

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2686

To amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to modify rates relating to reduced rate mail matter, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7 (legislative day, JUNE 6), 2000

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to modify rates relating to reduced rate mail matter, 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. SPECIAL RATEMAKING PROVISIONS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR RATES FOR MAIL
5 CLASSES WITH CERTAIN PREFERRED SUBCLASSES.—

6 Section 3622 of title 39, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
9 section (d); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 2 lowing:

3 “(c) Regular rates for each class or subclass of mail
 4 that includes 1 or more special rate categories for mail
 5 under former section 4358 (d) or (e), 4452 (b) or (c), or
 6 4554 (b) or (c) of this title shall be established by applying
 7 the policies of this title, including the factors of section
 8 3622(b) of this title, to the costs attributable to the reg-
 9 ular rate mail in each class or subclass combined with the
 10 mail in the corresponding special rate categories author-
 11 ized by former section 4358 (d) or (e), 4452 (b) or (c),
 12 or 4554 (b) or (c) of this title.”.

13 (b) RESIDUAL RULE FOR PREFERRED PERIODICAL
 14 MAIL.—Section 3626(a)(3)(A) of title 39, United States
 15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 “(3)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (4) or
 17 (5), rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of
 18 mailer under former section 4358 of this title shall
 19 be established in a manner such that the estimated
 20 revenues to be received by the Postal Service from
 21 such class of mail or kind of mailer shall be equal
 22 to the sum of—

23 “(i) the estimated costs attributable to
 24 such class of mail or kind of mailer; and

1 “(ii) the product derived by multiplying the
 2 estimated costs referred to in clause (i) by the
 3 applicable percentage under subparagraph
 4 (B).”.

5 (c) SPECIAL RULE FOR NONPROFIT AND CLASSROOM
 6 PERIODICALS.—Section 3626(a)(4) of title 39, United
 7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(4)(A) Except as specified in subparagraph
 9 (B), rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of
 10 mailer under former section 4358 (d) or (e) of this
 11 title shall be established so that postage on each
 12 mailing of such mail shall be as nearly as practicable
 13 5 percent lower than the postage for a corresponding
 14 regular-rate category mailing.

15 “(B) With respect to the postage for the adver-
 16 tising pound portion of any mail matter under
 17 former section 4358 (d) or (e) of this title, the 5-
 18 percent discount specified in subparagraph (A) shall
 19 not apply if the advertising portion exceeds 10 per-
 20 cent of the publication involved.”.

21 (d) SPECIAL RULE FOR NONPROFIT STANDARD (A)
 22 MAIL.—Section 3626(a) of title 39, United States Code,
 23 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) The rates for mail matter under former
2 sections 4452 (b) and (c) of this title shall be estab-
3 lished as follows:

4 “(A) The estimated average revenue per
5 piece to be received by the Postal Service from
6 each subclass of mail under former sections
7 4452 (b) and (c) of this title shall be equal, as
8 nearly as practicable, to 60 percent of the esti-
9 mated average revenue per piece to be received
10 from the most closely corresponding regular-
11 rate subclass of mail.

12 “(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A),
13 the estimated average revenue per piece of each
14 regular-rate subclass shall be calculated on the
15 basis of expected volumes and mix of mail for
16 such subclass at current rates in the test year
17 of the proceeding.

18 “(C) Rate differentials within each sub-
19 class of mail matter under former sections 4452
20 (b) and (c) shall reflect the policies of this title,
21 including the factors set forth in section
22 3622(b) of this title.”.

23 (e) SPECIAL RULE FOR LIBRARY AND EDUCATIONAL
24 MATTER.—Section 3626(a) of title 39, United States

1 Code, as amended by subsection (d) of this section, is
 2 amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(7) The rates for mail matter under former
 4 sections 4554 (b) and (c) of this title shall be estab-
 5 lished so that postage on each mailing of such mail
 6 shall be as nearly as practicable 5 percent lower
 7 than the postage for a corresponding regular-rate
 8 mailing.”.

9 **SEC. 2. TRANSITIONAL AND TECHNICAL PROVISIONS.**

10 (a) TRANSITIONAL PROVISION FOR NONPROFIT
 11 STANDARD (A) MAIL.—In any proceeding in which rates
 12 are to be established under chapter 36 of title 39, United
 13 States Code, for mail matter under former sections 4452
 14 (b) and (c) of that title, pending as of the date of enact-
 15 ment of section 1 of this Act, the estimated reduction in
 16 postal revenue from such mail matter caused by the enact-
 17 ment of section 3626(a)(6)(A) of that title, if any, shall
 18 be treated as a reasonably assignable cost of the Postal
 19 Service under section 3622(b)(3) of that title.

20 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3626(a)(1)
 21 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking
 22 “4454(b), or 4454(c)” and inserting “4554(b), or
 23 4554(c)”.

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