

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5261

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent by family members from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Government Reform

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## A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent by family members from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

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 “Mailing Support to  
5       Troops Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. FREE MAILING PRIVILEGES.**

2 Chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amend-  
3 ed by adding at the end the following:

4 **“§ 3407. Free postage for personal correspondence**  
5 **and parcels sent by family members to**  
6 **members of the Armed Forces of the**  
7 **United States serving in Iraq or Afghani-**  
8 **stan**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Any mail matter to which this  
10 section applies may be mailed free of postage if such mail  
11 matter—

12 “(1) is addressed to an individual who—

13 “(A) is a member of the Armed Forces of  
14 the United States on active duty (as defined in  
15 section 101 of title 10); and

16 “(B)(i) is serving in Iraq or Afghanistan;  
17 or

18 “(ii) is hospitalized at a facility under the  
19 jurisdiction of the Armed Forces of the United  
20 States as a result of a disease or injury in-  
21 curred as a result of service in Iraq or Afghani-  
22 stan; and

23 “(2) is sent—

24 “(A) by a family member (as defined in  
25 section 411h of title 37) of the individual re-  
26 ferred to in paragraph (1); and

1                   “(B) from within an area served by a  
2                   United States post office.

3           “(b) APPLICABILITY.—The free mailing privilege  
4 made available by this section—

5                   “(1) shall apply with respect to—

6                           “(A) letter mail or sound- or video-re-  
7                   corded communications having the character of  
8                   personal correspondence; and

9                           “(B) parcels not exceeding the maximum  
10                   size allowed by the Postal Service and the De-  
11                   partment of Defense for parcels sent to mem-  
12                   bers of the Armed Forces serving in Iraq or Af-  
13                   ghanistan; and

14                   “(2) shall not apply with respect to mail matter  
15                   that contains any advertising.

16           “(c) RATE OF POSTAGE.—Any mail matter mailed  
17 under this section shall be mailed at the equivalent rate  
18 of postage which assures that such mail matter will be  
19 sent by the most economical means practicable.

20           “(d) MARKING.—All mail matter mailed under this  
21 section shall bear, in the upper right-hand corner of the  
22 address area, the words ‘Free Matter for Member of the  
23 Armed Forces of the United States’ or words to that effect  
24 specified by the Postal Service.

1       “(e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after  
 2 the date of the enactment of this section, the Postal Serv-  
 3 ice shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense,  
 4 prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this sec-  
 5 tion.

6       “(f) DURATION.—The free mailing privilege made  
 7 available by this section shall apply with respect to mail  
 8 matter sent during the 1-year period beginning on the  
 9 date on which the regulations under subsection (e) take  
 10 effect.”.

11 **SEC. 3. FUNDING.**

12       (a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 2401(c) and 3627 of title  
 13 39, United States Code, are amended by striking “3406”  
 14 and inserting “3407”.

15       (b) AIR TRANSPORTATION.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2401 of title 39,  
 17 United States Code, is amended by redesignating  
 18 subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (e)  
 19 through (h), respectively, and by inserting after sub-  
 20 section (c) the following:

21       “(d) There are authorized to be appropriated to the  
 22 Postal Service each year a sum determined by the Postal  
 23 Service to be equal to the expenses incurred by the Postal  
 24 Service in providing air transportation for mail sent to  
 25 members of the Armed Forces of the United States free

1 of postage under section 3407, not including the expense  
 2 of air transportation that is provided by the Postal Service  
 3 at the same postage rate or charge for mail which is not  
 4 addressed to an Armed Forces post office.”.

5 (2) AMENDMENT TO PREVENT DUPLICATIVE  
 6 FUNDING.—Section 3401(e) of title 39, United  
 7 States Code, is amended—

8 (A) by striking “transportation or (2)”  
 9 and inserting “transportation, (2)”; and

10 (B) by striking “office.” and inserting “of-  
 11 fice, or (3) for which amounts are authorized to  
 12 be appropriated to the Postal Service under sec-  
 13 tion 2401(d).”.

14 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

15 (a) ANNUAL BUDGET.—Section 2009 of title 39,  
 16 United States Code, is amended in the next to last sen-  
 17 tence by striking “(b) and (c)” and inserting “(b), (c),  
 18 and (d)”.

19 (b) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REFERENCES.—Sections  
 20 2803(a) and 2804(a) of title 39, United States Code, are  
 21 amended by striking “2401(g)” and inserting “2401(f)”.

22 (c) CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The analysis for chapter  
 23 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding  
 24 at the end the following:

“3407. Free postage for personal correspondence and parcels sent by family members to members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.”.

