

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2974

To require the Postmaster General to establish a comprehensive organizational strategy to combat the use of the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require the Postmaster General to establish a comprehensive organizational strategy to combat the use of the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs.

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 “U.S. Postal Service
5 Opioid and Illicit Drug Strategy Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO COMBAT ILLICIT**
7 **DRUG DISTRIBUTION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
 5 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Oversight and Re-
 7 form of the House of Representatives; and

8 (C) the Committee on Homeland Security
 9 of the House of Representatives.

10 (2) COVERED RECIPIENTS.—The term “covered
 11 recipients” means—

12 (A) the appropriate congressional commit-
 13 tees; and

14 (B) the Director of the Office of National
 15 Drug Control Policy.

16 (3) POSTAL SERVICE.—The term “Postal Serv-
 17 ice” means the United States Postal Service.

18 (4) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
 19 the strategy established by the Postmaster General
 20 under subsection (b)(1).

21 (b) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

22 (1) ESTABLISHMENT, PUBLICATION, AND SUB-
 23 MISSION.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
 25 after the enactment of this Act, the Postmaster

1 General shall establish, publish online, and sub-
2 mit to the covered recipients a comprehensive
3 organizational strategy to combat the use of the
4 mail in the distribution of illicit drugs.

5 (B) SENSITIVE AND PROPRIETARY INFOR-
6 MATION.—If the Strategy includes sensitive or
7 proprietary information, the Postmaster Gen-
8 eral—

9 (i) may exclude that information from
10 the version of the Strategy published on-
11 line; and

12 (ii) shall submit that information to
13 the covered recipients, in a classified annex
14 if necessary.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Strategy shall—

16 (A) support the Postal Service in coordi-
17 nating, evaluating, and improving its ongoing
18 efforts to prevent use of the mail in the dis-
19 tribution of illicit drugs through domestic and
20 international channels; and

21 (B) prioritize an effective response to the
22 opioid crisis and any other public health con-
23 cern involving illicit drugs that emerges after
24 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not later than 180
2 days before the date on which the President is re-
3 quired to submit to Congress a National Drug Con-
4 trol Strategy under section 706(a)(2) of the Office
5 of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act
6 of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705(a)(2)), the Postmaster
7 General shall update the Strategy, publish the up-
8 dated Strategy online, and submit the updated
9 Strategy to the covered recipients.

10 (c) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Upon the submis-
11 sion of the Strategy to the covered recipients under sub-
12 section (b)(1), and annually thereafter, the Postal Service
13 shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional
14 committees on the status of initiatives implemented under
15 the Strategy.

16 (d) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy shall include the fol-
17 lowing elements:

18 (1) A description of the goals and objectives of
19 the Postal Service for combating the use of the mail
20 in the distribution of illicit drugs, including fentanyl
21 and other synthetic opioids.

22 (2) A description of the organizational structure
23 the Postal Service uses to efficiently carry out the
24 objectives described in paragraph (1).

1 (3) A discussion of emerging trends regarding
2 the use of the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs,
3 including—

4 (A) trends regarding the relative mag-
5 nitudes and threats of illicit drugs distributed
6 through the mail versus illicit drugs distributed
7 through other channels, which the Postal Serv-
8 ice shall assess in consultation with the Com-
9 missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
10 tion and the Director of the Office of National
11 Drug Control Policy;

12 (B) the relative roles of domestic and
13 international mail; and

14 (C) any new drug threats the Postal Serv-
15 ice has observed.

16 (4) An inventory and assessment of the existing
17 programs, initiatives, strategies, plans, and policies
18 of the Postal Service related to combating the use of
19 the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs, which
20 shall include—

21 (A) with respect to each program, initia-
22 tive, strategy, plan, or policy—

23 (i) an evaluation of performance;

24 (ii) areas identified for improvement;

1 (iii) potential barriers to improvement;

2 and

3 (iv) recommended changes to more ef-
4 fectively accomplish the goals and objec-
5 tives;

6 (B) an analysis of any constraints on re-
7 sources, including workforce and technology re-
8 sources, that hinder the ability of the Postal
9 Service to efficiently and adequately carry out
10 the objectives described in paragraph (1) and
11 address emerging trends; and

12 (C) a description of future initiatives that
13 the Postal Service is considering in response to
14 emerging trends.

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