

Proposed Postal Legislation: 2011-2016

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Congress

[114th \(2015-2016\)](#)

[113th \(2013-2014\)](#)

[112th \(2011-2012\)](#)

Source: Congress.gov. The names of the bills link to the full entry on congress.gov, where you can find the complete text of the bill, amendments, co-sponsors, etc. (The list does not include amendments to or provisions in appropriations bills that involve the Postal Service, e.g, the provision requiring the Postal Service to continue regular mail delivery on Saturdays.)

114th Congress (2015-2016)

H.R. Postal Service Reform Act of 2016

Sponsors: Reps. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and Elijah Cummings, D-Md

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 06/15/2016 Referred to House

Summary (Note: As of June 23, 2016, this bill does not appear on Congress.org.)

TITLE I – POSTAL SERVICE BENEFITS REFORM

Postal Service Health Benefits Program

- Establishes separately rated postal plans within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) beginning in January 2018.
- FEHBP carriers currently insuring at least 1,500 postal employees and retirees, as well as any other carriers may offer postal plans.
- Almost all postal employees and retirees who elect coverage through FEHBP must enroll in one of the postal FEHBP plans.
- Medicare eligible Postal Service retirees and family members are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A and B.
- The Postal Service will cover a decreasing portion of the Medicare Part B premium for current retirees transitioned into Medicare as a result of the legislation over a 4-year transition period: 75% in the first year; 50% in the second year; 25% in the third year; and 0% in the fourth year. Postal Service Retiree

Health Care Benefit Funding Reform

- Requires the Postal Service to make actuarially-based Retiree Health Benefit (RHB) prefunding payments to cover 100% of the cost of the Postal Service's RHB liability within 40 years.
- Addresses the prefunding schedule established in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006.

Postal Service Pension Funding Reform

- Calculates the Postal Service's pension costs and liabilities using the salary growth and demographic assumptions that are specific to the Postal Service population instead of the government-wide population, as in current law.
- Any surplus within the Postal Service's Civil Service Retirement System or Federal Employees Retirement System accounts must be amortized over 30 years and returned to the Postal Service.

TITLE II – POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONS REFORM

Governance Reform

- Establishes a Presidentially-appointed, Senate confirmed 5-member Board of Governors with 7-year terms. (Current Board is 9 members.)
- The Board serves as a consultant to the Postmaster General (PMG) and sets the compensation for the PMG and Deputy PMG.
- The PMG and the Deputy PMG must be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to 4-year terms.
- Requires the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) to pay the Department of State's costs of negotiating international postal rates.
- Clarifies the PRC's existing authority to levy fines against the Postal Service, payable to the U.S. Treasury for deliberate noncompliance with the provisions of title 39.

Conversion to Secure, Centralized Delivery

- Requires the incremental conversion to centralized delivery of business addresses identified by the Postal Service.
- Requires the voluntary conversion to centralized or cluster box delivery of residential addresses identified by the Postal Service where 40% of the residents consent to conversion.
- Maintains door delivery of mail for residents who do not consent to voluntary conversion; however, any future or new residents of an area that has been converted will receive the converted delivery type.
- A conversion waiver is allowed in cases of physical hardship.

Postal Rates

- Allows the Postal Service to increase postal rates for market-dominant products by 2.15%, or 1 cent for a First-Class stamp.
- Requires the PRC to complete its full review of the market-dominant rate system by January 1, 2018.
- Establishes priority factors for consideration in the PRC's rate review, including the Postal Service's financial stability, the effect of rate increases upon users of the mail, the reliability of delivery timelines and service standards, the available alternative means of communicating and sharing information, and the requirement that all costs incurred are appropriately covered by the revenue from the product for which they were incurred.
- Eliminates state and national political committees' eligibility for non-profit mail rates.

- Directs the Postal Service to raise rates on loss-making monopoly products, subject to certain overall rate increase limitations.

Nonpostal Services

- Authorizes the Postal Service to provide nonpostal services to state, local, and tribal governments and other federal agencies.
- Requires public notice and comment and approval by Board of Governors before the Postal Service offers such service.
- Requires the Postal Service to submit an annual report to the PRC analyzing the costs, revenues, rates, and quality of service for each nonpostal service agreement.
- Requires the PRC to allow for public comment on the Postal Service's report.
- The PRC must then make a compliance determination and noncompliance constitutes failure of the price charged for the service to fully cover the Postal Service's costs.
- In case of noncompliance, the PRC shall prescribe remedial action to the Postal Service. The PRC may order the Postal Service to discontinue a nonpostal service if the Postal Service persistently fails to meet cost coverage requirements.

Fair Stamp-Evidencing Competition

- Requires the Postal Service to abide by the same regulations it requires of private companies when offering metered postage systems that create individual postage labels for letters or packages.

Efficient and Flexible Universal Postal Service

- Requires the Postal Service to consider additional factors when evaluating whether or not to close a post office: distance to next post office, characteristics of the location, including weather and terrain, and the availability of broadband.
- Shortens the deadline for the PRC to review the Postal Service's decision to close or consolidate a post office from 120 to 60 days.
- Allows communities the opportunity to provide input on their preference as to the closing or consolidation or alternative options for access to postal services.
- Allows for appeals regarding the closing or consolidation of post office stations and post office branches.

Review of Postal Service Cost Allocation Guidelines

- Requires the PRC to conduct a one-time review of the Postal Service's cost allocation methodologies.

TITLE III – POSTAL SERVICE PERSONNEL

Chief Innovation Officer

- Requires the Postal Service to establish and appoint a Chief Innovation Officer to manage the Postal Service's development and implementation of innovative postal and nonpostal products and services.

Inspector General of the Postal Community

- Consolidates the Postal Service and the PRC Offices of Inspector General into a newly established Inspector General for the Postal Community.

MSPB Appeal Rights

- Provides non-bargaining, non-supervisory employees access to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

TITLE IV – POSTAL CONTRACTING REFORM

Contracting Reforms

- Requires the Postal Service and PRC to issue a policy on the delegation of contracting authority, post noncompetitive contract awards meeting certain dollar value thresholds, and improve oversight and response to potential conflicts of interest regarding contracting.

H.R.4656 Stop Postal Closures Act of 2016

Sponsor: [Rep. Huffman, Jared \[D-CA-2\]](#) (Introduced 03/01/2016)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/01/2016 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

This bill prohibits the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from: (1) closing or consolidating any postal facility without the approval of the Postal Regulatory Commission, or (2) closing or consolidating any postal facility or carrying out any network rationalization activity until the Commission has certified that the USPS has met the national service standards that were in effect on July 1, 2012, and that are reinstated by this Act.

For purposes of such prohibitions, “postal facility” means a USPS facility that is primarily involved in the preparation, dispatch, or other physical processing of mail but does not include: (1) any post office, station, or branch; or (2) any facility used only for administrative functions.

Before making a determination to close or consolidate a postal facility, the USPS must conduct an area mail processing study, which includes: (1) a plan to reduce the capacity of the facility without closing it; and (2) an analysis of the effects of the closure or consolidation on the community, on small businesses, and on specified postal services to individuals.

If the USPS makes a determination to close or consolidate a postal facility after completing such study, it shall: (1) provide specified notice to Congress, the Commission, the public, and each person in the zip code served by such facility; (2) conduct at least three meetings to receive public comments; and (3) publish a justification of such determination. The Commission shall have 90 days to approve or disapprove the closure or consolidation.

The Commission shall determine annually if the USPS is meeting the national service standards for market-dominant products. If the Commission finds that the USPS is not meeting such standards, it may recommend corrective actions and reasonable performance targets. The Postmaster General shall respond within 60 days after receiving such recommendations on how the USPS will change operations to achieve them.

H.R.4422 — POSTAL Act of 2015

Sponsor: [Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. \[D-LA-2\]](#) (Introduced 02/01/2016)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 02/01/2016 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

This bill expands the specific powers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to include the provision of basic financial services, including: (1) small-dollar loans; (2) checking accounts, interest-bearing savings accounts, and services relating to international money transfers, each of which may be provided by the USPS alone or in partnership with depository institutions and credit unions; (3) other basic financial services as appropriate in the public interest; and (4) the creation of a Postal Card that allows users to engage in such financial services.

S.2051 — Improving Postal Operations, Service, and Transparency Act of 2015

Sponsor: [Sen. Carper, Thomas R. \[D-DE\]](#) (Introduced 09/17/2015)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 01/21/2016 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Hearings held. ([All Actions](#))

This bill directs the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) to submit a report on the universal service obligation of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) that takes into account the changing nature of communications and includes recommendations on better defining such obligation to help keep the USPS relevant in the digital age.

TITLE I—POSTAL SERVICE WORKFORCE

Federal agencies must use criteria specific to USPS employees in calculating any liability of the USPS, including retiree health benefits, retirement annuities, and workers' compensation liabilities.

This title: (1) creates a new Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHBP) within the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, to be implemented and administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), for all USPS employees and annuitants; (2) requires all Medicare-eligible postal employees and annuitants enrolled in PSHBP to also enroll in Medicare; (3) restructures the pre-funding requirements for USPS retiree health benefits by replacing the current schedule of annual payments to the PostalService Retiree Health Benefits Fund with a schedule of annual installment payments that will liquidate pension liabilities by September 30, 2056, as recomputed by June 30 of each year beginning in 2017; (4) reduces the pre-funding requirement for retiree health benefits to 80% of projected liability (currently, 100%); (5) permits refunds to the USPS for overpayments of unfunded pension obligations; and (6) extends the USPS payment schedule for unfunded Civil Service Retirement System liabilities from 25 years to 40 years.

A right to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board is granted to any USPS officer or employer who: (1) is not represented by a recognized bargaining representative; and (2) is in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule.

Any arbitration board deciding a USPS contract dispute must render a decision within 45 days after its appointment and consider the financial condition of the USPS in deciding such disputes.

The USPS must designate a USPS employee as the Workforce Development Officer to assume primary responsibility for issues relating to the morale of USPS employees.

