

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2730

To allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for emergency food relief within the United States through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. Brown of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HALL of Ohio, and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for emergency food relief within the United States through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “George Thomas ‘Mick-

5 ey’ Leland Hunger Relief Stamp Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMPS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD**
2 **RELIEF WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 414 the
5 following:

6 **“§414a. Special postage stamps for emergency food**
7 **relief within the United States**

8 “(a) In order to afford the public a convenient way
9 to contribute to emergency food relief within the United
10 States, the Postal Service shall establish a special rate of
11 postage for first-class mail under this section.

12 “(b) The rate of postage established under this
13 section—

14 “(1) shall be equal to the regular first-class rate
15 of postage, plus a differential of not to exceed 25
16 percent;

17 “(2) shall be set by the Governors in accord-
18 ance with such procedures as the Governors shall by
19 regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under
20 chapter 36); and

21 “(3) shall be offered as an alternative to the
22 regular first-class rate of postage.

23 The use of the special rate of postage established under
24 this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal pa-
25 trons.

1 “(c)(1) Of the amounts becoming available for emer-
2 gency food relief within the United States pursuant to this
3 section, the Postal Service shall pay—

4 “(A) 50 percent to the Department of Agri-
5 culture, for purposes of the Emergency Food Assist-
6 ance Program; and

7 “(B) 50 percent to the Agency for International
8 Development, for purposes of the Africa Food Secu-
9 rity Initiative.

10 Payments under this paragraph to an agency shall be
11 made under such arrangements as the Postal Service shall
12 by mutual agreement with such agency establish in order
13 to carry out the purposes of this section, except that,
14 under those arrangements, payments to that agency shall
15 be made at least twice a year.

16 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘amounts
17 becoming available for emergency food relief within the
18 United States pursuant to this section’ means—

19 “(A) the total amounts received by the Postal
20 Service that it would not have received but for the
21 enactment of this section, reduced by

22 “(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable
23 costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out
24 this section, including those attributable to the

1 printing, sale, and distribution of stamps under this
2 section,
3 as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that
4 it shall prescribe.

5 “(d) It is the sense of the Congress that nothing in
6 this section should—

7 “(1) directly or indirectly cause a net decrease
8 in total funds received by the Department of Agri-
9 culture, the Agency for International Development,
10 or any other agency of the Government (or any com-
11 ponent or program thereof) below the level that
12 would otherwise have been received but for the en-
13 actment of this section; or

14 “(2) affect regular first-class rates of postage
15 or any other regular rates of postage.

16 “(e) Special postage stamps under this section shall
17 be made available to the public beginning on such date
18 as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but in
19 no event later than 12 months after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this section.

21 “(f) The Postmaster General shall include in each re-
22 port rendered under section 2402 with respect to any pe-
23 riod during any portion of which this section is in effect
24 information concerning the operation of this section, ex-
25 cept that, at a minimum, each shall include—

