

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4437

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mr. McHUGH (for himself and Mr. FATTAH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To grant to the United States Postal Service the authority to issue semipostals, 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 “Semipostal Authoriza-
5 tion Act”.

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

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

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

6 “(a) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
7 term ‘semipostal’ means a postage stamp which is issued
8 and sold by the Postal Service, at a premium, in order
9 to help provide funding for a particular area of medical
10 research.

11 “(b) AUTHORITY.—The Postal Service is hereby au-
12 thorized to issue and sell semipostals under this section.

13 “(c) RATES.—The rate of postage on a semipostal
14 issued under this section shall be established by the Gov-
15 ernors, in accordance with such procedures as they shall
16 by regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under
17 chapter 36), except that—

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

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

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

3 “(d) AMOUNTS BECOMING AVAILABLE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts becoming
5 available from the sale of a semipostal under this
6 section shall be transferred to the appropriate agen-
7 cy or agencies under such arrangements as the Post-
8 al Service shall by mutual agreement with each such
9 agency establish.

10 “(2) AREAS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH AND AGEN-
11 CIES.—Decisions under this section concerning areas
12 of medical research, and the appropriate agency or
13 agencies to receive amounts becoming available
14 under this section, shall be made applying the cri-
15 teria and procedures established under subsection
16 (e).

17 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The amounts
18 becoming available from the sale of a semipostal
19 under this section shall be determined in a manner
20 similar to that provided for under section 414(c)(2)
21 (as in effect on July 1, 2000). Any regulations
22 under subsection (e) shall specifically address how
23 the costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying
24 out this section shall be computed, recovered, and
25 kept to a minimum.

1 “(4) OTHER FUNDING NOT TO BE AF-
2 FECTED.—Amounts which have or may become
3 available from the sale of a semipostal under this
4 section shall not be taken into account in any deci-
5 sion relating to the level of appropriations or other
6 Federal funding to be furnished to an agency in any
7 year.

8 “(5) AGENCY DEFINED.—For purposes of this
9 section, the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agen-
10 cy (as defined by section 105 of title 5).

11 “(e) REGULATIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall
13 prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this
14 section, including provisions relating to—

15 “(A) which office or other body within the
16 Postal Service will be responsible for making
17 the decisions described in subsection (d)(2);

18 “(B) what criteria and procedures will be
19 applied in making those decisions;

20 “(C) any limitations relating to the
21 issuance of semipostals, such as whether more
22 than 1 semipostal may be offered for sale at
23 any given time; and

24 “(D) how the price of a semipostal will be
25 established.

1 “(2) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Before any regu-
2 lation is prescribed under this section, a copy of the
3 proposed regulation shall be published in the Federal
4 Register and an opportunity provided to interested
5 parties to present written comment and, where prac-
6 ticable, oral comment. Initial regulations shall be
7 prescribed not later than 30 days before the date on
8 which semipostals are first made available to the
9 public under this section.

10 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postmaster General
12 shall include in each report rendered under section
13 2402, with respect to any period during any portion
14 of which this section is in effect, information con-
15 cerning the operation of any program established
16 under this section.

17 “(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT.—If any
18 semipostal ceases to be offered during the period
19 covered by a report, the information contained in
20 such report shall also include—

21 “(A) the dates as of which the sale of such
22 semipostal commenced and terminated;

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

1 “(C) of that total amount, how much was
2 applied toward medical research and how much
3 toward administrative costs.

4 For each year before the year in which a semipostal
5 ceases to be offered, any report under this sub-
6 section shall include, for that semipostal and for the
7 year covered by that report, the information de-
8 scribed in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

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

13 (b) REPORTS BY AGENCIES.—Each agency that re-
14 ceives any funding in a year under section 416 of title
15 39, United States Code (as amended by this section) shall
16 submit a written report under this subsection with respect
17 to such year to the congressional committees with jurisdic-
18 tion over the United States Postal Service. Each report
19 under this subsection shall include—

20 (1) the total amount of funding received by
21 such agency under section 416 of such title 39 dur-
22 ing the year to which the report pertains;

23 (2) an accounting of how any funds received by
24 such agency under section 416 of such title 39 were

1 allocated or otherwise used by such agency in such
2 year; and

3 (3) a description of any medical advances or ac-
4 complishments achieved in such year that were fund-
5 ed, in whole or in part, out of amounts made avail-
6 able under section 416 of such title 39.

7 (c) REPORTS BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OF-
8 FICE.—

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

16 (2) FINAL REPORT.—The General Accounting
17 Office shall transmit to the President and each
18 House of Congress a final report on the operation of
19 the program established under such section 416, not
20 later than 6 months before the date it is scheduled
21 to terminate. The final report shall contain a de-
22 tailed statement of the findings and conclusions of
23 the General Accounting Office, together with any
24 recommendations it considers appropriate.

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

“416. Authority to issue semipostals.”.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The program under section
5 416 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this
6 section) shall be established within 6 months after the
7 date of enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SEMIPOSTALS**
9 **FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 414 of
11 title 39, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(g) This section shall cease to be effective after July
14 29, 2002, or the end of the 2-year period beginning on
15 the date of enactment of the Semipostal Authorization
16 Act, whichever is later.”.

17 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—No later than 3
18 months and no earlier than 6 months before the date as
19 of which section 414 of title 39, United States Code (as
20 amended by this section) is scheduled to expire, the Comp-
21 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
22 Congress a report on the operation of such section. Such
23 report shall be in addition to the report required by section
24 2(b) of Public Law 105–41, and shall address at least the

- 1 same matters as were required to be included in that ear-
- 2 lier report.