TITLE II—POSTAL OPERATIONS

The USPS must submit to the Board of Governors of the PRC: (1) a plan describing the actions the USPS intends to take to achieve long-term solvency, and (2) a financial plan and budget. The PRC must contract with an independent agency to complete a study that analyzes USPS finances, the overall mailing industry, the demand for market-dominant and competitive products, and changes in overall USPS revenue and costs savings.

The USPS is prohibited from: (1) closing or consolidating any postal facility for two years after enactment of this Act; and (2) closing or consolidating any post office, or reducing the hours of certain post offices, for five years after enactment of this Act.

The USPS must: (1) submit to appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategic plan for reducing the number of area and district offices; (2) establish and regularly revise a uniform set of national service standards; (3) convert door delivery to other delivery modes, including centralized delivery or curbside delivery; and (4) implement a pilot program to assess the feasibility of integrating alternative fuel vehicles into the postal fleet.

The USPS may not maintain or operate more than one post office in a House or Senate Office Building.

TITLE III—POSTAL SERVICE REVENUE AND INNOVATION

This title freezes the rates for market-dominant products in effect on September 30, 2015, until January 1, 2018. By January 1, 2018, the PRC must establish a new system for regulating rates and classes for market-dominant products.

This title authorizes the USPS to provide new nonpostal services and to ship wine, beer, and distilled spirits.

This title establishes: (1) the position of a Chief Innovation Officer who shall lead the development and implementation of innovative postal products and services and nonpostal services that have the potential to improve the net financial position of the USPS; and (2) a Strategic Advisory Commission on Postal Service Solvency, Service, and Innovation to provide strategic guidance and foster innovative thinking to address challenges facing the USPS without unfairly competing with the private sector. The Commission must develop a strategic blueprint for the long-term solvency of the USPS.

TITLE IV—POSTAL SERVICE CUSTOMER SERVICE, TRANSPARENCY, AND REGULATION

The Board of Governors of the USPS shall conduct a study on USPS customer service, including the training of employees that serve the public. The PRC shall submit an annual report to specified congressional committees on the fiscal stability of the U.S. mailing industry.

The USPS must: (1) develop and regularly update a more customer-friendly publication of USPS terms, abbreviations, and acronyms, which shall be made publicly available on the USPS website; and (2) develop and promote adequate and efficient postal services with respect to its market-dominant products.

This title: (1) establishes an Advocate for Competition and requires the USPS and the PRC to publicly post justifications for noncompetitive contracts, and (2) requires a USPS contracting officer who identifies an ethical issue involving a proposed contract to submit such contract to a designated ethics official prior to awarding it.

TITLE V—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ACT

Workers' Compensation Reform Act of 2015

This Act amends the the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) to revise benefit payments for FECA enrollees. Under the provisions of this title:

- FECA benefits for totally disabled enrollees are reduced, with certain exceptions, to 50% of their pre-disability pay upon reaching full retirement age, as defined in the Social Security Act;

- augmented compensation for dependents of postal employees who have a work-related injury is eliminated, except for employees who are totally disabled and for partially-disabled employees for three years after the enactment of this Act;
- injured workers may receive schedule compensation payments (i.e., specific payments for certain injuries) if their FECA benefits are reduced by this Act;
- vocational rehabilitation provisions for injured workers (except workers who have attained retirement age) are modified to require such workers to develop a comprehensive return to work plan and undergo vocational rehabilitation, authorize the Department of Labor to enter into an assisted reemployment agreement with public or private employers for hiring individuals eligible for wage-loss compensation for up to three years, and extend vocational rehabilitation opportunities under FECA to partially disabled workers;
- a disability management review process must certify and monitor the disability status and extent of injury of each FECA recipient;
- employees who receive worker compensation benefits must report their earnings from employment or self-employment;
- a disability management review process must certify and monitor the disability status and injuries of employees receiving compensation;
- benefits for a severe disfigurement of the face, head, or neck are increased to \$50,000 and the maximum benefit for the reimbursement for funeral expenses for an employee who dies due to a work-related injury is increased to \$6,000; and
- compensation for the disability or death of a federal employee shall include injuries sustained in an attack by a terrorist or terrorist organization.

H.R.3412 — United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Speier, Jackie \[D-CA-14\]](#) (Introduced 07/29/2015)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary

Latest Action: 09/28/2015 Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. ([All Actions](#))

Authorizes the mailing of alcoholic beverages by a covered entity in accordance with the delivery requirements otherwise applicable to a privately carried shipment. Defines a “covered entity” as an entity (including a winery, brewery, or beverage distilled spirits plant, or other wholesale, distributor, or retailer of alcoholic beverages) that has registered with, obtained a permit from, or obtained approval of an application from the Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Federal Alcohol Administration Act or the Internal Revenue Code provisions regarding alcohol, tobacco, and certain other excise taxes.

Directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to prescribe regulations: (1) requiring such mailing to be through a means that ensures direct delivery to a duly authorized agent at a postal facility or to the addressee, who must be at least 21 years of age and present a valid, government-issued photo identification at the time of delivery; (2) prohibiting such alcoholic beverages from being for resale or any other commercial purpose; and (3) requiring such covered entity to certify that the mailing is not in violation of applicable laws or regulations and to provide other information as directed by the USPS, including with respect to the prepayment of state alcohol beverage taxes.

H.R.1885 — Securing Access to Rural Postal Services Act of 2015

Sponsor: [Rep. Smith, Adrian \[R-NE-3\]](#) (Introduced 04/16/2015)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 04/16/2015 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Prohibits the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), in any calendar year, from closing, consolidating, or suspending the operations of more than 5% of the postal facilities operating as of the first day of such calendar year and that were within specified cost ascertainment groupings as of June 23, 2011, except as specifically authorized by law.

Defines “postal facility” as a post office, post office branch, post office classified station, or other facility operated by the USPS, the primary function of which is to provide retail postal services.

Requires the USPS to conduct nonbinding surveys on proposed post office closings or consolidations to allow customers an opportunity to indicate their preference between or among such a closing or consolidation and one or more alternative options. Directs the USPS, if such a closure or consolidation is necessary, to provide access to postal services through the alternative preferred by survey participants and, if the preferred alternative is unable to be provided or is cost prohibitive, permits the USPS to provide alternative access through different means and requires the USPS to notify customers with a written explanation.

H.R.3319 — Postal Innovation Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Blumenauer, Earl \[D-OR-3\]](#) (Introduced 07/29/2015)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary

Latest Action: 10/01/2015 Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. ([All Actions](#))

This bill directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to establish a pilot program to provide nonpostal services through public-private partnerships in five postal districts or regions, including at least one rural area. Such nonpostal services may include financial services, warehousing, experimental postal products market testing, community support services, Internet voting, municipal broadband and public wireless Internet service, emergency broadband Internet service, and passport services. The bill also authorizes the USPS to furnish property and services to a state, local, or tribal government. USPS may use cost savings from providing such services to reinvest in innovation, research and development, and operations.

The bill sets forth conditions under which alcoholic beverages shall be considered mailable. They must be mailed: (1) by a covered shipper, (2) in accordance with delivery requirements otherwise applicable to privately carried shipments, and (3) by a means that ensures direct delivery to a duly authorized agent at a postal facility or to the addressee, who must be at least 21 years of age and must present a valid, government-issued photo identification at the time of delivery. The alcoholic beverage may not be for resale or other commercial purpose.

The bill authorizes USPS to enter into contracts to upgrade its fleet of vehicles to increase long-term savings by reducing collision, maintenance, fuel, or other costs. USPS must: (1) develop guidelines for carbon dioxide emissions, fuel economy, and safety for its vehicles; and (2) reduce the petroleum consumption of its vehicles by not

less than 2% annually through the end of FY2025.

The Government Accountability Office must conduct a study on the feasibility of USPS providing Internet services to the public.

S.1854 — Postal Innovation Act

Sponsor: [Sen. Booker, Cory A. \[D-NJ\]](#) (Introduced 07/23/2015)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 07/23/2015 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

This bill expands the powers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) by allowing it to offer nonpostal services, including financial services, warehousing, public Internet access, experimental postal products market testing, shipment of beer, wine, and spirits, and community support services. The bill also authorizes USPS to: (1) furnish property and services to states, local governments, and tribal governments; and (2) conduct a pilot program to assess the most cost-effective implementation of providing nonpostal services to communities through public-private partnerships at post offices in five cities, including at least one post office in a rural area and one in an urban area.

The bill authorizes USPS to enter into contracts to upgrade its fleet of vehicles to increase long-term savings by reducing collision, maintenance, fuel, or other costs. USPS is required to develop fuel economy guidelines for its vehicles and to reduce the petroleum consumption of its vehicles by not less than 2% annually through the end of FY2025.

USPS may use cost savings from offering nonpostal services to reinvest in innovation, research and development, and operations. USPS must use commercially available crash avoidance technologies to improve the safety of its vehicle fleet.

The bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on USPS providing access to public broadband Internet service and Internet voting.

H.R.1198 — Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. \[D-VA-11\]](#) (Introduced 03/02/2015)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/02/2015 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Extends federal employee protections against adverse personnel actions, including the right to appeal such actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board, to any officer or employee of the U.S. Postal Service who is not represented by a bargaining representative and is in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule.

S.606 — Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act of 2015

Sponsor: [Sen. Tester, Jon \[D-MT\]](#) (Introduced 02/26/2015)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 02/26/2015 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Extends federal employee protections against adverse personnel actions, including the right to appeal such actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board, to any U.S. Postal Service (USPS) officer or employee who is not represented by a bargaining representative and is in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule.

H.R.3464 — Defending Quality Postal Delivery for the Future Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. \[D-AZ-3\]](#) (Introduced 09/09/2015)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 09/09/2015 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Prohibits the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from closing or consolidating any post office or other postal facility that is located in a ZIP code that has a high rate of population growth.

Directs the USPS to determine annually whether a ZIP code has a high rate of population growth using population data available from the Bureau of the Census.

