

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1837

To amend title 39, United States Code, to enhance the security and efficiency of nationwide mail and parcel delivery.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. FARENTHOLD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to enhance the security and efficiency of nationwide mail and parcel delivery.

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 “Secure Delivery for
5 America Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DELIVERY-POINT MODERNIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VII of chapter 36 of
8 title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

1 **“§ 3692. Delivery-point modernization**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this sec-
3 tion—

4 “(1) the term ‘delivery point’ means a mailbox
5 or other receptacle to which mail is delivered;

6 “(2) the term ‘primary mode of mail delivery’
7 means the typical method by which the Postal Serv-
8 ice delivers letter mail to the delivery point of a
9 postal patron;

10 “(3) the term ‘door delivery’ means a primary
11 mode of mail delivery whereby mail is placed into a
12 slot or receptacle at or near the postal patron’s door
13 or is hand delivered to a postal patron, but does not
14 include centralized, curbside, or sidewalk delivery;

15 “(4) the term ‘centralized delivery’ means a pri-
16 mary mode of mail delivery whereby mail receptacles
17 of a number of delivery points are grouped or clus-
18 tered at a single location;

19 “(5) the term ‘curbside delivery’ means a pri-
20 mary mode of mail delivery whereby a mail recep-
21 tacle is situated at the edge of a sidewalk abutting
22 a road or curb, at a road, or at a curb, and can be
23 served by a letter carrier from a motorized vehicle;
24 and

25 “(6) the term ‘sidewalk delivery’ means a pri-
26 mary mode of mail delivery whereby a mail recep-

1 tacle is situated at the edge of a sidewalk and can
2 be served by a letter carrier from the sidewalk.

3 “(b) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the Postal
4 Service—

5 “(1) to provide access to secure, convenient
6 package delivery receptacles to the greatest number
7 of postal patrons feasible; and

8 “(2) to use the most cost-effective primary
9 mode of mail delivery feasible for postal patrons.

10 “(c) PHASEOUT OF DOOR DELIVERY.—

11 “(1) NEW ADDRESSES.—For new addresses es-
12 tablished after September 30, 2016, the Postal Serv-
13 ice shall provide a primary mode of mail delivery
14 other than door delivery, with a preference for se-
15 cure, centralized delivery to the maximum extent
16 feasible.

17 “(2) BUSINESS ADDRESS CONVERSION.—Sub-
18 ject to paragraph (4), the Postal Service shall imple-
19 ment a program to convert existing business ad-
20 dresses with door delivery to centralized delivery to
21 the maximum extent feasible.

22 “(3) RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS CONVERSION.—

23 “(A) IDENTIFICATION.—Within 1 year
24 after the date of the enactment of this section,
25 each Postal Service district office shall identify

1 residential addresses within its service area that
2 are appropriate candidates for conversion from
3 door delivery to centralized, curbside, or side-
4 walk delivery, in accordance with standards es-
5 tablished by the Postal Service.

6 “(B) VOLUNTARY CONVERSION.—Subject
7 to paragraph (4), the Postal Service shall seek
8 to voluntarily convert the delivery points identi-
9 fied under subparagraph (A) from door delivery
10 to more cost-effective primary modes of mail
11 delivery.

12 “(C) PROCEDURES.—In carrying out con-
13 versions under subparagraph (B), the Postal
14 Service shall establish procedures—

15 “(i) to solicit, consider, and respond
16 to input from postal patrons, State and
17 local governments, local associations, and
18 property owners; and

19 “(ii) to place centralized delivery
20 points in locations that maximize delivery
21 efficiency, ease of use for postal patrons,
22 and respect for private property rights.

