

PRPA

NEWSLETTER

Editor's Note: Welcome to the first edition of our 2025 Newsletter. In this Q1 update, we review the status of proposed legislative measures announced for early 2025, including the latest on Puerto Rico's tax reform and key federal initiatives. As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions, and links to noteworthy developments. Feel free to contact us via Signal or email.

The 2024 Legislative Ledger: Progress or Pause? Building on the Legislative Trends from Prior Editions

(Please refer to our previous editions -Q3 and Q4- for a summary of each bill)

As of this update, no new legislative movements have affected the key bills highlighted in our previous edition. **PC 2100**, the proposed Tax Reform measure, remains pending executive action following its transmittal to the governor, with no public statements issued regarding any deferment under the incoming administration. Similarly, **PS 0353** has been approved by the House through the Conference Committee report, while **PC 2136** has cleared its final vote in the Senate. On the federal front, **H.R. 4763** continues its progress, having been received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. No further developments have been reported at this time.

Tracking the Promises: 2025 Legislative Momentum Check

No New Developments Reported on Key Measures

As of this edition, the no new legislative activity has been reported concerning the following several key measures previously discussed on Q4 Newsl. Locally, **PS 1321** and **PS 1498**—both included in the agenda of the 3rd Extraordinary Session—remain pending without further legislative action. At the federal level, there have been no updates on the resolutions and bills introduced in late 2024, including H.Res.1553, H.Res.1622, and H.Res.1600, or the Senate bills S.5433 (**Genomic Data Protection Act**), S.5390 (**Cybersecurity and Resiliency Act**), S.5344 (**Advancing Digital Freedom Act**), and H.R.10151 (**Modernizing Data Practices to Improve Government Act**). These measures continue to await further deliberation within their respective committees.

Q1 Legislative Pulse: Tracking 2025's First Moves

Amendment to the Public Documents Administration Act

PS 70 - Introduced on January 5, this measure seeks to amend the Public Documents Administration Act to strengthen the government's technological management and modernize the handling of public records. It establishes uniform standards regarding the legal validity, production, reproduction, use, transmission, receipt, issuance, and preservation of public documents in electronic and digital formats.

Although it will skip the Senate Committee on Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence Committee's review, the measure is on its way to expedited consideration on the Senate floor. We remain attentive to the progress of this bill and its potential impact on the government's effective management and conservation of public documents in digital formats.

PC 319 - Amendment to the Government Open Data Act - This measure amends the Government Open Data Act to create exceptions to the oversight requirements for government agency projects involving the development, migration, or modernization of databases and technology systems, provided these initiatives are fully funded by federal resources.

The potential impact of recent, federal budget modification on this measure and its effectiveness remains uncertain.

The measure was introduced on February 10 and has been referred to the House Government Committee.

RCS 1 - Introduced on January 2 by the Science, Technology and Artificial Intelligence Committee, this proposed measure directs the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) to establish a registry of all companies or businesses that develop or use artificial intelligence systems in Puerto Rico.

The proposal calls for the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) to create a registry of companies and businesses that operate, develop, or use artificial intelligence systems on the Island.

The measure was referred to the House Government Committee. On May 19, 2025, it was withdrawn from the House Committee on Calendars and Special Rules of Debate and reassigned to the Government Committee.

A public hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence on March 7, 2025.

We'll continue monitoring this measure as it advances through the legislative process and influences the future of AI governance in Puerto Rico.

PS 24 - Government Cybersecurity Training Act

This bill was introduced on January 2 to create the Government Cybersecurity Training Act and establish a mandatory Cybersecurity Training Program for public employees. The bill's goal is to ensure the proper protection and management of the government's information systems and digital assets. The measure also introduces penalties for non-compliance.

This bill builds on previous efforts to implement cybersecurity measures in the management of government data. Specifically, it aligns with and advances the legislative intent of Act 40-2024, known as the Cybersecurity Act of the Commonwealth of PR, enacted on January 18, 2024, establishing a robust framework to enhance cybersecurity across the government and private sectors interacting with public resources. This landmark legislation introduces measures to safeguard sensitive data, fortify critical infrastructure, and promote a secure digital environment.

We will remain attentive to how PS 24 complements and strengthens the foundations laid by Act 40-2024, further advancing the government's cybersecurity framework.

Latest Activity

A public hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence on March 14, 2025. Testifying agencies included the Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service (PRITS) and the General Services Administration.

The measure was approved by the Senate in its final vote on May 27, 2025, with 24 votes in favor, 3 against, and no abstentions.

Another Step Toward AI Oversight in Government

PS 68 - Artificial Intelligence Officer Act

Introduced on January 2, this bill establishes the Artificial Intelligence Officer Act, creating the role of an AI Officer within the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS), as well as a Government AI Council. It directs PRITS to develop and lead public policy on the implementation of artificial intelligence across government agencies and instrumentalities.

Recent Actions

A public hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence on March 14, 2025. Testifying Agencies included the Puerto Rico Innovation & Technology Service (PRITS) and the General Services Administration.