H.R.1501 — Moratorium on United States Postal Facilities Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Lee, Barbara \[D-CA-13\]](#) (Introduced 03/19/2015)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/19/2015 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Prohibits the U.S. Postal Service from closing, consolidating, selling, or otherwise disposing of any historic postal facility without prior written approval from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

Defines “historic postal facility” as any postal facility listed, or eligible to be listed, in the National Register of Historic Places.

H.R.3801 — To repeal the reductions in military retirement benefits made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and to authorize the United States Postal Service to implement a modified Saturday delivery schedule.

Sponsor: [Rep. Issa, Darrell E. \[R-CA-49\]](#) (Introduced 12/19/2013)

Committees: House – Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 01/24/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. ([All Actions](#))

Repeals the provision of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 which reduces the cost-of-living adjustment to the retirement pay of members of the Armed Forces who have not attained age 62.

Authorizes the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to establish a general, nationwide mail delivery schedule of five days per week that does not result in nondelivery of mail for more than two consecutive days, including as a result of federal holidays. Requires USPS, if it establishes such a schedule, to allow publishers of newspapers regularly mailed as periodicals access to curbside mailboxes on any day on which it does not deliver mail.

Requires USPS to provide domestic competitive product service six days per week until January 1, 2019, to each street address that was scheduled to receive package service six days per week as of September 30, 2012.

H.R.2615 — Securing Access to Rural Postal Services Act of 2013

Sponsor: [Rep. Smith, Adrian \[R-NE-3\]](#) (Introduced 07/08/2013)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 07/08/2013 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Securing Access to Rural Postal Services Act of 2013 – Prohibits the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), in any calendar year, from closing, consolidating, or suspending the operations of more than 5% of the postal facilities operating as of the first day of such calendar year and that were within specified cost ascertainment groupings as of June 23, 2011, except as specifically authorized by law.

Defines “postal facility” as a post office, post office branch, post office classified station, or other facility operated by the USPS, the primary function of which is to provide retail postal services.

Requires the USPS to conduct nonbinding surveys on proposed post office closings or consolidations to allow customers an opportunity to indicate their preference between or among such a closing or consolidation and one or more alternative options. Directs the USPS, if such a closure or consolidation is necessary, to provide access to postal services through the alternative preferred by survey participants and, if the preferred alternative is unable to be provided or is cost prohibitive, permits the USPS to provide alternative access through different means and requires the USPS to notify customers with a written explanation.

H.R.1718 — United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Speier, Jackie \[D-CA-14\]](#) (Introduced 04/24/2013)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary

Latest Action: 06/14/2013 Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. ([All Actions](#))

United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act – Authorizes the mailing of wine or malt beverages by licensed wineries or breweries in accordance with the law of the state, territory, or district of the United States where the addressee or duly authorized agent takes delivery.

Directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to prescribe regulations: (1) requiring such mailing to be through a means established by the USPS to ensure direct delivery to the addressee or a duly authorized agent at a postal facility; (2) requiring the addressee and any agent to be at least 21 years of age and to present a valid, government-issued photo identification at the time of delivery; (3) prohibiting such wine or malt beverages from being for resale or any other commercial purpose; and (4) requiring such wineries or breweries to certify that the mailing is not in violation of applicable laws or USPS regulations and to provide other information as directed by the USPS, including with respect to the prepayment of state alcohol beverage taxes.

Revises the federal criminal code to allow for the mailing of wine and malt beverages pursuant to this Act.

H.R.961 — United States Postal Service Stabilization Act of 2013

Sponsor: [Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. \[D-MA-8\]](#) (Introduced 03/05/2013)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/05/2013 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

United States Postal Service Stabilization Act of 2013 – Amends provisions concerning the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS), with respect to employees of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), to: (1) provide a new formula for calculating employee pension contributions using the normal-cost percentage method multiplied by the aggregate amount of basic pay payable to employees of USPS and the Postal Regulatory Commission, and (2) provide for the use of excess FERS contributions to pay USPS debt obligations and make pension contributions.

H.R.5179 — POSTAL Act of 2014

Sponsor: [Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. \[D-LA-2\]](#) (Introduced 07/23/2014)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 07/23/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Providing Opportunities for Savings, Transactions, and Lending Act of 2014 or the POSTAL Act of 2014 – Expands the specific powers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to include the provision of basic financial services, including:

(1) small-dollar loans; (2) checking accounts, interest-bearing savings accounts, and services relating to international money transfers, each of which may be provided by the USPS alone or in partnership with depository institutions and credit unions; (3) other basic financial services as appropriate in the public interest; and (4) the creation of a Postal Card that allows users to engage in such financial services.

H.R.1431 — Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act of 2013

Sponsor: [Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. \[D-VA-11\]](#) (Introduced 04/09/2013)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 04/09/2013 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act of 2013 – Extends federal employee protections against adverse personnel actions, including the right to appeal such actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board, to any career or noncareer U.S. Postal Service (USPS) employee who is not represented by a bargaining representative and is in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule.

S.686 — Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act of 2013

Sponsor: [Sen. Pryor, Mark L. \[D-AR\]](#) (Introduced 04/09/2013)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 04/09/2013 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act of 2013 – Extends federal employee protections against adverse personnel actions, including the right to appeal such actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board, to any career or noncareer U.S. Postal Service (USPS) employee who is not represented by a bargaining representative and is in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule.

H.R.5377 — Postal Facilities Preservation and Sales Reform Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Serrano, Jose E. \[D-NY-15\]](#) (Introduced 07/31/2014)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 07/31/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Postal Facilities Preservation and Sales Reform Act – Revises requirements for making a determination as to the

necessity for closing or consolidating any postal facility to require that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS): (1) hold at least three public meetings, located in the area affected by the closing or consolidation, at least 120 days prior to the determination; and (2) provide adequate notice of the closing or consolidation to persons served by such facility at least 180 days prior to the proposed date of such closing or consolidation.

Prohibits USPS from entering into any contract or agreement to sell or relocate a historic postal facility until the proposed decision to sell or relocate is reviewed in accordance with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Requires USPS to use the Historic Surplus Property Program to dispose of a historic postal facility that has been determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places to be of national significance. Requires: (1) the Postmaster General to maintain a list of historic postal facilities and to publish such list on the USPS website, (2) the Postmaster General to maintain a separate preservation budget for such facilities, and (3) the USPS Federal Preservation Officer to notify the National Museum of American Art when New Deal art (art located at a postal facility that was commissioned by the federal government between 1933 and 1937) owned by USPS is loaned or relocated.

Requires the Postmaster General to develop a model covenant to be used and applied to any historic postal facility offered for sale that: (1) requires the purchaser of such a facility to allow public access to any historic artwork located within such facility, (2) requires USPS to contribute sufficient funds to the maintenance of such artwork, and (3) prohibits the purchaser of the historic postal facility from demolishing or altering it in any way that is incompatible with its historic character.

Nullifies the proposed rule published by USPS in the Federal Register on January 13, 2014, relating to a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act for disposal of USPS facilities.

H.R.5445 — Postal Jobs Protection Act of 2014

Sponsor: [Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. \[D-LA-2\]](#) (Introduced 09/10/2014)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 09/10/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Postal Jobs Protection Act of 2014 – Prohibits mail processing facilities operating as of September 1, 2014, from being closed or consolidated prior to December 31, 2015.

H.R.3910 — Expand Nonpostal Services to Americans Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Cohen, Steve \[D-TN-9\]](#) (Introduced 01/16/2014)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 01/16/2014 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Expand Nonpostal Services to Americans Act – Expands the enumerated powers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS)

to include the authority to provide nonpostal services.

Removes existing conditions that limit nonpostal services to certain services offered as of January 1, 2006.

H.R.4670 — Secure Delivery for America Act of 2014

Sponsor: [Rep. Issa, Darrell E. \[R-CA-49\]](#) (Introduced 05/19/2014)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 05/21/2014 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 18 – 13. ([All Actions](#))

Secure Delivery for America Act of 2014 – Declares that it is the policy of the United States Postal Service (USPS) to: (1) provide access to secure, convenient package delivery receptacles to the greatest number of postal patrons feasible; and (2) use the most cost-effective primary mode of mail delivery feasible.

Directs USPS to: (1) provide a primary mode of mail delivery other than door delivery, with a preference for secure, centralized delivery, for new addresses established after September 30, 2014; and (2) implement a program to convert existing business addresses with door delivery to centralized delivery.

Requires: (1) each USPS district office to identify residential addresses within its service area that are appropriate candidates for conversion to centralized, curbside, or sidewalk delivery; and (2) USPS to seek to voluntarily make such conversion.

Requires the USPS, in making conversion determinations, to consider: (1) the impact of weather conditions, physical barriers, or any other factor on the feasibility of providing a primary mode of mail delivery other than door delivery; (2) whether the address is of historic value; and (3) population density and the concentration of poverty.

Directs USPS to establish and maintain a waiver program for cases in which door delivery is necessary to avoid causing significant physical hardship or physical safety risks to a postal patron.

Requires USPS to: (1) convert at least 1.5 million of the door delivery points extant on December 31, 2013, to centralized, curbside, or sidewalk delivery during each of FY2015-FY2024, with priority to voluntary conversions; (2) convert delivery points to centralized delivery to the greatest extent feasible and include secure package lockers co-located with mail receptacles at the centralized delivery point; (3) establish procedures to place centralized delivery points in locations that maximize delivery efficiency, ease of use for postal patrons, and respect for private property rights; and (4) provide for a voucher program under which USPS may defray costs associated with conversion that would otherwise be borne by postal patrons.

Authorizes USPS to continue to provide door delivery for a fee to an address that received such delivery as of January 1, 2014, but was converted or scheduled to be converted to a different primary mode of mail delivery as a result of this Act's requirements.

112th Congress (2011-2012)

[H.R.6650 — To amend title 39, United States Code, to allow the United States Postal Service to provide nonpostal services, and for other purposes.](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Burton, Dan \[R-IN-5\]](#) (Introduced 12/12/2012)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 12/12/2012 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (12/12/2012)

Expands the enumerated powers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to include the authority to provide nonpostal services.

