

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1854

To amend title 39, United States Code, to improve the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2015

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

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to improve the United States Postal Service, 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 “Postal Innovation
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

7 In this Act, the term “Postal Service” means the
8 United States Postal Service.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPANDED SERVICES.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF NEW NONPOSTAL SERV-
 3 ICES.—Section 404(a) of title 39, United States Code, is
 4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through
 6 (8) as paragraphs (7) through (9), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(6) on and after the date of enactment of the
 10 Postal Innovation Act, to provide other services that
 11 are not postal services, including financial services,
 12 warehousing, public Internet access, experimental
 13 postal products market testing, shipment of beer,
 14 wine and spirits, and community support services
 15 such as accepting passports through partnerships
 16 with State and local governments, if the provision of
 17 such services—

18 “(A) uses the processing, transportation,
 19 delivery, retail network, or technology of the
 20 Postal Service;

21 “(B) is consistent with the public interest;
 22 and

23 “(C) has the potential to improve the net
 24 financial position of the Postal Service;”.

25 (b) GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES.—Section 411 of title
 26 39, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in the second sentence, by striking “this
2 section” and inserting “this subsection”;

3 (2) by striking “Executive agencies” and insert-
4 ing “(a) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Executive agen-
5 cies”; and

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

7 “(b) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘local government’ means—

10 “(i) a county, municipality, city, town,
11 township, local public authority, school dis-
12 trict, special district, intrastate district,
13 council of governments, or regional or
14 interstate government entity;

15 “(ii) an agency or instrumentality of
16 an entity described in clause (i); or

17 “(iii) a rural community, an unincor-
18 porated town or village, or an instrumen-
19 tality of a rural community or an unincor-
20 porated town or village;

21 “(B) the term ‘State’ includes the District
22 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto
23 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam,
24 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the

1 Northern Mariana Islands, and any other terri-
 2 tory or possession of the United States; and

3 “(C) the term ‘tribal government’ means
 4 the government of an Indian tribe (as defined
 5 in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination
 6 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e))).

7 “(2) AUTHORITY OF POSTAL SERVICE.—The
 8 Postal Service is authorized to furnish property and
 9 services to States, local governments, and tribal gov-
 10 ernments, under such terms and conditions, includ-
 11 ing the possibility for reimbursement, as the Postal
 12 Service and the applicable State, local government,
 13 or tribal government shall determine appropriate.”.
 14 (c) PILOT PROGRAM.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service may con-
 16 duct a pilot program to assess the most cost-effec-
 17 tive implementation of providing nonpostal services
 18 to communities through public-private partnerships
 19 at post offices in 5 cities, of which—

20 (A) not fewer than 1 post office shall be lo-
 21 cated in a rural area; and

22 (B) not fewer than 1 post office shall be
 23 located in an urban area.

24 (2) SERVICES.—The nonpostal services de-
 25 scribed in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) shall include—

2 (i) municipal broadband Internet serv-
3 ice;

4 (ii) public wireless broadband Internet
5 service; and

6 (iii) Internet voting; and

7 (B) may include—

8 (i) emergency broadband Internet
9 service;

10 (ii) financial services;

11 (iii) passport services; and

12 (iv) shipment of beer, wine, and spir-
13 its.

14 **SEC. 4. UPGRADING THE FLEET OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.**

15 (a) CONTRACTING.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service may
17 enter into contracts to upgrade the postal fleet to in-
18 crease long-term savings by reducing collision, main-
19 tenance, fuel, or other costs.

20 (2) REVIEW.—In determining whether to enter
21 into contracts under paragraph (1), the Postal Serv-
22 ice shall review and identify routes for which the
23 Postal Service provides delivery to determine if
24 motor vehicles used on such routes can be replaced

1 or retrofitted with commercially available tech-
2 nologies that—

3 (A) increase average fuel economy;

4 (B) reduce collisions with other vehicles,
5 pedestrians, bicycle riders, and joggers; or

6 (C) reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

7 (b) GUIDELINES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall de-
9 velop guidelines for contracted vehicles and vehicles
10 purchased or leased for use by the Postal Service,
11 that, at a minimum, require that—

12 (A) light-duty vehicles—

13 (i) with respect to emissions of carbon
14 dioxide—

15 (I) comply with applicable stand-
16 ards developed by the Administrator
17 of the Environmental Protection
18 Agency under title II of the Clean Air
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 7521 et seq.); and

20 (II) are not more than, on aver-
21 age, 250 grams per vehicle mile;

22 (ii) are equipped with commercially
23 available crash avoidance technologies; and

1 (iii) meet applicable average fuel econ-
2 omy standards of 34.1 miles per gallon;
3 and

4 (B) medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles
5 comply with applicable standards—

6 (i) for emissions of carbon dioxide de-
7 veloped by the Administrator of the Envi-
8 ronmental Protection Agency under title II
9 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521 et
10 seq.);

11 (ii) for average fuel economy devel-
12 oped by the Secretary of Transportation
13 under chapter 329 of title 49, United
14 States Code; and

15 (iii) for safety such that the vehicles
16 are equipped with commercially available
17 crash avoidance technologies.

18 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The standards described
19 in paragraph (1) shall apply to contracted vehicles
20 and vehicles purchased or leased for use by the Post-
21 al Service after 1 year after the date of enactment
22 of this Act.

23 (c) REDUCTION OF CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM
24 PRODUCTS.—The Postal Service shall reduce the total
25 consumption of petroleum products by vehicles in the post-

1 al fleet by not less than 2 percent annually through the
2 end of fiscal year 2025, relative to the baseline established
3 for fiscal year 2005.

4 **SEC. 5. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE POSTAL SERV-**
5 **ICE.**

6 (a) INNOVATION.—The Postal Service may use cost
7 savings from section 3 to reinvest in innovation, research
8 and development, and operations of the Postal Service.

9 (b) SAFETY.—The Postal Service shall use commer-
10 cially available crash avoidance technologies to improve
11 safety across the postal fleet.

12 **SEC. 6. GAO STUDY.**

13 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Comptroller General shall conduct a study
15 on the opportunities and challenges related to the Postal
16 Service providing access to public broadband Internet
17 service and Internet voting that would—

18 (1) be based on cost-effective strategies for uti-
19 lizing the infrastructure, technology, or processing,
20 transportation, delivery, and retail networks of the
21 Postal Service;

22 (2) be consistent with the public interest; and

23 (3) have the potential to improve the financial
24 position of the Postal Service.

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