

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1707

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and certain parcels sent from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty abroad who are engaged in military operations involving armed conflict against a hostile foreign force, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 2, 2003

Ms. STABENOW introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and certain parcels sent from within the United States to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty abroad who are engaged in military operations involving armed conflict against a hostile foreign force, 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 “Providing Our Support
5 to Troops Act of 2003”.

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

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 34 of title 39, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“§ 3407. Free postage for personal correspondence**
6 **and certain parcels mailed to members of**
7 **Armed Forces of the United States**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The matter described in sub-
9 section (b) (other than matter described in subsection (c))
10 may be mailed free of postage, if—

11 “(1) such matter is sent from within an area
12 served by a United States post office;

13 “(2) such matter is addressed to an individual
14 who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United
15 States on active duty, as defined in section 101 of
16 title 10, or a civilian, authorized to use postal serv-
17 ices at Armed Forces installations, who holds a posi-
18 tion or performs one or more functions in support
19 of military operations, as designated by the military
20 theater commander; and

21 “(3)(A) such matter is addressed to the indi-
22 vidual referred to in paragraph (2) at an Armed
23 Forces post office established in an overseas area
24 with respect to which a designation under section
25 3401(a)(1)(A) is in effect; or

1 “(B) in the case of an individual who is hos-
2 pitalized at a facility under the jurisdiction of the
3 Armed Forces of the United States as a result of a
4 disease or injury described in section 3401(a)(1)(B),
5 such matter is addressed to such individual at an
6 Armed Forces post office determined under sub-
7 section (f).

8 “(b) MAIL MATTER DESCRIBED.—The free mailing
9 privilege provided by subsection (a) is extended to—

10 “(1) letter mail or sound- or video-recorded
11 communications having the character of personal
12 correspondence; and

13 “(2) parcels not exceeding 10 pounds in weight
14 and 60 inches in length and girth combined.

15 “(c) LIMITATION.—The free mailing privilege pro-
16 vided by subsection (a) does not extend to mail matter
17 that contains any advertising.

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

22 “(e) MARKING.—All matter mailed under this section
23 shall bear, in the upper right-hand corner of the address
24 area, the words ‘Free Matter for Members of the Armed

1 Forces of the United States’, or words to that effect speci-
 2 fied by the Postal Service.

3 “(f) REGULATIONS.—This section shall be adminis-
 4 tered under such conditions, and under such regulations,
 5 as the Postal Service and the Secretary of Defense jointly
 6 may prescribe.”.

7 (b) FUNDING.—

8 (1) FREE POSTAGE.—Sections 2401(c) and
 9 3627 of title 39, United States Code, are amended
 10 by striking “3406” and inserting “3407”.

11 (2) AIR TRANSPORTATION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2401 of title
 13 39, United States Code, is amended by redesign-
 14 nating subsections (d) through (g) as sub-
 15 sections (e) through (h), respectively, and by in-
 16 serting after subsection (c) the following:

17 “(d) There are authorized to be appropriated to the
 18 Postal Service each year a sum determined by the Postal
 19 Service to be equal to the expenses incurred by the Postal
 20 Service in providing air transportation for mail sent to
 21 members of the Armed Forces of the United States free
 22 of postage under section 3407, not including the expense
 23 of air transportation that is provided by the Postal Service
 24 at the same postage rate or charge for mail which is not
 25 addressed to an Armed Forces post office.”.

1 (B) AMENDMENT TO PREVENT DUPLICA-
 2 TIVE FUNDING.—Section 3401(e) of title 39,
 3 United States Code, is amended by striking “of-
 4 fice.” and inserting “office or (3) for which
 5 amounts are authorized to be appropriated to
 6 the Postal Service under section 2401(d).”.

7 (C) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
 8 MENTS.—

9 (i) ANNUAL BUDGET.—Section 2009
 10 of title 39, United States Code, is amended
 11 in the next to last sentence by striking
 12 “(b) and (c)” and inserting “(b), (c), and
 13 (d)”.

14 (ii) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REF-
 15 ERENCES.—Sections 2803(a) and 2804(a)
 16 of such title 39 are amended by striking
 17 “2401(g)” and inserting “2401(f)”.

18 (c) CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The analysis for chapter
 19 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding
 20 at the end the following:

“3407. Free postage for personal correspondence and certain parcels mailed to
 Members of the Armed Forces of the United States.”.

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