Removes existing conditions that limit nonpostal services to certain services offered as of January 1, 2006.

Prohibits the USPS from entering into contracts with any corporation not incorporated in the United States.

Directs the Postmaster General to report annually to Congress on the nonpostal services provided by the USPS during each preceding year with an analysis of the costs associated with, and the revenues generated by, each nonpostal service.

[H.R.3047 —To amend title 39, United States Code, to allow the United States Postal Service to provide nonpostal services, and for other purposes.](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Cohen, Steve \[D-TN-9\]](#) (Introduced 09/23/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 10/03/2011 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and Labor Policy . ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (09/23/2011)

Expands the enumerated powers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to include the authority to provide nonpostal services.

Removes existing conditions that limit nonpostal services to certain services offered as of January 1, 2006.

[S.1789 — 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012](#)

Sponsor: [Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. \[ID-CT\]](#) (Introduced 11/02/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Committee Reports: [S. Rept. 112-143](#)

Latest Action: 04/26/2012 Held at the desk. ([All Actions](#))

Passed Senate amended (04/25/2012)

21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 – **Title I: Postal Workforce Matters** – (Sec. 101) Requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to determine, on an annual basis, the amount of any surplus contributions by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) and to transfer any such amount to USPS in FY2011-FY2014 to be used to pay the cost of voluntary separation incentive payments for postal employees who voluntarily separate from service before October 1, 2015. Allows any additional surplus contributions to be used for repayment of debts incurred by USPS or for making required payments to the Employees' Compensation Fund, USPS retiree health benefits funds, and the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

(Sec. 102) Allows USPS to: (1) provide voluntary separation incentive payments of up to \$25,000 to USPS employees who voluntarily separate before October 1, 2015; and (2) offer up to one year of additional creditable service for postal employees in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) who voluntarily separate from service before such date, and up to two years for employees in FERS who voluntarily separate from service before such date. Disqualifies any employee who receives such additional credits from receiving a voluntary separation incentive payment.

Requires USPS to offer voluntary separation incentives to ensure that the size and cost of the USPS workforce is appropriate to perform its duties, taking into consideration the closure and consolidation of postal facilities, the ability of USPS employees to operate existing facilities more efficiently, and the number of employees eligible for retirement or early retirement. Establishes a goal for the reduction of USPS career employees of 18% by the end of FY2015.

(Sec. 103) Restructures the pre-funding requirements for USPS retiree health benefits by replacing the current schedule of annual payments to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund with a schedule of annual installment payments that will liquidate pension liabilities by September 30, 2052, or within 15 years, whichever is later. Requires the government's contributions to be paid first, beginning with enactment of this Act, from the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund up to the amount contained in the Fund (currently, such contributions are to be paid by the Postal Service through September 30, 2016). Reduces the pre-funding requirement for retiree health benefits to 80% of projected liability (currently, 100%).

(Sec. 104) Authorizes USPS to negotiate jointly with all employee bargaining representatives until the end of FY2012 to establish the Postal Service Health Benefits Program outside of the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. Sets forth the basic requirements for such Program, including that it provide coverage that is actuarially equivalent to the types of plans available under the FEHB Program.

(Sec. 105) Requires the Postmaster General to develop an educational program for USPS employees and annuitants who may be eligible for Medicare to learn how Medicare benefits interact with and can supplement benefits under the FEHB Program.

(Sec. 106) Requires any arbitration board deciding a contract dispute between USPS and labor organizations to: (1) render a decision not later than 45 days after the date of its appointment; and (2) consider such relevant factors as the financial condition of USPS.

(Sec. 107) Requires the Director of OPM to: (1) submit to Congress and the Comptroller General (GAO) not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act and every month thereafter a report that evaluates the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of USPS information on employee retirements; (2) post such information on the OPM website; and (3) submit to Congress and GAO a timetable for completion of each component of a retirement systems modernization project.

(Sec. 108) Imposes limits on the rate of compensation, including bonuses, for certain USPS officers and employees.

Title II: Postal Services and Operations – (Sec. 201) Requires USPS to maintain current delivery service standards during the three-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, including overnight standards

for first-class mail and periodicals, two-day delivery for first-class mail, and a maximum delivery time for first-class mail of three days within the continental United States.

(Sec. 202) Requires USPS, before making a determination as to the necessity for closing or consolidating any postal facility, to: (1) conduct an area mail processing study that includes a plan to reduce the capacity of, but not close, the facility and a consideration of the effect of the closure or consolidation on the ability of individuals to vote by mail and the ability of USPS to timely deliver ballots by mail; (2) provide notice of a determination to close or consolidate a postal facility to Congress, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), and state officials; (3) ensure that interested persons have an opportunity to submit public comments during a 45-day period after notice of intent to close or consolidate a postal facility is given; (4) consider such public comments and the effects of a proposed closure or consolidation within a 30-day period after the initial period for public comments; (5) publish on its website a justification statement for any closure or consolidation; and (6) wait 15 days after posting such justification statement before closing or consolidating a postal facility.

Prohibits the closure or consolidation of a postal facility during the three-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act if such closure or consolidation prevents USPS from maintaining current service standards.

Allows any interested person to lodge a complaint with PRC if such person believes that the closure or consolidation of a postal facility is not in conformance with applicable service standards.

(Sec. 203) Requires USPS, within six months after the enactment of this Act, to establish service standards for market-dominant products.

(Sec. 204) Requires USPS, within one year after the enactment of this Act, to develop and submit to Congress a revised and updated version of the plan to expand and market retail access to postal services.

(Sec. 205) Requires USPS, prior to closing or consolidating a post office, including a post office in a rural area, to consider: (1) alternatives, including reducing the hours of such post office; (2) the effects on the community and businesses served by such post office and on the employees of such post office; and (3) whether substantial economic savings to USPS would result.

(Sec. 206) Requires USPS to submit to the House Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: (1) a comprehensive strategic plan to govern decisions relating to area and district office structure; and (2) a 10-year plan, including a timetable, that provides for consolidation of area and district offices. Requires an update to such plan at least once every five years.

Requires USPS, within one year after the enactment of this Act, to: (1) consolidate district offices that are located within 50 miles of each other, (2) consolidate area and district offices that have less than the mean mail volume and number of work hours for all such offices, and (3) relocate area offices to headquarters.

(Sec. 207) Prohibits USPS from establishing a general, nationwide delivery schedule of five or fewer days for at least 24 months after the enactment of this Act. Requires USPS, prior to implementing any five-day delivery schedule, to: (1) identify customers and communities for whom a change may have a disproportionate, negative impact; (2) develop measures to ameliorate any such impact; and (3) implement measures to increase revenue and reduce costs and evaluate whether such measures will allow USPS to achieve long-term financial solvency without implementing a five-day delivery schedule.

Requires GAO to report on whether USPS has complied with measures for implementing any change in its delivery schedule and whether a change in its delivery schedule is necessary to allow USPS to achieve long-term solvency.

Requires USPS to ensure that any change in its delivery schedule will not result in more than two consecutive days without mail delivery, including recognized federal holidays.

(Sec. 208) Requires USPS to request the PRC to issue an advisory opinion relating to any change in the USPS delivery schedule. Requires PRC to issue such advisory opinion within 90 days.

(Sec. 209) Requires USPS to: (1) provide at least 30 days' notice of any proposed changes to mailing specifications not reviewed by PRC and to respond to public comments on such changes, and (2) analyze the financial impact of such proposed changes on USPS and its customers.

(Sec. 210) Authorizes USPS to provide other services that are not postal services after PRC determines that providing such services: (1) makes use of the processing, transportation, delivery, retail network, or technology of USPS; (2) would be consistent with the public interest and would not create unfair competition with the private sector; and (3) would have the potential to improve the financial position of USPS.

(Sec. 211) Establishes in USPS the position of Chief Innovation Officer to be appointed by the Postmaster General. Requires such Innovation Officer to have proven expertise and a record of accomplishment in areas such as: (1) the postal and shipping industry; (2) innovative product research and development; (3) brand marketing strategy; (4) new and emerging technologies, including communications technology; or (5) business process management.

Requires the Chief Innovation Officer to report to Congress on a comprehensive strategy for improving the net financial position of USPS through innovation, including the offering of new postal and nonpostal products and services.

(Sec. 212) Establishes in USPS a Strategic Advisory Commission on Postal Service Solvency and Innovation as an independent commission to provide strategic guidance to the President, Congress, the Board of Governors of the Postal Service, and the Postmaster General on enhancing the long-term solvency of USPS and to foster innovative thinking to address the challenges facing USPS.

(Sec. 213) Authorizes the appointment of a citizen's service protection advocate to represent the interests of postal customers affected by the proposed closing or consolidation of a postal facility. Requires USPS to provide such advocate with information and assistance relating to any closing or consolidation.

(Sec. 214) Prohibits USPS from maintaining or operating more than one post office in the U.S. Capitol Complex in a House Office Building or in a Senate Office Building.

Title III: Federal Employees' Compensation Act – Workers' Compensation Reform Act of 2012 – (Sec. 302) Amends the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) to revise benefit payments for FECA enrollees. Reduces FECA benefits for totally disabled enrollees to 50% of their pre-disability pay upon the enrollee reaching full retirement age, as defined in the Social Security Act. Exempts any enrollee who: (1) has attained retirement age by the date of enactment of this Act, (2) is an individual who has an exempt disability condition, or (3) is a member of a household that meets eligibility requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance programs (SNAP).

(Sec. 303) Eliminates augmented compensation under FECA for dependents of postal employees who have a work-related injury. Exempts employees who are totally disabled and allows augmented compensation, for three years after the enactment of this title, for employees who are partially disabled.

(Sec. 304) Allows injured workers to receive schedule compensation payments (i.e., specific payments for certain injuries) if their FECA benefits are reduced under the provisions of this title.

(Sec. 305) Revises requirements for vocational rehabilitation of injured workers (except workers who have attained retirement age) by: (1) requiring such workers to develop a comprehensive return to work plan and undergo vocational rehabilitation, (2) authorizing the Secretary of Labor to enter into an assisted reemployment agreement with public or private employers for hiring individuals eligible for wage-loss compensation for up to three years, and (3) extending vocational rehabilitation opportunities under FECA to partially disabled workers.

