

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1444

To provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2007

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

A BILL

To provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent 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 “Supply Our Soldiers
5 Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. POSTAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES SERVING IN IRAQ OR**
3 **AFGHANISTAN.**

4 (a) AVAILABILITY OF POSTAL BENEFITS.—The Sec-
5 retary of Defense, in consultation with the United States
6 Postal Service, shall provide for a program under which
7 postal benefits are provided to qualified individuals in ac-
8 cordance with this section.

9 (b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—In this section, the
10 term “qualified individual” means a member of the Armed
11 Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101 of title
12 10, United States Code) who—

- 13 (1) is serving in Iraq or Afghanistan; or
14 (2) is hospitalized at a facility under the juris-
15 diction of the Department of Defense as a result of
16 a disease or injury incurred as a result of service in
17 Iraq or Afghanistan.

18 (c) POSTAL BENEFITS DESCRIBED.—

19 (1) VOUCHERS.—The postal benefits provided
20 under the program shall consist of such coupons or
21 other similar evidence of credit, whether in printed,
22 electronic, or other format (in this section referred
23 to as a “voucher”), as the Secretary of Defense, in
24 consultation with the Postal Service, shall determine,
25 which entitle the bearer or user to make qualified
26 mailings free of postage.

1 (2) QUALIFIED MAILING.—In this section, the
2 term “qualified mailing” means the mailing of a sin-
3 gle mail piece which—

4 (A) is first-class mail (including any
5 sound-recorded or video-recorded communica-
6 tion) not exceeding 13 ounces in weight and
7 having the character of personal correspondence
8 or parcel post not exceeding 10 pounds in
9 weight;

10 (B) is sent from within an area served by
11 a United States post office; and

12 (C) is addressed to a qualified individual.

13 (3) COORDINATION RULE.—Postal benefits
14 under the program are in addition to, and not in lieu
15 of, any reduced rates of postage or other similar
16 benefits which might otherwise be available by or
17 under law, including any rates of postage resulting
18 from the application of section 3401(b) of title 39,
19 United States Code.

20 (d) NUMBER OF VOUCHERS.—A member of the
21 Armed Forces shall be eligible for one voucher for every
22 second month in which the member is a qualified indi-
23 vidual.

24 (e) LIMITATIONS ON USE; DURATION.—A voucher
25 may not be used—

1 (1) for more than a single qualified mailing; or

2 (2) after the earlier of—

3 (A) the expiration date of the voucher, as
4 designated by the Secretary of Defense; or

5 (B) the end of the one-year period begin-
6 ning on the date on which the regulations pre-
7 scribed under subsection (f) take effect.

8 (f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
10 (in consultation with the Postal Service) shall prescribe
11 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the pro-
12 gram, including—

13 (1) procedures by which vouchers will be pro-
14 vided or made available in timely manner to quali-
15 fied individuals; and

16 (2) procedures to ensure that the number of
17 vouchers provided or made available with respect to
18 any qualified individual complies with subsection (d).

19 (g) TRANSFERS TO POSTAL SERVICE.—

20 (1) BASED ON ESTIMATES.—The Secretary of
21 Defense shall transfer to the Postal Service, out of
22 amounts available to carry out the program and in
23 advance of each calendar quarter during which post-
24 al benefits may be used under the program, an
25 amount equal to the amount of postal benefits that

1 the Secretary estimates will be used during such
2 quarter, reduced or increased (as the case may be)
3 by any amounts by which the Secretary finds that
4 a determination under this section for a prior quar-
5 ter was greater than or less than the amount finally
6 determined for such quarter.

7 (2) BASED ON FINAL DETERMINATION.—A
8 final determination of the amount necessary to cor-
9 rect any previous determination under this section,
10 and any transfer of amounts between the Postal
11 Service and the Department of Defense based on
12 that final determination, shall be made not later
13 than six months after the end of the one-year period
14 referred to in subsection (e)(2)(B).

15 (3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—All estimates
16 and determinations under this subsection of the
17 amount of postal benefits under the program used in
18 any period shall be made by the Secretary of De-
19 fense in consultation with the Postal Service.

20 (h) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be ap-
21 propriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year
22 2008 for military personnel, \$10,000,000 shall be for post-
23 al benefits provided in this section.

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