

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4585

To maintain prompt and reliable postal services during the COVID–19 health emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To maintain prompt and reliable postal services during the COVID–19 health emergency, and for other purposes.

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 “Delivering for America
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROMPT AND RELIABLE POSTAL SERVICES DURING**
7 **COVID–19 PANDEMIC.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on
9 the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the last
10 day of the COVID–19 public health emergency or January

1 31, 2021, whichever is later, the United States Postal
2 Service may not implement or approve any change to the
3 operations or the level of service provided by the Postal
4 Service from those in effect on January 1, 2020, that
5 would reduce service performance or impede prompt, reli-
6 able, and efficient services, including any of the following
7 actions:

8 (1) Any change in the nature of postal services
9 which will generally affect service on a nationwide or
10 substantially nationwide basis.

11 (2) Any revision of service standards.

12 (3) Any closure or consolidation of any post of-
13 fice or postal facility, or any reduction of the hours
14 of a post office or postal facility.

15 (4) Any prohibition or restriction on the use of
16 overtime or overtime pay to officers or employees of
17 the Postal Service.

18 (5) Any change that would prevent the Postal
19 Service from meeting its service standards or cause
20 a decline in measurements of performance relative to
21 those service standards.

22 (6) Any change that would have the effect of
23 delaying, deferring, or curtailing mail, allowing for
24 the non-delivery of mail to a delivery route, or in-
25 creasing the volume of undelivered mail.

1 (7) Treating election mail as any class of mail
2 other than first-class mail, regardless of whether
3 such treatment requires payment of overtime pay to
4 officers or employees of the Postal Service.

5 (8) Removing, decommissioning, or any other
6 stoppage of mail sorting machines, other than for
7 routine maintenance.

8 (9) Removing or eliminating any mail collection
9 box that is available to the public.

10 (10) Enacting any rule, policy, or standard the
11 purpose or effect of which would delay the delivery
12 of mail to or from a government entity.

13 (11) Instituting any hiring freeze.

14 (b) REVERSAL OF POLICIES HINDERING DELIVERY
15 OF MAIL.—The United States Postal Service shall reverse
16 any initiative or action that is causing delay in processing
17 or delivery or non-delivery of the mail.

18 (c) ELECTION MAIL.—

19 (1) POLICY ON POSTMARKS.—It shall be the
20 policy of the United States Postal Service to post-
21 mark, which shall include any imprinted indicia from
22 the Postal Service that indicates the date of receipt,
23 all election mail processed by the Postal Service.

24 (2) SAME-DAY PROCESSING.—The United
25 States Postal Service shall ensure, to the maximum

1 extent practical, that election mail is processed and
2 cleared from any postal facility or post office on the
3 same day on which the election mail is received at
4 the postal facility or post office.

5 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 (1) the term “COVID–19 public health emer-
7 gency” means the public health emergency declared
8 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
9 under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect
11 to COVID–19, including any renewal of that dec-
12 laration;

13 (2) the term “election mail” means mail con-
14 sisting of—

15 (A) voter registration application forms,
16 completed voter registration application forms,
17 and voter registration cards or similar mate-
18 rials;

19 (B) absentee and other mail-in ballot appli-
20 cation forms, blank absentee and other mail-in
21 ballots, and completed absentee and other mail-
22 in ballots; and

23 (C) other materials relating to an election
24 which are mailed by a State or local election of-

1 **SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided by this Act
3 are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to
4 section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010
5 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

6 (b) DESIGNATION IN THE SENATE.—In the Senate,
7 this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursu-
8 ant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Con-
9 gress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal
10 year 2018.

○