(Sec. 306) Requires the Secretary to require employees who are receiving worker compensation benefits to report their earnings from employment or self-employment. Requires forfeiture of worker compensation for any period for which an employee fails to report or understates such earnings.

(Sec. 307) Requires the Secretary to: (1) establish a disability management review process for certifying and monitoring the disability status and injuries of employees receiving benefits, and (2) require employees receiving benefits to submit to physical examinations to assess the nature and extent of their disability.

(Sec. 308) Requires the three-day waiting period for the commencement of FECA benefits to begin immediately after a work-related injury for all injured federal employees (currently, different waiting periods apply to USPS employees and other federal employees).

(Sec. 309) Requires individuals who are eligible for compensation under FECA and under CSRS or FERS or another retirement system to elect which benefits to receive.

(Sec. 310) Authorizes the Secretary to: (1) use field nurses (registered nurses who assist in the medical management of disability claims and provide claimants with assistance in coordinating medical care) to coordinate medical services and vocational rehabilitation programs for injured employees, and (2) suspend compensation to employees who refuse to cooperate with a field nurse or who obstruct a field nurse in the performance of duties.

(Sec. 311) Allows the federal government to recover continuation of pay (i.e., salary that is continued to be paid during the 45-day period between the beneficiary's injury and the start of FECA disability benefits) from third parties who are liable for the beneficiary's work-related injury.

(Sec. 312) Directs the Secretary to establish an Integrity and Compliance Program (Program) and cooperate with other federal agencies to prevent, identify, and recover fraudulent and other improper payments for the FECA program. Establishes the FECA Integrity and Compliance Task Force to assist in implementing the Program. Grants the Secretary, the Postmaster General, and Inspectors General access to agency databases to improve compliance with requirements under the Program, including social security earnings information, the OPM retiree database, the Department of Veterans Affairs Beneficiaries Database, and the National Directory of New Hires. Requires the establishment of protocols for the secure transfer and storage of any information provided under the Program. Requires GAO to conduct periodic audits of the Program.

(Sec. 313) Increases to \$50,000 the benefit amount for a severe disfigurement of the face, head, or neck. Increases to \$6,000 the maximum benefit amount for the reimbursement for funeral expenses for an employee who dies due to a work-related injury.

(Sec. 314) Expands compensation provisions for the disability or death of a federal employee to include injuries sustained in an attack by a terrorist or terrorist organization, either known or unknown. Provides for continuation of pay for federal employees who sustain injuries in a zone of armed conflict.

(Sec. 316) Requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations to carry out this title, including regulations clarifying what a claim is and when a period of disability for which a claim is made commences.

Title IV: Other Matters – (Sec. 401) Requires USPS, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, to submit to the House Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, GAO, and PRC a plan on how it will achieve long-term solvency. Requires USPS to update such plan at least quarterly, until the last quarter of FY2015.

(Sec. 402) Requires PRC, not earlier than three years after enactment of this Act, to begin a study to determine: (1) whether and to what extent any market-dominant classes, products, or types of mail services do not bear their direct and indirect costs; and (2) the impact of any excess USPS mail processing, transportation, or delivery capacity on the direct and indirect costs attributable to any class of mail that bears less than 100% of its costs. Requires PRC to

hold a public hearing prior to completing such study and to update such study annually. Authorizes incremental increases in postal rates for any class of mail that recovers less than 90% of its costs.

(Sec. 403) Establishes within OMB the Federal Real Property Council to develop guidance for the asset management program of each executive agency. Requires the Council to identify agency field offices that are suitable for co-location with other federal civilian real property, including postal properties.

(Sec. 404) Authorizes USPS to enter into agreements with state and local governments and USPS departments (intra-service agreements) to provide property and services to such entities.

(Sec. 405) Authorizes the mailing of distilled spirits, wine, or malt beverages in accordance with the laws of the state, territory, or district where the sender initiates the mailing and the addressee takes delivery. Requires USPS to issue regulations to ensure that the addressee is at least 21 years of age and presents a valid, government-issued photo identification upon delivery.

(Sec. 406) Requires PRC, with the assistance of USPS and relevant federal agencies, to report annually on the fiscal stability of the U.S. mailing industry.

(Sec. 407) Requires USPS and PRC to coordinate actions to identify methods to increase the use of negotiated service agreements for market-dominant products.

(Sec. 408) Makes USPS and PRC subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978.

(Sec. 409) Sets forth new requirements for contracting of postal services, including new ethical standards for awarding postal contracts.

Establishes the position of advocate for competition in USPS and PRC to promote competition by promoting the acquisition of commercial items and challenging barriers to competition.

Requires the Postmaster General and the Chairman of PRC to issue a policy on contracting officer delegations of authority for postal contracts.

Requires USPS and PRC to post on their public websites any purchase request for any noncompetitive award and the rationale for such award. Allows a waiver of such requirement if it would risk placing USPS at a disadvantage relative to a private sector competitor.

Requires USPS and PRC to review any ethical issues relating to a proposed contract before it is awarded and to advise the contracting officer on an appropriate resolution of any ethical issues relating to such contract.

Requires USPS and PRC to prescribe regulations that would restrict a contracting officer from entering into a postal contract with any party with whom such officer has a personal or business relationship. Allows a waiver of such restriction in the best interests of USPS. Requires such waivers to be posted on the USPS and PRC websites. Authorizes USPS and PRC to void any postal contract and recover amounts expended under such contract if there is a final conviction of bribery, conflict of interest, or other criminal offense relating to such contract.

Prohibits USPS from entering into any contract that restricts the ability of Congress to exercise oversight authority.

(Sec. 410) Reduces from 12 to 6 the number of USPS officers or employees who may receive additional compensation for performing critical services. Limits, with specified exceptions, the total compensation of a USPS officer or employee to the basic pay rate for level I of the Executive Schedule.

(Sec. 411) Expresses the sense of the Senate that USPS should not close or consolidate any postal facility or post office before the enactment date of this Act.

Title V: Miscellaneous – Prohibits any federal agency from paying the travel expenses for more than 50 of its employees who are stationed in the United States for any international conference occurring outside the United States, unless the Secretary of State determines that the attendance of such employees is in the national interest.

Requires each federal agency to post on its website: (1) information about each conference for which the agency paid travel expenses during the preceding three months; and (2) information on any presentation made by any agency employee at a conference, including any speech delivered or exhibits presented. Limits to \$500,000 the amount any agency may spend to support a single conference. Prohibits any agency from funding more than a single conference during any fiscal year, unless the agency is the primary sponsor and organizer of the conference.

Limits agency travel expenses for FY2012-FY2016 to 80% of the aggregate amount of such expenses paid in FY2010.

H.R.5790 — To provide for the transfer of the United States Postal Service surplus with respect to certain retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Baca, Joe \[D-CA-43\]](#) (Introduced 05/16/2012)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 05/16/2012 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (03/29/2012)

Postal Service Accountability Act of 2012 – Directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), in making a determination whether to close or consolidate a post office, to consider the economic effects on the community served by such post office.

Increases from 60 to 120 days the waiting period during which the USPS is prohibited from taking action to close or consolidate a post office after its written determination is made available to persons served by such post office.

Establishes a waiting period and appeal procedures for USPS determinations to close or consolidate mail processing facilities. (Current law addresses such procedures only with respect to post offices.)

Permits facility employees or members of the community in which such a facility is located to appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) any USPS determination to close or consolidate a mail processing facility.

Requires the USPS to consider, among other factors, whether a closing or consolidation is consistent with the policy to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining.

Specifies, upon an appeal of a USPS determination to close or consolidate a post office or mail processing facility, that the PRC's authority to set aside the USPS determination includes a determination by the PRC that USPS conclusions with respect to specific factors are unsupported by substantial evidence on the record.

Prohibits the USPS, if an appeal is filed, from closing or consolidating a post office or mail processing facility without the written concurrence of at least three PRC Commissioners.

Requires the USPS, within one year after a post office or mail processing facility is closed or consolidated, to review and make public its findings in regard to the accuracy of its earlier findings and whether substitute services are

meeting community needs.

H.R.4335 — Postal Service Accountability Act of 2012

Sponsor: [Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II \[D-WV-3\]](#) (Introduced 03/29/2012)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/29/2012 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (03/29/2012)

Postal Service Accountability Act of 2012 – Directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), in making a determination whether to close or consolidate a post office, to consider the economic effects on the community served by such post office.

Increases from 60 to 120 days the waiting period during which the USPS is prohibited from taking action to close or consolidate a post office after its written determination is made available to persons served by such post office.

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Prohibits the USPS, if an appeal is filed, from closing or consolidating a post office or mail processing facility without the written concurrence of at least three PRC Commissioners.

Requires the USPS, within one year after a post office or mail processing facility is closed or consolidated, to review and make public its findings in regard to the accuracy of its earlier findings and whether substitute services are meeting community needs.

H.R.3591 — Postal Service Protection Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. \[D-OR-4\]](#) (Introduced 12/07/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary

Latest Action: 12/07/2011 Referred to House Judiciary ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (03/29/2012)

Postal Service Accountability Act of 2012 – Directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), in making a determination whether to close or consolidate a post office, to consider the economic effects on the community served by such post office.

Increases from 60 to 120 days the waiting period during which the USPS is prohibited from taking action to close or consolidate a post office after its written determination is made available to persons served by such post office.

Establishes a waiting period and appeal procedures for USPS determinations to close or consolidate mail processing facilities. (Current law addresses such procedures only with respect to post offices.)

Permits facility employees or members of the community in which such a facility is located to appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) any USPS determination to close or consolidate a mail processing facility.

Requires the USPS to consider, among other factors, whether a closing or consolidation is consistent with the policy to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining.

Specifies, upon an appeal of a USPS determination to close or consolidate a post office or mail processing facility, that the PRC's authority to set aside the USPS determination includes a determination by the PRC that USPS conclusions with respect to specific factors are unsupported by substantial evidence on the record.