23 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making any deter-
24 mination to convert the primary mode of mail deliv-
25 ery for an existing address from door delivery to any

1 other primary mode of mail delivery, or to provide
2 a primary mode of mail delivery to a new address,
3 the Postal Service shall consider—

4 “(A) the impact of weather conditions,
5 physical barriers, or any other factor that may
6 impact the feasibility of providing a primary
7 mode of mail delivery other than door delivery
8 (such as a factor that may significantly reduce
9 the potential cost savings associated with pro-
10 viding centralized or curbside delivery);

11 “(B) whether the address is in a registered
12 historic district (as that term is defined in sec-
13 tion 47(c)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code
14 of 1986), is listed on the National Register of
15 Historic Places, is designated as a National
16 Historic Landmark, or is of historic value; and

17 “(C) population density and the concentra-
18 tion of poverty.

19 “(5) WAIVER FOR PHYSICAL HARDSHIP.—The
20 Postal Service shall establish and maintain a waiver
21 program under which, upon application, door deliv-
22 ery may be continued, or provided, at no cost to the
23 applicant in any case in which—

1 “(A) centralized or curbside delivery would,
2 but for this paragraph, otherwise be the pri-
3 mary mode of mail delivery; and

4 “(B) door delivery is necessary in order to
5 avoid causing significant physical hardship or
6 physical safety risks to a postal patron.

7 “(d) DELIVERY MODERNIZATION REQUIREMENT.—

8 “(1) DELIVERY-POINT CONVERSIONS.—During
9 each fiscal year from fiscal year 2017 through fiscal
10 year 2026, the Postal Service shall convert not less
11 than 1,500,000 of the door delivery points extant on
12 December 31, 2015, to centralized, curbside, or side-
13 walk delivery.

14 “(2) CONVERSION TYPE.—In carrying out para-
15 graph (1), the Postal Service shall, to the greatest
16 extent feasible, convert delivery points to centralized
17 delivery and include secure package lockers co-lo-
18 cated with mail receptacles at the centralized deliv-
19 ery point.

20 “(3) CONVERSION ORDER.—In determining
21 which delivery points to convert under paragraph
22 (1), the delivery point or points of postal patrons
23 who voluntarily agree to convert their delivery point
24 or points under subsection (c)(3) shall take prece-

1 dence over any other conversions to the greatest ex-
2 tent practicable.

3 “(4) PROCEDURES.—In carrying out conver-
4 sions under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall
5 establish procedures to—

6 “(A) solicit, consider, and respond to input
7 from the general public, postal patrons, State
8 and local governments, local associations, and
9 property owners which shall include, but not be
10 limited to—

11 “(i) a public community meeting prior
12 to the commencement of the conversion of
13 a community;

14 “(ii) prior to the completion of the
15 conversion of a community; and

16 “(iii) at any point in the process when
17 the District Manager makes a change to
18 the delivery method or the location of cen-
19 tralized delivery points;

20 “(B) calculate and make publicly accessible
21 the cost or savings of the conversion to the
22 Postal Service as well as the average conversion
23 cost or savings to each postal patron and any
24 cost or savings to the State and local govern-
25 ment; and

1 “(C) place centralized delivery points in lo-
2 cations that maximize delivery efficiency, ease
3 of use for postal patrons, and respect for pri-
4 vate property rights.

5 “(5) NOTIFICATION.—In carrying out conver-
6 sions under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall
7 provide written notice at least 60 days in advance of
8 the implementation date of a change in primary
9 mode of mail delivery to postal customers served by
10 an applicable delivery point.

11 “(6) VOUCHER PROGRAM.—The Postal Service
12 shall, in accordance with such standards and proce-
13 dures as the Postal Service shall by regulation pre-
14 scribe, provide for a voucher program under which,
15 upon application, the Postal Service may defray all
16 or any portion of the costs associated with conver-
17 sion from door delivery under this section which
18 would otherwise be borne by postal patrons.

19 “(7) LEGACY DOOR-DELIVERY SERVICE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service
21 may continue to provide, for a fee to be paid by
22 the addressee, door delivery to an address that
23 received door delivery as of January 1, 2016,
24 but was converted or scheduled to be converted
25 to a different primary mode of mail delivery as

1 a result of the requirements of paragraph (1),
2 subject to succeeding provisions of this para-
3 graph.

