

Postal Reform Act of 2013 - H.R. 2748

Sponsor: Rep. Issa, Darrel (CA-49)

- Office: 2347 Rayburn House Office Building
- Related Committees:
 - o **Chairman** – Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Co-Sponsor(s):

- **Rep. Farenthold, Blake (TX-27)**
 - o Office: 117 Cannon House Office Building
 - o Related Committees:
 - House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
 - **Chairman** – Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, US Postal Service & The Census
- **Rep. Ross, Dennis (FL-15)**
 - o Office: 229 Cannon House Office Building
 - o Related Committees:
 - House Committee on Financial Services

Committees of Reference:

- **House Oversight and Government Reform**
 - o Current Activity: Referral, Markup
 - o Location: 2157 Rayburn House Office Building (Main entrance, horseshoe drive off South Capitol Street)
 - o **Chairman:** Rep. Issa, Darrel
 - o **Ranking Member:** Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD-7)
 - Office: 2235 Rayburn House Office Building

Overview of Specified Issues:

The Postal Service may establish a general, nationwide mail delivery schedule of 5 days per week. Under this schedule there shall not occur more than 2 consecutive days on which mail is not delivered, even as a result of Federal holidays. (pg. 4, line 14-19)

Requires USPS, until December 31, 2018, to provide domestic competitive product service 6 days per week to every street address that was scheduled to receive package 6 days per week as of September 30, 2012. (pg 4, line 15-24)

Not later than September 30, 2022, the Postal Service shall convert not less than 30,000,000 of the door delivery points extant on December 31, 2012 to centralized or curbside delivery (pg 10, line 16-20)

Eliminates the prohibition on closing post offices solely for operating at a deficit. Revises criteria for closing or consolidating a post office to require the consideration of:

- The distance to the closest postal retail facility.
- Weather and terrain.
- Whether mobile and Internet access service is available to households in the geographic area.

(pg 15, line 3-25)

Regarding the closing or consolidation to any post office, the Postal Regulatory Commission shall make a determination based upon such review no later than 60 days (amendment to the original 120 days) after receiving appeal by any person served by such office. (pg 16, line 5-7)

The appeal process for closing or consolidation which is set forth, shall **not** apply to a determination of the Postal Service to close a post office if there is a *qualified contract postal unit* located within 2 miles of such office.

- Contract Postal Unit: store or place of business which is:
 - o Not owned or operated by the Postal service
 - o In addition to regular operation provides postal services to general public under contract with Postal Service

(pg 16, line 10-21)

“Qualified Contract Postal Unit” refers to a contact postal unit which has provided postal services to the general public during the period beginning 1 year before the date on which the closure or consolidation of such office is scheduled to take effect.

(pg 17, line 1-6)

If the “Qualified Contact Postal Unit” does not continue to provide postal services for at least the 2-year period beginning on the date on which such post office was closed, the contract postal unit will be subject to closure determination by the Postal Service to determine if a post office must be reopened within the 2-mile radius.

(pg 17, line 15-23)

Reduces the deadline for review of post office closures by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) from 120 to 60 days. Provides for an expedited procedure for issuing PRC advisory opinions concerning post office closures and consolidations. This amendment will apply with respect to any proposal received by the Postal Regulatory Commission on or after the 90th day after the enactment of this Act.

(pg 18-19, line 17-24;1-22)

Establishes a 5% annual limit on the number of currently operating rural post offices that can be closed (within the K or L cost ascertainment grouping

on January 1, 2012). This excludes any postal retail facility scheduled for closure and ineligible for appeal process due to a 'qualified contract postal unit' within a 2-mile radius of the closing office.

(pg 20 line 6-13)

The Postal Service, prior to making a determination as to the necessity for the closing or consolidation of any post office shall:

- Provide adequate notice to postal patrons served by office at least 60 days prior to proposed closing date.
- Provide a non-binding survey to postal patrons served by such office and to indicate their preference on closing or consolidation or alternative options. If chosen to close or consolidate, the Postal Service must provide alternative access to postal services to those served, by the highest number of survey respondents.
- If an alternative option is not accessible the Postal Service must provide another form of access and inform postal patrons why such alternative option was not feasible.

(pg 21 line 1-23)

Requires USPS to develop a plan to close or consolidate 30% of USPS area and district office existing on September 30, 2012, by October 1, 2015.

(pg 23, line 5-14)

Requires USPS to withhold specified amounts from employee wages and pay such amounts into the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Fund and the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Fund, beginning not later than January 1, 2020.

(pg 65, line 1-7)

Prohibits USPS administered programs, relating to payment of benefits for the disability or death of a USPS employee from injury sustained while performing duties, prohibits such program from making augmented payments to a disabled postal employee based on his or her number of dependents.

(pg 71, line 1-18)