Prohibits the USPS, if an appeal is filed, from closing or consolidating a post office or mail processing facility without the written concurrence of at least three PRC Commissioners.

Requires the USPS, within one year after a post office or mail processing facility is closed or consolidated, to review and make public its findings in regard to the accuracy of its earlier findings and whether substitute services are meeting community needs.

H.R.3584 — Community Postal Service Preservation and Cost Savings Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Owens, William L. \[D-NY-23\]](#) (Introduced 12/07/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 12/07/2011 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (12/07/2011)

Community Postal Service Preservation and Cost Savings Act – Requires the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), in considering whether to close or consolidate a post office, to review and consider whether such post office can be co-located at a retail facility or municipal building within one mile of such post office.

S.1853 — Postal Service Protection Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. Sanders, Bernard \[I-VT\]](#) (Introduced 11/10/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 11/10/2011 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in Senate (11/10/2011)

Postal Service Protection Act of 2011 – Sets forth rules for the recalculation of annuities for employees of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and for the redetermination of surplus or supplemental liabilities under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Prescribes the “average pay” to be used in calculating annuities and surplus amounts.

Authorizes the transfer of surplus postal retirement contributions in FY2010 to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, the Postal Service Fund, and the Employees’ Compensation Fund under the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA) and to USPS for payment of its debt obligations.

Eliminates the requirement for pre-funding of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

Sets forth criteria for the closing or consolidation of postal facilities.

Allows USPS to provide any nonpostal service or product in a manner consistent with the public interest.

Provides for the mailing of wine and beer sent by a licensed winery or brewery in accordance with the laws of the state, territory, or district where the addressee or agent takes delivery.

Establishes in USPS the position of the Chief Innovation Officer who shall have proven expertise and success in the postal and shipping industry and in innovation, marketing, technology, and management. Establishes a Postal Innovation Advisory Commission. Requires the Postmaster General to report to Congress on a comprehensive strategy for maximizing USPS revenue through innovative postal and nonpostal products and services.

Prohibits USPS from reducing the frequency of mail delivery to fewer than six days each week or from increasing the expected delivery time for market-dominant products.

H.R.3174 — United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. \[D-MS-2\]](#) (Introduced 10/12/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 11/02/2011 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and Labor Policy . ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (10/12/2011)

United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 – Prescribes the “average pay” to be used in determining annuities for civilian employment with the United States Postal Service (USPS) for purposes of provisions relating to future benefits attributable to such employment in order to calculate the amount of any USPS surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM): (1) within six months after enactment of this Act, to determine

(or, if applicable, redetermine) the amount of such surplus or liability as of the close of the most recently ending fiscal year using the methodology required under this Act; and (2) if the result is a surplus, to transfer the surplus amount to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund within 15 days after the determination of a surplus.

Provides for an alternate determination of a USPS surplus or supplemental liability for FY2016-FY2020.

Requires transfer of certain surplus postal retirement contributions in FY2011 to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund or the Employees' Compensation Fund under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Prohibits USPS from closing any post office which is located more than 10 miles from any other post office.

Expresses the intent of Congress that this Act shall apply to allocations of past, present, and future benefit liabilities between the USPS and the Treasury.

S.1649 — United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. Baucus, Max \[D-MT\]](#) (Introduced 10/04/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 10/04/2011 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR [S6092-6093](#)) ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in Senate (10/04/2011)

United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 – Prescribes the “average pay” to be used in determining annuities for civilian employment with the United States Postal Service (USPS) for purposes of provisions relating to future benefits attributable to such employment in order to calculate the amount of any USPS surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM): (1) within six months after enactment of this Act, to determine (or, if applicable, redetermine) the amount of such surplus or liability as of the close of the most recently ending fiscal year using the methodology required under this Act; and (2) if the result is a surplus, to transfer the surplus amount to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund within 15 days after the determination of a surplus.

Provides for an alternate determination of a USPS surplus or supplemental liability for FY2016-FY2020.

Requires transfer of certain surplus postal retirement contributions in FY2011 to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund or the Employees' Compensation Fund under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Prohibits USPS from closing any post office which is located more than 10 miles from any other post office.

Expresses the intent of Congress that this Act shall apply to allocations of past, present, and future benefit liabilities between the USPS and the Treasury.

H.R.2956 — Fair and Equitable Postal Service Access Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Moore, Gwen \[D-WI-4\]](#) (Introduced 09/15/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 10/03/2011 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and Labor Policy . ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (09/15/2011)

Fair and Equitable Postal Service Access Act – Expands the criteria that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) must consider in determining whether to close or consolidate a post office to include: (1) whether such closing or consolidation will decrease access to postal or nonpostal services by individuals who are elderly, economically disadvantaged, limited in mobility, or without reliable and affordable Internet access; and (2) during the previous five years, the number of, and revenue derived from, money-order transactions, the volume of processed international mail, and the number of customers served at such post office.

Prohibits the USPS from closing or consolidating a post office if it would result in a disproportionate, unreasonable, or undue burden on a class of individuals who are elderly, economically disadvantaged, limited in mobility, or without reliable and affordable Internet access.

Applies this Act to any post office: (1) determined necessary for closing or consolidation under existing criteria, or (2) included in a proposal to change the nature of postal services on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis and for which the USPS has requested a related advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission.

S.353 — U.S. Postal Service Improvements Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. Collins, Susan M. \[R-ME\]](#) (Introduced 02/15/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 09/06/2011 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-271. ([All Actions](#))

H.R.2692 — Access to Postal Services Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Sires, Albio \[D-NJ-13\]](#) (Introduced 07/28/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 07/28/2011 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (07/28/2011)

Access to Postal Services Act – Modifies the procedures the U.S. Postal Service must follow in connection with the closing or consolidation of any postal facility, including: (1) requiring an assessment of the need for the closure or consolidation, (2) eliminating a requirement to consider the resulting Postal Service economic savings, (3) requiring posted notice in each affected postal facility and notice by mail to all persons served by such postal facility at least 90 days before the final decision is made, and (4) requiring (under current law, allowing) suspension of the determination pending an appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Exempts emergency suspensions (as

defined under Postal Service regulations) or lease termination or cancellation by a party other than the Postal Service.

Requires such posted notice to include the cost savings the Postal Service estimates it will realize from the closing or consolidation, in the first year following the date of such closing or consolidation, with an explanation of the estimate assumptions and methodologies.

Directs the Inspector General of the Postal Service, within two years after the closing or consolidation of any postal facility after enactment of this Act, to submit to the Postmaster General and Congress its findings with respect to the actual cost savings realized by the Postal Service in the first year following such closing or consolidation.

Defines “postal facility,” for the provisions amended by this Act, to include an office, branch, station, or other facility operated by the Postal Service providing services to postal patrons served by the facility.

H.R.1351 — United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. \[D-MA-9\]](#) (Introduced 04/04/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 04/08/2011 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and Labor Policy . ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (04/04/2011)

United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 – Prescribes the “average pay” and the appropriate percentage thereof to be used in determining annuities for civilian employment with the United States Postal Service (USPS) for purposes of provisions relating to future benefits attributable to such employment in order to calculate the amount of any USPS surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM): (1) within six months after enactment of this Act, to determine (or, if applicable, redetermine) the amount of such surplus or liability as of the close of the most recently ending fiscal year using the methodology required under this Act; and (2) if the result is a surplus, to transfer the surplus amount to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund within 15 days after the determination of a surplus.

Provides for an alternate determination of an USPS surplus or supplemental liability for FY2016-FY2020.

Requires transfer of certain surplus postal retirement contributions in FY2011 to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund or the Employees’ Compensation Fund under the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA).

Expresses the intent of Congress that this Act shall apply to allocations of past, present, and future benefit liabilities between the USPS and the Treasury.

H.R.1262 — Reform the Postal Service for the 21st Century Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. \[D-VA-11\]](#) (Introduced 03/30/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary

Latest Action: 04/01/2011 Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and Labor Policy. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (03/30/2011)

Reform the Postal Service for the 21st Century Act – Urges the Postal Service to consider: (1) a simplified rate structure for election ballots sent by voters; (2) creating a Forever Box for customers to mail parcels of a certain size, analogous to the Forever Stamp; and (3) establishing and marketing packages of postal services and products.

Requires the Postal Service to implement a plan to replace or convert, by January 1, 2017, 2,000 gasoline-powered delivery vehicles with electric vehicles manufactured in the United States. Authorizes the Post Service to: (1) borrow money and issue obligations as necessary to carry out such plan or to help finance energy efficiency projects for operations and facilities; and (2) use its capabilities, including its vehicles, to provide services, other than postal services, to generate revenue if providing such service is consistent with the public interest.

Requires the Postal Service to submit a plan on the co-location of post offices at retail facilities while ensuring continued service to small communities and rural areas.

Allows wine or malt beverages to be mailed by a licensed winery or brewery for direct delivery by the Postal Service to an addressee who is at least 21 years of age.

Requires the Postal Service to study and report on: (1) ways to promote the use of transpromotional mailings (from more than one source) and consolidated mailings (from more than one agency), and (2) the costs to executive agencies of sending mail by using the Postal Service compared to other carriers.

Authorizes the Postal Service to: (1) enter arrangements whereby the sender may defer payment of postage until the item has been delivered; (2) promote the creation of mailing pools to allow members to take advantage of postage rates applicable to bulk mailings and other discounts; and (3) carry out a pilot program to test an integrated electronic system for the receipt, storage, transport, and delivery of mail directed to physical addresses and post office boxes.

Establishes an advocate for competition in the Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission. Requires the Postmaster General and the Commission to issue a policy on contracting officer delegations of authority.

Sets forth provisions concerning postal contracts, including requirements for: (1) posting justifications of noncompetitive contracts, and (2) a review of ethical issues relating to proposed contracts.

Requires the Postal Service to: (1) publish notice and provide a period for public comment before adding, eliminating, or modifying any mailing rules; and (2) report on implementing special classifications and service agreements in connection with the establishment and operation of a system for regulating rates and classes for market-dominant products.