The measure was approved by the Senate in its final vote on May 27, 2025, with 24 votes in favor, 3 against, and 0 abstentions.

News is My Business—a Puerto Rico-based digital news outlet specializing in business, economic, and public policy reporting—recently noted that technology consulting firm C2S has expressed support for PS 68, highlighting the importance of responsible AI regulation and its potential to drive the island's technological development. As part of its efforts, C2S is developing an AI-powered assistant named Sofia, similar to Amazon's Alexa, which is being trained on both Puerto Rico-specific and international economic data. The integration of local data is expected to be completed by this summer.

Senate Bill 68 aligns with and builds upon prior legislative efforts to regulate and implement artificial intelligence (AI) within the island's governmental framework. This bill aligns and reinforces earlier initiatives such as Senate Bill 1179, which proposed the establishment of an AI Officer within the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS).

PS 348 - Artificial Intelligence in Education Act

In February, the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence introduced this bill to create the Artificial Intelligence Act as a framework for using AI as an instructional and work tool for students and teachers within the Department of Education. It establishes the legal foundation for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in the public education system.

A public hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on March 28, 2025.

Testifying participants included Attorney Sarai Ruiz (Department of Education), Dr. Ana M. Lucumi (University of Puerto Rico), Dr. José Ferrer López (UPR Mayagüez), Soy un Glitch (Joshua Castro), Puerto Rico Teachers Association, Marcos Vélez (Ana G. Méndez University - UAGM).

The measure was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Internal Affairs.

PS 348 has gained media attention as part of the broader legislative wave to include AI in the classroom. The bill is intended to enhance educational quality and reduce learning gaps by establishing a legal framework for the ethical and responsible use of AI in teaching and learning.

Coverage by Citizen Portal AI highlights how PS 348 works in tandem with House Bill 427 (PC 427), which specifically focuses on incorporating AI into English language instruction. These measures represent a coordinated legislative effort to introduce adaptive, data-informed educational tools into public schools.

Momentum Builds: The wave of Legislation Driving Oversight and Innovation Continues

PC 427 – AI Integration in Public English Instruction Act was introduced in March, this bill creates the Act for the Implementation of Artificial Intelligence in the Public School English Program. It mandates the use of AI as a support tool in English language instruction, with a particular focus on conversational English. The measure establishes an evaluation committee, defines the legal framework for its implementation, and directs the Department of Education and the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) to adopt the necessary regulations.

On May 19, 2025, the measure was referred to the Senate Committee on Science, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence.

As AI begins to enter the classroom, this bill aims to establish a framework to guide its responsible and effective use in public education. We will continue to monitor its implementation to assess whether it meets that goal.

When Policy Meets Privacy: Where Are We Headed in 2025?

PS 413 (Formerly PC 387) – Unified Digital File for Persons with Disabilities Act

With its recent enactment into law, this measure takes a decisive step toward modernizing service delivery for individuals with disabilities, making government coordination more accessible.

Introduced in March, this measure aims to create the Unified Digital File Act for Persons with Disabilities. It directs the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) to develop and implement a centralized digital file that consolidates information on services provided by the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration to individuals with disabilities. The measure also outlines the responsibilities of each agency in coordinating with PRITS.

This law could help streamline how services are tracked and delivered to one of our most important communities.

While direct media reports on this recently enacted Law are lacking, it aligns with broader efforts to enhance services for persons with disabilities in Puerto Rico. For instance, the 2024 Puerto Rico Unified State Plan under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) emphasizes improving access to services for individuals with disabilities, highlighting the need for integrated systems and data sharing among agencies.

As this law is implemented, we will closely monitor any privacy and confidentiality concerns that may arise from the digital sharing of sensitive data across government agencies.

PC 454 – Amendment to the Government Open Data Act

This bill, introduced in March, amends the Government Open Data Act to require that each government agency publish on its official website a breakdown of the names of all trust employees and professional service contractors, along with their corresponding compensation. The information must be easily located and accessible on each agency's portal.

The measure has been referred to the House Government Committee.

This measure requires each government agency to publish on its official website a breakdown of the names and corresponding compensation of trust employees and professional service contractors, with the data presented in a format that is easily accessible to the public. We are closely monitoring any privacy and security concerns that may emerge from its implementation. Among the key issues are the public disclosure of personally identifiable information, which may increase the risk of exposure to sensitive data, targeted harassment, or doxing.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of [PC 454](#) and its impact on privacy and data protection practices within government agencies

A final Note: From education and public transparency to AI regulation and digital integration, Q1's legislative agenda reflects a growing momentum toward modernizing government through technology. We'll continue tracking these developments and report on their progress in our next quarterly update.

Moreover, we will continue to track how these proposed bills—and any measures enacted into law—may affect privacy, personal security, and data governance. We'll pay close attention to developments involving inter-agency data sharing, cybersecurity risks, and mandated disclosures of personally identifiable information, all of which raise important questions about legal compliance and the protection of individual rights in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

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