the case.

(c) Personal jurisdiction

The district court in which a case under this subchapter is pending shall have personal jurisdiction over any person or entity.

(d) Removal, remand, and transfer

(1) Removal

A party may remove any claim or cause of action in a civil action, other than a proceeding before the United States Tax Court or a civil action by a governmental unit to enforce the police or regulatory power of the governmental unit, to the

district court for the district in which the civil action is pending, if the district court has jurisdiction of the claim or cause of action under this section.

(2) Remand

The district court to which the claim or cause of action is removed under paragraph (1) may remand the claim or cause of action on any equitable ground. An order entered under this subsection remanding a claim or cause of action, or a decision not to remand, is not reviewable by appeal or otherwise by the court of appeals under section 158(d), 1291 or 1292 of title 28 or by the Supreme Court of the United States under section 1254 of title 28.

(3) Transfer

A district court shall transfer any civil proceeding arising under this subchapter, or arising in or related to a case under this subchapter, to the district court in which the case under this subchapter is pending.

(e) Appeal

(1) An appeal shall be taken in the same manner as appeals in civil proceedings generally are taken to the courts of appeals from the district court.

(2) The court of appeals for the circuit in which a case under this subchapter has venue pursuant to section 2167 of this title shall have jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions, judgments, orders and decrees entered under this subchapter by the district court.

(3) The court of appeals for the circuit in which a case under this subchapter has venue pursuant to section 2167 of this title shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals of interlocutory orders or decrees if—

(A) the district court on its own motion or on the request of a party to the order or decree certifies that—

(i) the order or decree involves a question of law as to which there is no controlling decision of the court of appeals for the circuit or of the Supreme Court of the United States, or involves a matter of public importance;

(ii) the order or decree involves a question of law requiring the resolution of conflicting decisions; or (iii) an immediate appeal from the order or decree may materially advance the progress of the case or proceeding in which the appeal is taken; and

(B) the court of appeals authorizes the direct appeal of the order or decree.

(4) If the district court on its own motion or on the request of a party determines that a circumstance specified in clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A) exists, then the district court shall make the certification described in paragraph (3).

(5) The parties may supplement the certification with a short statement of the basis for the certification issued by the district court under paragraph (3)(A).

(6) Except as provided in section 2164(d) of this title, an appeal of an interlocutory order or decree does not stay any proceeding of the district court from which the appeal is taken unless the district court, or the court of appeals in which the appeal is pending, issues a stay of such proceedings pending the appeal.

(7) Any request for a certification in respect to an interlocutory appeal of an order or decree shall be made not later than 60 days after the entry of the order or decree.

(f) Reallocation of court staff

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the clerk of the court in which a case is pending shall reallocate as many staff and assistants as the clerk deems necessary to ensure that the court has adequate resources to provide for proper case management.

48 U.S.C. § 2167. Venue

...

(b) Alternative Venue

(1) If the Oversight Board so determines in its sole discretion, then venue shall be proper in the district court for the jurisdiction in which the Oversight Board maintains an office that is located outside the territory.

...

48 U.S.C. § 2168. Selection of presiding judge

(a) For cases in which the debtor is a territory, the Chief Justice of the United States shall designate

a district court judge to sit by designation to conduct the case.

(b) For cases in which the debtor is not a territory, and no motion for joint administration of the debtor's case with the case of its affiliate territory has been filed or there is no case in which the affiliate territory is a debtor, the chief judge of the court of appeals for the circuit embracing the district in which the case is commenced shall designate a district court judge to conduct the case.

48 U.S.C. § 2170. Applicable rules of procedure

The Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure shall apply to a case under this subchapter and to all civil proceedings arising in or related to cases under this subchapter.

48 U.S.C. § 2172. Filing of plan of adjustment

(a) Exclusivity

Only the Oversight Board, after the issuance of a certificate pursuant to section 2124(j) of this title, may file a plan of adjustment of the debts of the debtor.

(b) Deadline for filing plan

If the Oversight Board does not file a plan of adjustment with the petition, the Oversight Board shall file a plan of adjustment at the time set by the court.