Requires the Postal Service and the Commission to report on creating a not-for-profit venture capital program to help the Postal Service identify and develop electronic communication products that would increase net revenue.

S.1625 — Postal Reform Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. McCain, John \[R-AZ\]](#) (Introduced 09/23/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 09/23/2011 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in Senate (09/23/2011)

Postal Reform Act of 2011 – Amends provisions of federal law relating to the United States Postal Service (USPS) with respect to its reorganization, financial management, and workforce.

Commission on Postal Reorganization Act or CPR Act – Establishes the Commission on Postal Reorganization. Requires USPS to develop and submit to the Commission a plan for the closure or consolidation of postal retail facilities, mail processing facilities, and USPS area and district offices. Requires the Commission to transmit such plan to Congress, publish it in the Federal Register, and hold public hearings. Requires USPS to implement the closure or consolidation of postal facilities and offices recommended by the Commission unless Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving the recommendations of the Commission.

Authorizes USPS to provide for five-day delivery of mail and make adjustments in the rural delivery of mail.

Establishes the Postal Service Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. Requires the USPS to submit to the Authority a financial plan and budget for each year that USPS is in a control period (a period which begins when the USPS has been in default with respect to any loans, bonds, notes, or other form of borrowing for at least 30 days). Grants certain powers to the Authority to act on behalf of USPS during a control period, including the power to renegotiate contracts and to submit recommendations to ensure compliance with USPS financial plans and budgets. Provides for the termination of a control period, subject to congressional approval.

Revises provisions relating to the USPS workforce, including regarding: (1) redetermination of pay comparability, (2) limitations on contributions to life and health insurance plans, and (3) collective bargaining rights.

Terminates the postal rate preference for national and state political committees.

Reduces rate preferences for advertising by nonprofit organizations.

Sets forth provisions for contracting of postal services, including the establishment of an advocate for competition. Requires the Postal Regulatory Commission and USPS to make noncompetitive purchase requests for any noncompetitive award of a postal contract publicly available on the Internet. Sets forth procedures for identifying and resolving ethical issues in the contracting process.

H.R.2309 — Postal Reform Act of 2012

Sponsor: [Rep. Issa, Darrell E. \[R-CA-49\]](#) (Introduced 06/23/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform, Rules

Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 112-363,Part 1](#); [H. Rept. 112-363,Part 2](#)

Latest Action: 03/29/2012 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 291. ([All Actions](#))

Reported to House amended, Part II (03/29/2012)

Postal Reform Act of 2012 – Amends provisions of federal law relating to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) with respect to its reorganization, financial management, and workforce.

Title I: Postal Service Modernization – Subtitle A: Commission on Postal Reorganization – Commission on Postal Reorganization Act or the CPR Act – (Sec. 103) Establishes the Commission on Postal Reorganization (CPR) as an independent commission.

(Sec. 104) Requires USPS, in consultation with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), to develop and submit to CPR a plan for the closure or consolidation of postal retail facilities to achieve a savings of at least \$1 billion less than the annual costs for the fiscal year last ending before the enactment of this Act (baseline year).

Requires USPS, in consultation with the USPS Inspector General, to: (1) develop and submit a plan to CPR for the closure or consolidation of mail processing facilities to achieve a savings of at least \$2 billion less than the annual costs for the baseline year, and (2) develop and submit a plan to CPR for the closure or consolidation of USPS area and district offices so that the total number of such offices is 30% less than the number in the baseline year.

Requires CPR, after receiving such plans for closure or consolidation of USPS facilities, to: (1) report and publish its findings, (2) hold at least five public hearings on USPS closure and consolidation plans, and (3) publish a report on such hearings and on its final recommendations for the closure and consolidation of USPS facilities.

Requires USPS to report on the impact of closures and consolidations on the employment of preference-eligible veterans within USPS.

(Sec. 105) Requires USPS to implement CPR recommendations for the closure or consolidation of postal facilities within two years after a CPR plan is submitted to Congress unless Congress enacts a joint resolution of disapproval.

(Sec. 106) Sets forth procedures for congressional consideration of final CPR reports.

(Sec. 107) Prohibits an appeal of the closing or consolidation of any postal facility or office to PRC or the issuance of a PRC advisory opinion with respect to such closing or consolidation. Prohibits judicial review of any process, report, recommendation or other action of CPR.

(Sec. 108) Authorizes USPS to close or consolidate existing postal facilities in accordance with otherwise applicable provisions of law without regard to CPR recommendations.

(Sec. 109) Directs the Comptroller General (GAO) to study the effects of the proposed closures and consolidations of postal retail facilities, mail processing facilities, and area or district offices on the unemployment rate of minority communities.

Subtitle B: Other Provisions – (Sec. 111) Authorizes USPS to declare up to 12 non-mail delivery days during any year in which a 6-day delivery requirement is in effect. Requires the Postmaster General to submit to the USPS Board of Governors a report listing such non-delivery days.

Authorizes USPS, not less than 6 months after the enactment of this Act, to request a reduction in mail delivery from 6 to 5 days. Requires USPS to maintain its 6-day delivery service until 90 days after the rendering of a PRC advisory opinion on 5-day delivery.

(Sec. 112) Eliminates the prohibition against closing a post office solely for operating at a deficit. Reduces the deadline for PRC review of post office closures from 120 to 60 days.

Revises the PRC appeals process for the closing of a post office to prohibit a post office from filing an appeal if a contract postal unit is opened within two miles of such post office.

(Sec. 113) Requires USPS, in its annual report to PRC, to use PRC criteria in determining changes in productivity

and the resulting effect on overall costs.

(Sec. 114) Expands the definition of “post office,” for purposes of provisions relating to closure or consolidation, to include any postal retail facility as defined by this Act.

Title II: Postal Service Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority – Subtitle A:

Establishment and Organization – (Sec. 201) States as the purposes of this title: (1) to eliminate budget deficits and cash shortages of USPS; (2) to ensure that the mandate of universal service is maintained during any fiscal emergency; (3) to conduct necessary investigations and studies to determine the fiscal status and operational efficiency of USPS; (4) to assist USPS in restructuring its organization and workforce, meeting all fiscal obligations, and ensuring the appropriate and efficient delivery of postal services; (5) to provide USPS with a temporary increase in its borrowing authority; and (6) to ensure the long-term financial, fiscal, and economic vitality and operational efficiency of USPS.

(Sec. 202) Establishes, upon the commencement of any control period, the Postal Service Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (Authority). Defines “control period” as a period in which USPS has been in default with respect to any financial obligations or scheduled payments to the Treasury for at least 30 days.

Requires the Authority to operate in an advisory capacity during an initial control period. Grants the Authority full power to operate USPS after two years if the annual deficit of USPS is greater than \$2 billion.

Provides for the compensation of Level-Two Postal Service Executives (i.e., the Postmaster General, Deputy Postmaster General, and other USPS career executives) during a control period.

Allows termination of a control period upon certification by the Authority, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), that: (1) the expenditures of USPS did not exceed its revenues for two consecutive fiscal years after the enactment of this Act, (2) the Authority has approved a financial plan and budget for USPS, and (3) the USPS financial plan and budget includes plans to repay any supplementary debt within five years and to properly fund USPS pensions and retiree health benefits.

(Sec. 203) Sets forth the membership composition of the Authority and qualification requirements for individuals serving as members of the Authority. Expresses the sense of Congress that the President should appoint members of the Authority as soon as possible after the date a control period commences, but no later than 30 days after such date.

(Sec. 206) Authorizes appropriations from the Postal Service Fund for the operation of the Authority.

Subtitle B: Powers of the Authority – (Sec. 211) Sets forth the powers of the Authority, including the power to: (1) obtain USPS records, documents, information, or data; (2) accept gifts, bequests, and devises; (3) enter into contracts; (4) seek judicial enforcement of its authority to carry out its responsibilities; and (5) impose penalties upon USPS employees who fail to comply with its directives.

Expresses the sense of Congress with respect to the rights of USPS employees who are separated from service due to rightsizing efforts.

(Sec. 212) Exempts the Authority and its members from any claims against USPS resulting from actions taken by the Authority.

(Sec. 213) Grants jurisdiction to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to hear appeals by persons adversely affected or aggrieved by an order or decision of the Authority. Requires a petition for review of a decision by the Court of Appeals by the Supreme Court to be filed with 10 days after entry of the decision.

(Sec. 214) Requires USPS to reduce delivery of mail to a mailbox or other receptacle (delivery point) in each fiscal year beginning at least two years after the beginning of a control period. Allows a waiver of delivery point service in

cases of physical hardship. Expresses the sense of Congress that USPS should negotiate with states, businesses, and other postal patrons for the placement of centralized delivery units.

Subtitle C: Establishment and Enforcement of Financial Plan and Budget for the Postal Service – (Sec. 221) Requires the Postmaster General to develop and submit to the Authority a financial plan and budget for USPS during each fiscal year in which USPS is in a control period.

(Sec. 222) Authorizes USPS to borrow money and sell obligations during a control period, subject to approval by the Authority. Increases USPS borrowing authority during such period by \$10 billion.

(Sec. 223) Sets forth the process for the submission and approval of a USPS financial plan and budget by the Authority.

(Sec. 224) Sets forth the powers and responsibilities of the Authority in operating USPS, including the power to: (1) determine the overall strategies of USPS; (2) determine its organization structure; (3) hire and fire senior management; (4) approve major policies; (5) approve substantial capital projects; (6) approve changes in rates and classifications, new products and services, and other matters before PRC; (7) approve USPS reports and plans; (8) formulate and communicate organizational policy and positions on legislative and public policy matters to Congress and the public; and (9) ensure adequate internal controls and audits of USPS.

(Sec. 225) Requires the Postmaster General to file quarterly revenue and expense reports with the Authority. Requires the Authority, if there is a variance between USPS revenues and expenditures, to certify such variance to the Postmaster General, the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Congress and require USPS to take remedial action to correct the variance. Authorizes the Authority or the Secretary of the Treasury to withhold from USPS access to additional supplementary debt if a variance is certified to exist.

