

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4437

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To grant to the United States Postal Service the authority to issue semipostals, and for other purposes.

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To grant to the United States Postal Service the authority
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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Semipostal Authoriza-
3 tion Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SEMIPOSTALS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 416. Authority to issue semipostals**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

10 “(1) the term ‘semipostal’ means a postage
11 stamp which is issued and sold by the Postal Serv-
12 ice, at a premium, in order to help provide funding
13 for a cause described in subsection (b); and

14 “(2) the term ‘agency’ means an Executive
15 agency within the meaning of section 105 of title 5.

16 “(b) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—The Postal Serv-
17 ice is hereby authorized to issue and sell semipostals under
18 this section in order to advance such causes as the Postal
19 Service considers to be in the national public interest and
20 appropriate.

21 “(c) RATE OF POSTAGE.—The rate of postage on a
22 semipostal issued under this section shall be established
23 by the Governors, in accordance with such procedures as
24 they shall by regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures
25 under chapter 36), except that—

1 “(1) the rate established for a semipostal under
2 this section shall be equal to the rate of postage that
3 would otherwise regularly apply, plus a differential
4 of not to exceed 25 percent; and

5 “(2) no regular rates of postage or fees for
6 postal services under chapter 36 shall be any dif-
7 ferent from what they otherwise would have been if
8 this section had not been enacted.

9 The use of any semipostal issued under this section shall
10 be voluntary on the part of postal patrons.

11 “(d) AMOUNTS BECOMING AVAILABLE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts becoming
13 available from the sale of a semipostal under this
14 section shall be transferred to the appropriate agen-
15 cy or agencies under such arrangements as the Post-
16 al Service shall by mutual agreement with each such
17 agency establish.

18 “(2) IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE CAUSES
19 AND AGENCIES.—Decisions concerning the identi-
20 fication of appropriate causes and agencies to receive
21 amounts becoming available from the sale of a
22 semipostal under this section shall be made in ac-
23 cordance with applicable regulations under sub-
24 section (e).

25 “(3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts becom-
2 ing available from the sale of a semipostal
3 under this section shall be determined in a
4 manner similar to that provided for under sec-
5 tion 414(c)(2) (as in effect on July 1, 2000).

6 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Regula-
7 tions under subsection (e) shall specifically ad-
8 dress how the costs incurred by the Postal
9 Service in carrying out this section shall be
10 computed, recovered, and kept to a minimum.

11 “(4) OTHER FUNDING NOT TO BE AF-
12 FECTED.—Amounts which have or may become
13 available from the sale of a semipostal under this
14 section shall not be taken into account in any deci-
15 sion relating to the level of appropriations or other
16 Federal funding to be furnished to an agency in any
17 year.

18 “(5) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Before transfer-
19 ring to an agency in accordance with paragraph (1)
20 any amounts becoming available from the sale of a
21 semipostal over any period, the Postal Service shall
22 ensure that it has recovered the full costs incurred
23 by the Postal Service in connection with such
24 semipostal through the end of such period.

25 “(e) REGULATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
2 section (c), the Postal Service shall prescribe any
3 regulations necessary to carry out this section, in-
4 cluding provisions relating to—

5 “(A) which office or other authority within
6 the Postal Service shall be responsible for mak-
7 ing the decisions described in subsection (d)(2);

8 “(B) what criteria and procedures shall be
9 applied in making those decisions; and

10 “(C) what limitations shall apply, if any,
11 relating to the issuance of semipostals (such as
12 whether more than one semipostal may be of-
13 fered for sale at the same time).

14 “(2) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Before any regu-
15 lation is issued under this section, a copy of the pro-
16 posed regulation shall be published in the Federal
17 Register, and an opportunity shall be provided for
18 interested parties to present written and, where
19 practicable, oral comment. All regulations necessary
20 to carry out this section shall be issued not later
21 than 30 days before the date on which semipostals
22 are first made available to the public under this sec-
23 tion.

24 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postmaster General
2 shall include in each report rendered under section
3 2402, with respect to any period during any portion
4 of which this section is in effect, information con-
5 cerning the operation of any program established
6 under this section.

7 “(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT.—If any
8 semipostal ceases to be offered during the period
9 covered by such a report, the information contained
10 in that report shall also include—

11 “(A) the commencement and termination
12 dates for the sale of such semipostal;

13 “(B) the total amount that became avail-
14 able from the sale of such semipostal; and

15 “(C) of that total amount, how much was
16 applied toward administrative costs.

17 For each year before the year in which a semipostal
18 ceases to be offered, any report under this sub-
19 section shall include, with respect to that semipostal
20 (for the year covered by such report), the informa-
21 tion described in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

22 “(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall cease to be
23 effective at the end of the 10-year period beginning on
24 the date on which semipostals are first made available to
25 the public under this section.”.

1 (b) REPORTS BY AGENCIES.—Each agency that re-
2 ceives any funding in a year under section 416 of title
3 39, United States Code (as amended by this section) shall
4 submit a written report under this subsection, with respect
5 to such year, to the congressional committees with juris-
6 diction over the United States Postal Service. Each such
7 report shall include—

8 (1) the total amount of funding received by
9 such agency under such section 416 during the year;

10 (2) an accounting of how any funds received by
11 such agency under such section 416 were allocated
12 or otherwise used by such agency in such year; and

13 (3) a description of any significant advances or
14 accomplishments in such year that were funded, in
15 whole or in part, out of amounts received by such
16 agency under such section 416.

17 (c) REPORTS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OF-
18 FICE.—

19 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—The General Account-
20 ing Office shall submit to the President and each
21 House of Congress an interim report on the oper-
22 ation of the program established under section 416
23 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this
24 section) not later than 4 years after semipostals are
25 first made available to the public under such section.

1 (2) FINAL REPORT.—The General Accounting
 2 Office shall transmit to the President and each
 3 House of Congress a final report on the operation of
 4 the program established under such section 416, not
 5 later than 6 months before the date on which it is
 6 scheduled to expire. The final report shall contain a
 7 detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of
 8 the General Accounting Office, together with any
 9 recommendations it considers appropriate.

10 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 for chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is amended
 12 by adding at the end the following:

“416. Authority to issue semipostals.”.

13 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The program under section
 14 416 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this
 15 section) shall be established within 6 months after the
 16 date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SEMIPOSTALS**
 18 **FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 414(g) of title 39, United
 20 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

21 “(g) This section shall cease to be effective after July
 22 29, 2002, or the end of the 2-year period beginning on
 23 the date of the enactment of the Semipostal Authorization
 24 Act, whichever is later.”.

1 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—No later than 3
2 months and no earlier than 6 months before the date as
3 of which section 414 of title 39, United States Code (as
4 amended by this section) is scheduled to expire, the Comp-
5 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
6 Congress a report on the operation of such section. Such
7 report shall be in addition to the report required by section
8 2(b) of Public Law 105–41, and shall address at least the
9 same matters as were required to be included in that ear-
10 lier report.

Passed the House of Representatives July 17, 2000.

Attest:

Clerk.