4 “(B) OFFSET.—The fee described in sub-
5 paragraph (A) shall, when taken in the nation-
6 wide aggregate, offset the additional cost to the
7 Postal Service for door delivery (compared to
8 the cost of the primary mode of mail delivery
9 which would otherwise exist for such address)
10 as a result of the requirements of subsection
11 (d).

12 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The fee shall be
13 subject to the requirements of section
14 3622(d)(1)(B) and the Postmaster General may
15 by regulation prescribe the method of the fee’s
16 calculation.

17 “(D) QUALIFICATIONS.—Postal patrons
18 may only qualify for the option of legacy door-
19 delivery service if—

20 “(i) the postal patron received mail at
21 the applicable address on the date on
22 which—

23 “(I) the Postal Service provided
24 written notice of its intent to convert

1 a delivery point in compliance with
2 paragraph (5); or

3 “(II) the primary mode of mail
4 delivery was changed pursuant to the
5 requirements of paragraph (1);

6 “(ii) the postal patron registered and
7 paid the initial fee for such service not
8 later than 6 months after the date on
9 which the primary mode of mail delivery
10 was changed for the applicable address;
11 and

12 “(iii) the provision of legacy door-de-
13 livery service has been continuous at the
14 applicable address since its commencement.

15 “(8) TREATMENT OF EXEMPTION.—Addresses
16 receiving door delivery or legacy door delivery as a
17 result of subsection (c)(5) or paragraph (7)—

18 “(A) shall be counted as addresses that re-
19 ceive the primary mode of mail delivery which
20 the address would be subject to if not for the
21 applicable exemption; and

22 “(B) shall, within 60 days after ceasing to
23 meet the requirements of such subsection (c)(5)
24 or paragraph (7), as applicable, be converted to

1 the primary mode of mail delivery which was
2 otherwise applicable.

3 “(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days
4 after the end of each of fiscal years 2015 through
5 2024, the Postal Service shall submit to Congress
6 and the Inspector General of the Postal Service a re-
7 port on the implementation of this section during
8 the most recently completed fiscal year. Each such
9 report shall include—

10 “(A) the number of residential and busi-
11 ness addresses that—

12 “(i) receive door delivery as of the end
13 of the fiscal year preceding the most re-
14 cently completed fiscal year;

15 “(ii) receive door delivery as of the
16 end of the most recently completed fiscal
17 year; and

18 “(iii) during the most recently com-
19 pleted fiscal year, were converted from
20 door delivery to—

21 “(I) centralized delivery points;

22 “(II) curbside delivery points;

23 and

24 “(III) any other primary mode of
25 mail delivery, respectively;

1 “(B) the estimated cost savings from the
2 conversions described in subparagraph (A)(iii);

3 “(C) a description of the progress made by
4 the Postal Service toward meeting the require-
5 ments of subsection (c) and paragraph (1) of
6 this subsection; and

7 “(D) any other information which the
8 Postal Service considers appropriate.

9 “(10) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The In-
10 spector General of the Postal Service shall issue an
11 annual audit report on the implementation of the
12 conversion requirement under paragraph (1) not
13 later than 90 days after the date on which the Post-
14 al Service releases its annual report under para-
15 graph (9). At a minimum, the report under this
16 paragraph shall contain—

17 “(A) an audit of the data contained in the
18 Postal Service’s report under paragraph (9);
19 and

20 “(B) an evaluation of the Postal Service’s
21 implementation of the procedural requirements
22 described in paragraph (4).

23 “(e) REVIEW.—Subchapters IV and V shall not apply
24 with respect to any action taken by the Postal Service
25 under this section.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding after the item relating to section 3691 the fol-
4 lowing:

“3692. Delivery-point modernization.”.

5 (c) UPDATED DELIVERY COST DATA.—

6 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Postal Service
8 shall begin to collect data on delivery mode costs and
9 the potential savings of converting to more cost-effi-
10 cient primary modes of mail delivery.

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2017,
12 the Postal Service shall submit a report to the Com-
13 mittee on Oversight and Government Reform of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
16 Senate describing the findings of the study con-
17 ducted under paragraph (1).

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