

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8303

To require the United States Postal Service to notify postal customers and relevant officials when operations are temporarily suspended at a post office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To require the United States Postal Service to notify postal customers and relevant officials when operations are temporarily suspended at a post office, 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. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY POST OFFICE CLO-**
4 **SURE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—If the United States Postal Serv-
6 ice temporarily suspends operations at a post office, either
7 voluntarily or involuntarily, the United States Postal Serv-
8 ice shall—

1 (1) submit the notices required by subsection
2 (b);

3 (2) provide persons served by such post office
4 an opportunity for comment in accordance with sub-
5 section (c); and

6 (3) provide services to persons served by such
7 post office in accordance with subsection (d).

8 (b) NOTICES.—

9 (1) SUSPENSION NOTICE.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
11 Postal Service shall notify persons served by a
12 post office and the relevant officials for such
13 post office of the temporary suspension of oper-
14 ations at such post office.

15 (B) CONTENTS.—

16 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
17 by clause (ii), the notice required under
18 subparagraph (A) with respect to the tem-
19 porary suspension of operations at a post
20 office shall include—

21 (I) in the case of a temporary
22 suspension of operations that the
23 United States Postal Service plans or
24 expects, the expected date on which

1 such temporary suspension of oper-
2 ations will begin;

3 (II) the reasons for such tem-
4 porary suspension of operations;

5 (III) plans for—

6 (aa) providing retail postal
7 services to persons served by
8 such post office during such tem-
9 porary suspension of operations;

10 (bb) providing persons
11 served by such post office the op-
12 portunity required by subsection
13 (c); and

14 (cc) resuming the operations
15 of such post office; and

16 (IV) an estimate of when the op-
17 erations of such post office will re-
18 sume.

19 (ii) ONSITE NOTICES.—Notwith-
20 standing clause (i), a notice required under
21 subparagraph (A) placed at the physical lo-
22 cation of a post office shall include instruc-
23 tions for accessing a website of the United
24 States Postal Service containing the infor-

1 mation described in clause (i) and may
2 contain such information.

3 (C) TIMING.—The United States Postal
4 Service shall provide the notice required under
5 subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in the case of a temporary suspen-
7 sion of operations that the United States
8 Postal Service plans or expects, not later
9 than the later of—

10 (I) 60 days prior to the expected
11 date on which such temporary suspen-
12 sion of operations will begin; or

13 (II) the earliest date on which
14 the United States Postal Service plans
15 or expects such temporary suspension
16 of operations; and

17 (ii) in all other cases, not later than
18 14 days after the date on which operations
19 are temporarily suspended.

20 (D) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The United
21 States Postal Service may not temporarily sus-
22 pend operations at a post office unless the
23 United States Postal Service provides the notice
24 required under this paragraph, except that this
25 subparagraph shall not apply if such temporary

1 suspension of operations is not at the discretion
2 of the United States Postal Service or is nec-
3 essary due to health or safety concerns.

4 (2) STATUS UPDATES.—If the United States
5 Postal Service temporarily suspends operations at a
6 post office for a period of more than six months, not
7 later than six months after the date on which such
8 temporary suspension of operations begins, and
9 every three months thereafter until the date on
10 which such temporary suspension of operations ends,
11 the United States Postal Service shall provide to
12 persons served by such post office and the relevant
13 officials for such post office a notice on the status
14 of such temporary suspension of operations.

15 (3) REOPENING NOTICE.—Upon determining
16 the date on which operations will resume at a post
17 office at which operations are temporarily sus-
18 pended, the United States Postal Service shall notify
19 persons served by such post office and the relevant
20 officials for such post office of the date of such re-
21 sumption of operations at such post office and, in
22 the case of a post office that has been relocated, the
23 location of such post office.

1 (4) NOTICE DISTRIBUTION.—For each notice
2 required under this subsection with respect to a post
3 office, the United States Postal Service shall—

4 (A) mail such notice to persons served by
5 such post office;

6 (B) place such notice at the physical loca-
7 tion of such post office;

8 (C) make such notice publicly available on
9 a website of the United States Postal Service;

10 (D) publish such notice on relevant social
11 media websites; and

12 (E) send such notice to a valid email of
13 each relevant official.

14 (5) RELEVANT OFFICIALS DEFINED.—In this
15 subsection, the term “relevant officials”, with re-
16 spect to a post office, means—

17 (A) each Member of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives (including a Delegate or Resident
19 Commissioner to Congress) representing a con-
20 gressional district which includes all or part of
21 the geographic area served by such post office;

22 (B) each Senator representing a State
23 which includes all or part of the geographic
24 area served by such post office; and

1 (C) the head of each local government with
2 jurisdiction over all or part of the geographic
3 area served by such post office.

4 (c) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT.—The United
5 States Postal Service shall provide persons served by a
6 post office at which operations are temporarily suspended
7 an opportunity to present their views on such temporary
8 suspension of operations, including the relocation of such
9 post office.

10 (d) REPLACEMENT RETAIL POSTAL SERVICES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after
12 the temporary suspension of operations at a post of-
13 fice, the United States Postal Service shall provide
14 to persons served by such post office the services de-
15 scribed in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in the same geographic area as such
17 post office, to the extent practicable; and

18 (B) to the extent that such post office pro-
19 vided such services immediately before such
20 temporary suspension of operations.

21 (2) RETAIL POSTAL SERVICES.—The services
22 described in this paragraph are the following serv-
23 ices not available from the post office at which oper-
24 ations are temporarily suspended:

1 (A) Retail postal services, including the
2 sale of boxes and other packaging material sold
3 by the United States Postal Service.

4 (B) A means for holders of post office
5 boxes at such post office to receive mail sent to
6 the post office box of such holder.

7 (C) Providing, accepting, and processing
8 forms necessary for persons to request a change
9 of mailing address or a temporary halt to the
10 delivery of mail to such person.

11 (3) DURATION.—The United States Postal
12 Service shall provide the services required by para-
13 graph (1) until the end of the temporary suspension
14 of operations with respect to which the United
15 States Postal Service is providing such services
16 under such paragraph.

17 (e) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply only
18 with respect to temporary suspensions of operations at
19 post offices that begin after the date of the enactment of
20 this Act.

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