

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4618

To limit the closure or consolidation of any United States Postal Service processing and distribution center if the United States Postal Service has failed to meet certain conditions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2024

Ms. ROSEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To limit the closure or consolidation of any United States Postal Service processing and distribution center if the United States Postal Service has failed to meet certain conditions, 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 “Protect Our Mail Act
5 of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON CLOSING OR CONSOLIDATING**
7 **PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTERS.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) POSTAL SERVICE.—The term “Postal Service” means the United States Postal Service.

3 (2) PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER.—
4 The term “processing and distribution center”
5 means a facility of the United States Postal Service
6 that processes, distributes, and dispatches, part or
7 all of both originating and destinating volumes of
8 mail for a designated service area.

9 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means a State
10 or the District of Columbia.

11 (b) LIMITATION.—The Postal Service may not proceed on any decision to close, consolidate, downgrade, or
12 take any other similar action with respect to a processing
13 and distribution center in a State—

15 (1) if—

16 (A) at any time during the calendar year
17 immediately preceding the action, a processing
18 and distribution center located within any Postal Service area in the State failed to meet the
19 targets described in the fiscal year 2023 performance plan of the Postal Service of—

22 (i) not less than 93 percent on-time
23 delivery performance for 2-day single first-class mail, as measured by the service
24

standards in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) not less than 90.3 percent on-time delivery performance for 3- to 5-day first-class mail, as measured by the service standards in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) such action would result in there being no processing and distribution center located—

(i) in the State; or

(ii) within 125 miles of the processing and distribution center subject to such action; and

(2) unless—

(A) the Postal Service has submitted a proposal relating to such action to the Postal Regulatory Commission using the procedures described in section 3661(b) of title 39, United States Code, and provided the Postal Regulatory Commission any information and records necessary to issue an opinion on the proposal, including any access to Postal Service facilities;

(B) the Postal Regulatory Commission has issued an opinion on the proposal under subparagraph (A) using the procedures described

1 in section 3661(c) of title 39, United States
2 Code, within 180 business days of submission of
3 the proposal, that—

4 (i) includes a comprehensive review of
5 geographical considerations, including
6 mountain passes, and the impact of those
7 considerations on the effects of the pro-
8 posal on local mail delivery within the
9 State; and

10 (ii) finds that the proposal would not
11 negatively impact service standards and
12 performance measures for mail originating
13 and destinating within the State; and

14 (C) the deadline for appeals described in
15 subsection (c) has passed and the Postal Regu-
16 latory Commission has heard all appeals under
17 that subsection and all such appeals are unsuc-
18 cessful.

19 (c) AFFECTED CUSTOMER RIGHT TO APPEAL.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any person regularly served
21 by a processing and distribution center subject to
22 closure, consolidation, downgrading, or any other
23 similar action shall have the right to appeal to the
24 Postal Regulatory Commission a decision described
25 in subsection (b).

1 (2) DEADLINE.—Any appeal under paragraph
2 (1) shall be filed not later than the later of—

3 (A) 180 days after the date of enactment
4 of this Act; or

5 (B) 180 days after the date of a decision
6 described in subsection (b).

7 (3) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 7 days
8 after the date of a decision described in subsection
9 (b), the Postal Service shall publicly and conspicu-
10 ously display on the website of the Postal Service
11 and at the facility impacted by such decision infor-
12 mation relating to the right to appeal under para-
13 graph (1) and the process to file such appeal.

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