

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3916

To reduce the operating costs of the United States Postal Service, to provide for continued postal services for certain areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Ms. WATERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To reduce the operating costs of the United States Postal Service, to provide for continued postal services for certain areas, 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 “Protecting Post Offices
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF POSTAL SERVICE RETIREE**
7 **HEALTH BENEFIT PAYMENTS.**

8 Section 8909a(d)(3) of title 5, United States Code,
9 is amended as follows:

10 (1) Subparagraph (A) is repealed.

1 (2) In subparagraph (B), by striking “2017”
2 and inserting “2012”.

3 **SEC. 3. NONPOSTAL SERVICES; POST OFFICE CLOSURES.**

4 (a) NONPOSTAL SERVICES.—Subsection (a) of sec-
5 tion 404 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

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

8 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period and
9 inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(9) to provide nonpostal services.”.

12 (b) POST OFFICE CLOSURES.—Subsection (e) of such
13 section is amended to read as follows:

14 “(e)(1) Notwithstanding subsections (a)(3) or (d),
15 the Postal Service may not close or consolidate any post
16 office or other postal facility that is located in a ZIP Code
17 that has a high rate of poverty and a high rate of unem-
18 ployment. To determine whether a ZIP Code has a high
19 rate of poverty or unemployment, the Postmaster General
20 shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
21 retary of Labor.

22 “(2) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
23 ment of this subsection, the Postmaster General shall sub-
24 mit a report to Congress on alternative uses with respect

1 to under-used postal facilities, including whether such fa-
2 cilities could offer nonpostal services and products.”.

3 **SEC. 4. RATE REGULATION FOR MARKET-DOMINANT PROD-**
4 **UCTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3622 of
6 title 39, United States Code, the Postmaster General shall
7 have the authority to regulate rates for market-dominant
8 products. Such authority shall not apply to the rate dis-
9 counts established under subsection (e) of such section.

10 (b) NOTIFICATION.—If the Postmaster General de-
11 termines under subsection (a) that an adjustment in a rate
12 for a market-dominant product is necessary, the Post-
13 master General shall provide public notice of such adjust-
14 ment not later than 45 days before the implementation
15 of such adjustment.

16 (c) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.—In determining
17 whether an adjustment in a rate for a market-dominant
18 product is reasonable, the Postmaster General may com-
19 pare the percentage change of such adjustment with the
20 percentage change of the Consumer Price Index for All
21 Urban Consumers unadjusted for seasonal variation dur-
22 ing the 12-month period preceding the date the Post-
23 master General files notice of such adjustment pursuant
24 to subsection (b).

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