48 U.S.C. § 2173. Modification of plan

The Oversight Board, after the issuance of a certification pursuant to section 2124(j) of this title, may modify the plan at any time before confirmation, but may not modify the plan so that the plan

as modified fails to meet the requirements of this subchapter. After the Oversight Board files a modification, the plan as modified becomes the plan.

48 U.S.C. § 2175. Role and capacity of Oversight Board

(a) Actions of Oversight Board

For the purposes of this subchapter, the Oversight Board may take any action necessary on behalf of the debtor to prosecute the case of the debtor, including—

- (1) filing a petition under section 2164 of this title;
- (2) submitting or modifying a plan of adjustment under sections 2172 and 2173 of this title; or
- (3) otherwise generally submitting filings in relation to the case with the court.

(b) Representative of debtor

The Oversight Board in a case under this subchapter is the representative of the debtor.

48 U.S.C. § 2194. Automatic stay upon enactment

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Liability

The term “Liability” means a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness for borrowed money, including rights, entitlements, or obligations whether such rights, entitlements,

or obligations arise from contract, statute, or any other source of law related to such a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness in physical or dematerialized form, of which—

(A) the issuer, obligor, or guarantor is the Government of Puerto Rico; and

(B) the date of issuance or incurrence precedes June 30, 2016.

(2) Liability Claim

The term “Liability Claim” means, as it relates to a Liability—

(A) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or

(B) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

(b) In general

Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico (i.e., the enactment of this chapter) in accordance with section 2121 of this title operates with respect to a Liability as a stay, applicable to all entities (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11), of—

(1) the commencement or continuation, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the Government of Puerto Rico that was or could have been commenced before the enactment of this chapter, or to recover a Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this chapter;

(2) the enforcement, against the Government of Puerto Rico or against property of the Government of Puerto Rico, of a judgment obtained before the enactment of this chapter;

(3) any act to obtain possession of property of the Government of Puerto Rico or of property from the Government of Puerto Rico or to exercise control over property of the Government of Puerto Rico;

(4) any act to create, perfect, or enforce any lien against property of the Government of Puerto Rico;

(5) any act to create, perfect, or enforce against property of the Government of Puerto Rico any lien to the extent that such lien secures a Liability Claim that arose before the enactment of this chapter;

(6) any act to collect, assess, or recover a Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this chapter; and

(7) the setoff of any debt owing to the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the

enactment of this chapter against any Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico.

(c) Stay not operable

The establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico in accordance with section 2121 of this title does not operate as a stay—

(1) solely under subsection (b)(1) of this section, of the continuation of, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the Government of Puerto Rico that was commenced on or before December 18, 2015; or

(2) of the commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police and regulatory power, including the enforcement of a judgment other than a money judgment, obtained in an action or proceeding by the governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police or regulatory power.

(d) Continuation of stay

Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g) the stay under subsection (b) continues until the earlier of—

(1) the later of—

(A) the later of—

(i) February 15, 2017; or (ii) six months after the establishment of an Oversight

Board for Puerto Rico as established by section 2121(b) of this title;

(B) the date that is 75 days after the date in subparagraph (A) if the Oversight Board delivers a certification to the Governor that, in the Oversight Board's sole discretion, an additional 75 days are needed to seek to complete a voluntary process under subchapter VI of this chapter with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities; or

(C) the date that is 60 days after the date in subparagraph (A) if the district court to which an application has been submitted under subparagraph ¹ 2231(m)(1)(D) of this title determines, in the exercise of the court's equitable powers, that an additional 60 days are needed to complete a voluntary process under subchapter VI of this chapter with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities; or

(2) with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities, the date on which a case is filed by or on behalf of the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities, as applicable, under subchapter III.

(e) Jurisdiction, relief from stay

(1) The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall have original and

exclusive jurisdiction of any civil actions arising under or related to this section.

(2) On motion of or action filed by a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, for cause shown, shall grant relief from the stay provided under subsection (b) of this section.

