

Postal Reform Act of 2013 – S.1486

Sponsor: Sen. Carper, Thomas (DE)

- Office: 513 Hart Senate Office Building
- Related Committees:
 - o **Chairman** – Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs

Co-Sponsor(s):

- **Sen. Coburn, Tom (OK)**
 - o Office: 172 Russell Senate Office Building
 - o Related Committees:
 - **Ranking Member** - Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs

Committees of Reference:

- **Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs**
 - o Current Activity: Referral, Hearings, Markup
 - o Location: 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 - o **Chairman** – Sen. Carper
 - o **Ranking Member** – Sen. Coburn

Overview of Specified Issues:

Requires any arbitration board deciding a contract dispute between USPS and labor organizations to render a decision not later than 45 days after the date of its appointment and to consider relevant factors such as financial conditions of USPS.
(pg 31, line 14-25)

During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Postal Service may not close or consolidate any postal facility that is open as of the date of enactment of this act.
(pg 32, line 19-23)

Sets forth criteria for the closing or consolidation of postal facilities that requires the consideration of other alternatives (such as reduction in the number of hours of operation for such post office) and the effect of closure or consolidation on the community, businesses, and USPS employees.
(pg 33, line 13-24)

Will provide postal customers served by a close or consolidation pending post office, the opportunity to present their views; conducted by a nonbinding survey via mail.
(pg 34, line 9-12)

If the Postal Service determines to discontinue the post office, adequate public notice must be provided of its intention to discontinue such post office at least 60 days prior to the proposed date of closure.

(pg 34, line 13-17)

Factors included in the Postal Service determination to discontinue a post office includes the following:

- Effect of the discontinuance on the community served by such office.
- Effect of the discontinuance on business, including small business.
- Effect of the discontinuance on Postal Service employees employed at such office
- Whether such discontinuance is consistent with the policy of the Government, to provide maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post office are not self-sustaining.
- Extent to which the community served by the post office lacks access to Internet phone service.
- Extent to which postal customers served by such office would, after discontinuance, receive similar access to essential items and time sensitive communication.
- Proximity and accessibility of other post offices
- Whether substantial economic savings to the Postal Service would result from such discontinuance.

Any determination of the Postal Service to discontinue a post office shall be in writing and shall include the findings of the Postal Service; such findings shall be made available to persons served by such post office by public notice.

(pg 36, line 9-15)

The Postal Service shall take no action to discontinue a post office until 60 days after its determination is made available to persons served by the post office and the State board of elections for the State in which the post office is located.

(pg 36, line 20-24)

The Postal Service may establish a nationwide delivery schedule of 5 or fewer days per week to street addresses if the Postal Service determines that such schedule would contribute to the achievement of long-term solvency. Such schedule would not go into affect until at least 1 year from the date of enactment of this Act.

(pg 37, line 11-20)

If the Postal Services decides to establish a change in delivery schedule, it shall identify customers and communities for which the change may have a disproportionate, negative impact, including small business customers and customers identified as “particularly affected” in the Advisory Opinion on Elimination of Saturday Delivery issued by the Commission on March 24, 2011. Following this determination the Postal Service shall develop measures to improve any negative impact the change would have on customers and the community.

(pg 38, line 1-11)

Not later than 3 months before the effective date for any proposed change to delivery, the Postal Service shall submit a report of the determinations of negatively impacted customers/business to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; the Committee on Oversight and Government reform of the House of Representatives; and the Commission.

(pg 38, line 12-24)

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House, a report evaluating the extent to which a change in delivery schedule would improve financial conditions of the Postal Service.

(pg 39, line 6-17)

For a period not less that 2 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Postal Service shall provide package service:

- 6 days per week to each street address that was eligible to receive package service 6 days per week as of January 1, 2013.
- 7 days per week to each street address for which the Postal Service determines that such service provides economic benefit to the Postal Service.

(pg. 40, line 16-24)

Federal Real Property Asset Management Reform Act of 2013 – Requires agencies to maintain an up-to-date inventory of real property and authorizes a pilot program to expedite the disposal of surplus real property.

(pg 169, line 1-8)

“Surplus Property” does **not** include any property operated and maintained by the United States Postal Service.

(pg 171;172, line 3-4; 15-17)

Each year, the Postmaster General may identify a list of postal properties with space available for use by Federal Agencies and submit the list to the Council. Not later than 30 days after completion of the list the council shall provide the list to each Federal Agency. Not later than 90 days after receipt of the list, each Federal agency shall review the list, identify real property assets under the control of the Federal agency, and recommend collocations if appropriate.

(pg 176, line 7-25)

Authorizes the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make grants to private nonprofit organizations to purchase real property to assist the homeless.

(pg 192, line 20-25)