

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8104

To provide for the issuance of the Voting By Mail Semipostal Stamp, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 25, 2020

Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of the Voting By Mail Semipostal
Stamp, 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 “Vote By Mail Stamp
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VOTING BY MAIL SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to afford a convenient
8 way for members of the public to contribute to funding

1 voting accessibility, the United States Postal Service shall
2 issue a semipostal (in this Act referred to as the “Voting
3 By Mail Semipostal Stamp”) in accordance with this sec-
4 tion.

5 (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The issuance and sale of the
7 Voting By Mail Semipostal Stamp shall be governed
8 by the provisions of section 416 of title 39, United
9 States Code, and regulations issued under such sec-
10 tion, subject to the requirements of this subsection.

11 (2) DURATION.—The Voting By Mail Semipost-
12 al Stamp shall be made available to the public for
13 a period of 10 years, beginning no later than 3
14 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (3) COST.—The Voting By Mail Semipostal
16 Stamp shall be offered at a cost equal to the cost
17 of mailing a letter weighing 1 ounce or less at the
18 nonautomation single-piece first-ounce letter rate, in
19 effect at the time of purchase, plus a differential of
20 not less than 25 percent.

21 (4) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—All amounts
22 becoming available from the sale of the Voting By
23 Mail Semipostal Stamp (as determined under section
24 416(d) of such title) shall be transferred to the Elec-

1 tion Assistance Commission for the purpose of
2 grants under subsection (c).

3 (5) PROCEEDS NOT TO BE OFFSET.—In accord-
4 ance with section 416(d)(4) of such title, amounts
5 becoming available from the sale of the Voting By
6 Mail Semipostal Stamp shall not be taken into ac-
7 count in any decision relating to the level of appro-
8 priations or other Federal funding to be furnished in
9 any year to the Election Assistance Commission or
10 any State.

11 (c) GRANTS TO STATES TO SUPPORT VOTING BY
12 MAIL.—

13 (1) GRANTS.—The Election Assistance Com-
14 mission shall carry out a program to make grants to
15 eligible States for supporting voting by mail, includ-
16 ing voting by absentee ballot, in elections for Federal
17 office.

18 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive
19 a grant under the program under this subsection if
20 the State submits to the Commission, at such time
21 and in such form as the Commission may require,
22 an application containing—

23 (A) a description of how the State will use
24 the grant to support voting by mail in the
25 State; and

1 (B) such other information and assurances
2 as the Commission may require.

3 (3) AMOUNT.—The Commission shall determine
4 the amount of a grant made to an eligible State
5 under the program under this subsection, taking
6 into account the information provided by the State
7 in its application for the grant and the amount of
8 funds available for grants under the program.

9 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after
10 the end of each fiscal year during which an eligible
11 State received a grant under the program under this
12 subsection, the State shall submit a report to the
13 Commission describing the activities the State car-
14 ried out with the grant.

15 (5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
16 There are authorized to be appropriated for each of
17 the fiscal years 2021 through 2030 such sums as
18 may be necessary to carry out this subsection, to be
19 derived from amounts transferred to the Commission
20 under subsection (b)(4).

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

22 (1) the term “semipostal” refers to a postage
23 stamp described in section 416(a)(1) of title 39,
24 United States Code; and

1 (2) the term “State” means the 50 States, the
2 District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
4 Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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