(f) Termination of stay; hearing

Forty-five days after a request under subsection (e)(2) for relief from the stay of any act against property of the Government of Puerto Rico under subsection (b), such stay is terminated with respect to the party in interest making such request, unless the court, after notice and a hearing, orders such stay continued in effect pending the conclusion of, or as a result of, a final hearing and determination under subsection (e)(2). A hearing under this subsection may be a preliminary hearing, or may be consolidated with the final hearing under subsection (e)(2). The court shall order such stay continued in effect pending the conclusion of the final hearing under subsection (e)(2) if there is a reasonable likelihood that the party opposing relief from such stay will prevail at the conclusion of such final hearing. If the hearing under this subsection is a preliminary hearing, then such final hearing shall be concluded not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such preliminary hearing, unless the thirty-day period is extended with the consent of the parties in interest or for a specific time which the court finds is required by compelling circumstances.

(g) Relief to prevent irreparable damage

Upon request of a party in interest, the court, with or without a hearing, shall grant such relief from the stay provided under subsection (b) as is necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the interest of an entity in property, if such interest will suffer such damage before there is an opportunity for notice and a hearing under subsection (e) or (f).

(h) Act in violation of stay is void

Any order, judgment, or decree entered in violation of this section and any act taken in violation of this section is void, and shall have no force or effect, and any person found to violate this section may be liable for damages, costs, and attorneys' fees incurred in defending any action taken in violation of this section, and the Oversight Board or the Government of Puerto Rico may seek an order from the court enforcing the provisions of this section.

(i) Government of Puerto Rico

For purposes of this section, the term "Government of Puerto Rico", in addition to the definition set forth in section 2104(11) of this title, shall include—

- (1) the individuals, including elected and appointed officials, directors, officers of and employees acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico; and
- (2) the Oversight Board, including the directors and officers of and employees acting in

their official capacity on behalf of the Oversight Board.

(j) No default under existing contracts

(1) Notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, the holder of a Liability Claim or any other claim (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11) may not exercise or continue to exercise any remedy under a contract or applicable law in respect to the Government of Puerto Rico or any of its property—

(A) that is conditioned upon the financial condition of, or the commencement of a restructuring, insolvency, bankruptcy, or other proceeding (or a similar or analogous process) by, the Government of Puerto Rico, including a default or an event of default thereunder; or

(B) with respect to Liability Claims—

(i) for the non-payment of principal or interest; or (ii) for the breach of any condition or covenant.

(2) The term “remedy” as used in paragraph (1) shall be interpreted broadly, and shall include any right existing in law or contract, including any right to—

(A) setoff;

(B) apply or appropriate funds;

(C) seek the appointment of a custodian (as such term is defined in section 101(11) of title 11);

(D) seek to raise rates; or

(E) exercise control over property of the Government of Puerto Rico.

(3) Notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, a contract to which the Government of Puerto Rico is a party may not be terminated or modified, and any right or obligation under such contract may not be terminated or modified, solely because of a provision in such contract is conditioned on—

(A) the insolvency or financial condition of the Government of Puerto Rico at any time prior to the enactment of this chapter;

(B) the adoption of a resolution or establishment of an Oversight Board pursuant to section 2121 of this title; or

(C) a default under a separate contract that is due to, triggered by, or a result of the occurrence of the events or matters in paragraph (1)(B).

(4) Notwithstanding any contractual provision to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, a counterparty to a contract with the Government of Puerto Rico for the provision of goods and services shall, unless the Government of Puerto Rico agrees to the contrary in writing, continue to perform all

obligations under, and comply with the terms of, such contract, provided that the Government of Puerto Rico is not in default under such contract other than as a result of a condition specified in paragraph (3).

(k) Effect

This section does not discharge an obligation of the Government of Puerto Rico or release, invalidate, or impair any security interest or lien securing such obligation. This section does not impair or affect the implementation of any restructuring support agreement executed by the Government of Puerto Rico to be implemented pursuant to Puerto Rico law specifically enacted for that purpose prior to the enactment of this chapter or the obligation of the Government of Puerto Rico to proceed in good faith as set forth in any such agreement.

