

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2755

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that the United States Postal Service may provide certain basic financial services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2018

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that the United States Postal Service may provide certain basic financial services, 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 “Postal Banking Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR THE POSTAL SERVICE TO OFFER**

6 **CERTAIN FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of title 39, United
8 States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (8), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(9) to provide basic financial services, includ-
7 ing—

8 “(A) low-cost, small-dollar loans, not to ex-
9 ceed \$500 at a time, or \$1,000 from 1 year of
10 the issuance of the initial loan, as adjusted an-
11 nually by the Postmaster General to reflect any
12 change in the Consumer Price Index for All
13 Urban Consumers of the Department of Labor;

14 “(B) alone, or in partnership with deposi-
15 tory institutions, as defined in section 3 of the
16 Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.
17 1813), and Federal credit unions, as defined in
18 section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act
19 (12 U.S.C. 1752), small checking accounts and
20 interest-bearing savings accounts, not to exceed
21 the greater of—

22 “(i) \$20,000 per account; and

23 “(ii) 25 percent of the median account
24 balance reported in the Federal Deposit

1 Insurance Corporation’s quarterly Consoli-
2 dated Reports of Condition and Income;

3 “(C) transactional services, including debit
4 cards, automated teller machines, online check-
5 ing accounts, check-cashing services, automatic
6 bill-pay, mobile banking, or other products that
7 allows users to engage in the financial services
8 described in this paragraph;

9 “(D) remittance services, including the re-
10 ceiving and sending of money to domestic or
11 foreign recipients; and

12 “(E) such other basic financial services as
13 the Postal Service determines appropriate in
14 the public interest;

15 “(10) to set interest rates and fees for the fi-
16 nancial instruments and products provided by the
17 Postal Service that—

18 “(A) ensures that the customer access to
19 the products and the public interest is given
20 significant consideration;

21 “(B) ensures that interest rates on savings
22 accounts are at least 100 percent of the Federal
23 Deposit Insurance Corporation’s weekly na-
24 tional rate on nonjumbo savings accounts; and

1 “(C) ensures that the total interest rates
2 on small-dollar loan amounts—

3 “(i) are inclusive of interest, fees,
4 charges, and ancillary products and serv-
5 ices; and

6 “(ii) do not exceed 101 percent of the
7 Treasury 1 month constant maturity rate;
8 and

9 “(11) allow capitalization of an amount deemed
10 necessary by the Postmaster General that serve the
11 purpose of this section, through of an account sepa-
12 rate from products not included or allowed in this
13 section, for the purposes of enacting the provisions
14 of this section.”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(f) Any net profits from services provided under this
17 section that are not greater than the amount of initial cap-
18 italization—

19 “(1) shall be reported separately from mail
20 service and delivery;

21 “(2) in the case of any amount appropriated,
22 shall be returned to the general fund of the Treas-
23 ury not later than 9 years after the date of enact-
24 ment of this subsection; and

1 “(3) may be repaid to the offering organization
2 or organizations if the Postmaster General deter-
3 mines that the services provided in this subsection
4 are not reduced as a result.”.

5 (b) NO BANK CHARTER.—The United States Postal
6 Service shall not be granted a bank charter, become an
7 insured depository institution, as defined in section 3 of
8 the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813), or
9 engage in traditional banking activities such as lending.

10 (c) UCC.—The United States Postal Service shall be
11 subject to the provisions of article 4 of the Uniform Com-
12 mercial Code.

13 (d) REGULATIONS.—The Postmaster General, in con-
14 sultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Bureau
15 of Consumer Financial Protection, and the Federal bank-
16 ing agencies, shall promulgate regulations carrying out
17 this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

18 (e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
19 Section 404(e)(2) of title 39, United States Code, is
20 amended by adding at the end the following: “The pre-
21 ceding sentence shall not apply to any financial service of-
22 fered by the Postal Service under subsection (a)(9).”.

23 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The services offered
24 by the United States Postal Service under section 404 of
25 title 39, United States Code—

1 (1) shall be considered permissible non-banking
2 activities in accordance with section 225.28 of title
3 12, Code of Federal Regulations; and

4 (2) shall not be considered the business of
5 banking under the seventh paragraph of section
6 5136 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 24).

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