(l) Payments on Liabilities

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Government of Puerto Rico from making any payment on any Liability when such payment becomes due during the term of the stay, and to the extent the Oversight Board, in its sole discretion, determines it is feasible, the Government of Puerto Rico shall make interest payments on outstanding indebtedness when such payments become due during the length of the stay.

(m) Findings

Congress finds the following:

(1) A combination of severe economic decline, and, at times, accumulated operating deficits, lack of financial transparency, management inefficiencies, and excessive borrowing has created a fiscal emergency in Puerto Rico.

(2) As a result of its fiscal emergency, the Government of Puerto Rico has been unable to provide its citizens with effective services.

(3) The current fiscal emergency has also affected the long-term economic stability of Puerto Rico by contributing to the accelerated outmigration of residents and businesses.

(4) A comprehensive approach to fiscal, management, and structural problems and adjustments that exempts no part of the Government of Puerto Rico is necessary, involving independent oversight and a Federal statutory authority for the Government of Puerto Rico to restructure debts in a fair and orderly process.

(5) Additionally, an immediate—but temporary—stay is essential to stabilize the region for the purposes of resolving this territorial crisis. (A) The stay advances the best interests common to all stakeholders, including but not limited to a functioning independent Oversight Board created pursuant to this chapter to determine whether to appear or intervene on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico in any litigation

that may have been commenced prior to the effectiveness or upon expiration of the stay.

(B) The stay is limited in nature and narrowly tailored to achieve the purposes of this chapter, including to ensure all creditors have a fair opportunity to consensually renegotiate terms of repayment based on accurate financial information that is reviewed by an independent authority or, at a minimum, receive a recovery from the Government of Puerto Rico equal to their best possible outcome absent the provisions of this chapter.

(6) Finally, the ability of the Government of Puerto Rico to obtain funds from capital markets in the future will be severely diminished without congressional action to restore its financial accountability and stability.

(n) Purposes

The purposes of this section are to—

(1) provide the Government of Puerto Rico with the resources and the tools it needs to address an immediate existing and imminent crisis;

(2) allow the Government of Puerto Rico a limited period of time during which it can focus its resources on negotiating a voluntary resolution with its creditors instead of defending numerous, costly creditor lawsuits;

(3) provide an oversight mechanism to assist the Government of Puerto Rico in reforming its fiscal governance and support the implementation of potential debt restructuring;

(4) make available a Federal restructuring authority, if necessary, to allow for an orderly adjustment of all of the Government of Puerto Rico's liabilities; and

(5) benefit the lives of 3.5 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico by encouraging the Government of Puerto Rico to resolve its longstanding fiscal governance issues and return to economic growth.

(o) Voting on voluntary agreements not stayed

Notwithstanding any provision in this section to the contrary, nothing in this section shall prevent the holder of a Liability Claim from voting on or consenting to a proposed modification of such Liability Claim under subchapter VI of this chapter.

48 U.S.C. § 2202. Severability

(a) In general

Except as provided in subsection (b), if any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this chapter, or the application of that provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, is not affected

thereby, provided that subchapter III is not severable from subchapters I and II, and subchapters I and II are not severable from subchapter III.

(b) Uniformity

If a court holds invalid any provision of this chapter or the application thereof on the ground that the provision fails to treat similarly situated territories uniformly, then the court shall, in granting a remedy, order that the provision of this chapter or the application thereof be extended to any other similarly situated territory, provided that the legislature of that territory adopts a resolution signed by the territory's governor requesting the establishment and organization of a Financial Oversight and Management Board pursuant to section 2121 of this title.

48 U.S.C. § 2241. Sense of Congress regarding permanent, pro-growth fiscal reforms

It is the sense of the Congress that any durable solution for Puerto Rico's fiscal and economic crisis should include permanent, pro-growth fiscal reforms that feature, among other elements, a free flow of capital between possessions of the United States and the rest of the United States.