(Sec. 226) Authorizes the Authority to submit recommendations to the Postmaster General, the President, and Congress to ensure compliance by USPS with its financial plans and budgets or to otherwise promote its financial stability, management responsibility, and service delivery efficiency.

(Sec. 228) Authorizes the Authority to undertake cooperative efforts to assist USPS in achieving financial stability and management efficiency.

(Sec. 229) Authorizes the Authority to require USPS to provide it with information necessary to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities under this title.

(Sec. 230) Requires the Authority to report to Congress, not later than 30 days after each fiscal year which is a control year, describing: (1) the progress made by USPS in meeting the objectives set out in this subtitle, (2) the assistance provided by the Authority to USPS in meeting such objectives, and (3) any other activities of the Authority during the fiscal year.

Authorizes the Authority to report on: (1) any acts or omission by USPS which will adversely affect the ability of USPS to comply with an approved financial plan and budget, and (2) the effect of federal enactments on the USPS financial stability and management efficiency. Requires the Authority to make such reports available to the public.

Title III: Postal Service Workforce – Subtitle A: General Provisions – (Sec. 301) Revises criteria for determining pay comparability for postal workers to include total compensation and benefits and pay comparability standards of the entire private sector.

(Sec. 302) Imposes a limitation on USPS contributions to postal employees' health and life insurance premiums, beginning after FY2013.

(Sec. 303) Repeals the requirement that the overall value of fringe benefits for postal employees be equal to that of

fringe benefits available in 1971.

(Sec. 304) Prohibits USPS collective bargaining agreements ratified after the enactment of this Act from containing any provision that restricts the use of federal civil service reduction-in-force procedures. Requires any such collective bargaining agreement that contains a restriction to be renegotiated within nine months after the enactment of this Act. Allows USPS and bargaining representatives to agree to alternate reduction-in-force procedures.

(Sec. 305) Modifies the collective bargaining process to encourage agreements between USPS bargaining representatives and management without arbitration. Requires final collective bargaining agreements to comply with the definition of pay comparability as set forth in this title and to consider the current and long-term financial condition of USPS.

(Sec. 306) Requires the transfer of any excess pension payments to USPS as of September 30, 2010, for specified purposes, including payment of pension liabilities and USPS debt. Expresses the sense of Congress that USPS should use surplus pension funds for separation incentives for postal employees.

Subtitle B: Postal Service Workers' Compensation Reform – (Sec. 311) Requires the Postmaster General to establish a workers' compensation program for USPS employees for transitioning postal employees who are receiving workers' compensation to retirement benefits when such employees reach retirement age.

Title IV: Postal Service Revenue – (Sec. 401) Requires postage for each market-dominant mail class to cover not less than 90% of its processing and delivery costs.

(Sec. 402) Repeals the postal rate preference for qualified political committees.

(Sec. 403) Requires an annual 2% reduction in the discount of the postal rate for nonprofit advertising, beginning three years after the enactment of this Act, until the discount is 20% (currently, 40%).

(Sec. 404) Requires PRC to promulgate regulations for streamlined after-the-fact review of new agreements between USPS and postal customers for postal rates for competitive products. Requires the Postmaster General to submit such agreements to PRC.

(Sec. 406) Requires a service agreement, including an agreement covering market-dominant and competitive products, to cover its costs and improve the net financial position of USPS.

(Sec. 407) Authorizes USPS to establish and manage a program to allow entities to advertise at USPS facilities and on USPS vehicles, provided that such advertising is consistent with the integrity of USPS, covers 200% of its costs, and is subject to the PRC's annual compliance review.

(Sec. 408) Requires the state of Alaska to reimburse USPS for expenses incurred in providing bypass mail service.

(Sec. 409) Repeals provisions providing for taxpayer subsidies for USPS.

(Sec. 410) Decreases the USPS payment to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund required by August 1, 2012, by \$4.5 billion. Increases each of the payments required by September 30 of 2015 and 2016 by \$2.25 billion.

Title V: Postal Contracting Reform – (Sec. 501) Sets forth new requirements for contracting of postal services, including new ethical standards for awarding postal contracts. Defines "postal contract" for purposes of this title to mean: (1) any contract entered into by USPS for the procurement of goods or services; or (2) in the case of PRC, any contract exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold (currently, \$150,000).

Establishes the position of advocate for competition in USPS and PRC to promote: (1) the contracting out of postal services that the private sector can perform equally well or better at lower cost, and (2) competition by promoting the acquisition of commercial items and challenging barriers to competition. Requires each advocate for competition to

report annually on initiatives to promote outsourcing and competition and on any barriers to such initiatives.

Requires the Postmaster General and the Chairman of PRC to issue a policy on contracting officer delegations of authority for postal contracts.

Requires USPS to post on its public website any noncompetitive award for postal contracts of \$250,000 or more. Requires PRC to post any such award of \$20,000 or more. Allows USPS to waive such requirement if it would risk placing USPS at a competitive disadvantage relative to a private sector competitor.

Requires USPS and PRC to review any ethical issues relating to a proposed contract before it is awarded and to advise the contracting officer on an appropriate resolution of any ethical issues.

Requires USPS and PRC to prescribe regulations that restrict contracting officers from entering into a postal contract with any party with whom the contracting officer has a personal or business relationship. Allows a waiver of such restrictions if such waiver is determined to be in the best interests of USPS or PRC. Requires such waivers to be posted on the USPS and PRC websites. Authorizes USPS and PRC to void any postal contract and recover amounts expended under such contract if there is a final conviction of bribery, conflict of interest, or other criminal offense relating to such contract.

S.2014 — Postal Investment Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. \[D-HI\]](#) (Introduced 12/16/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 12/16/2011 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in Senate (12/16/2011)

Postal Investment Act of 2011 – Revises provisions of federal law relating to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) with respect to the funding of retiree health benefits, product innovation, and its workforce.

Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Act of 2011 – Revises the method for calculating USPS contributions to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (Fund). Eliminates currently required prefunding payments to the Fund after FY2012. Establishes the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Investment Board to manage investments for the Fund. Permits the Board to invest in nongovernmental securities. Establishes a funding level for the Fund at 80% of the net present value of contribution amounts. Exempts USPS from Fund contribution requirements in any fiscal year in which it has an outstanding debt obligation.

Requires the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), in establishing or revising a system for regulating rates and classes for market-dominant products, to consider the effect of increased customer satisfaction and increased performance of services on the value of the mail for the general public, postal customers, and others engaged in the delivery of mail other than letters. Authorizes PRC to establish new classes of mail at the request of USPS.

Directs the Postmaster General to: (1) designate a senior officer in USPS who has a wide range of knowledge of USPS, its customers, marketing, and product innovation to serve as Chief Product Innovation Officer; and (2) develop a program to educate postal employees and retirees on how Medicare benefits can interact with or supplement benefits under the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHB).

Requires USPS to develop a program to increase compliance with postage requirements, including compliance with

fraud investigations.

Requires surplus contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) to be used by USPS to fund separation payments to USPS employees who voluntarily separate from service before October 1, 2014.

Grants postmasters and supervisors the right to consult with USPS on any changes to or reductions of compensation and benefits. Extends protections afforded to federal employees in any reduction in force to USPS employees.

Authorizes the USPS Board of Governors to allow not more than 12 USPS officers or employees in critical senior executive or equivalent positions to receive total annual compensation in an amount not to exceed 135% of: (1) level I of the Executive Schedule for the Postmaster General, (2) level II of the Executive Schedule for the Deputy Postmaster General, and (3) level III of the Executive Schedule for any other officer or employee.

H.R.4161 — Defending Quality Postal Delivery for the Future Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. \[D-AZ-7\]](#) (Introduced 03/07/2012)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/07/2012 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (03/07/2012)

Defending Quality Postal Delivery for the Future Act – Prohibits the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from closing or consolidating any post office or other postal facility that is located in a ZIP code that has a high rate of population growth.

Directs the Postmaster General to determine annually whether a ZIP code has a high rate of population growth using population data available from the Bureau of the Census.

S.1688 — Save Our Postal Worker Jobs Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. \[D-MD\]](#) (Introduced 10/12/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 10/12/2011 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in Senate (10/12/2011)

Save Our Postal Worker Jobs Act of 2011 – Prescribes the “average pay” to be used in determining annuities for civilian employment with the United States Postal Service (USPS) for purposes of provisions relating to future benefits attributable to such employment in order to calculate the amount of any USPS surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

Requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM): (1) within six months after enactment of this Act, to determine

(or, if applicable, redetermine) the amount of such surplus or liability as of the close of the most recently ending fiscal year using the methodology required under this Act; and (2) if the result is a surplus, to transfer the surplus amount to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund within 15 days after the determination of a surplus.

Provides for an alternate determination of a USPS surplus or supplemental liability for FY2016-FY2020.

Requires transfer of certain surplus postal retirement contributions in FY2011 to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund or the Employees' Compensation Fund under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Expresses the intent of Congress that this Act shall apply to allocations of past, present, and future benefit liabilities between the USPS and the Treasury.

S.1010 — Postal Operations Sustainment and Transformation Act of 2011

Sponsor: [Sen. Carper, Thomas R. \[D-DE\]](#) (Introduced 05/17/2011)

Committees: Senate – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: 09/06/2011 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-271. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in Senate (05/17/2011)

Postal Operations Sustainment and Transformation Act of 2011 – Directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to extend the redetermination of postal surplus or supplemental liability under the Civil Service Retirement System for each of FY2010 through FY2043 and report the results of such redetermination to the United States Postal Service (USPS) on or before June 30 of the subsequent fiscal year. Provides that if the result of a redetermination for a fiscal year is a surplus, that amount shall remain in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund until distribution is authorized as follows: (1) if there is a surplus for FY2010-FY2016, such amount, or any part of it, may be transferred to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund; (2) if there is a surplus for any of FY2017-FY2043, that amount, or any part of it, may be transferred to such Fund to pay any liability to such Fund; and (3) if all liability to such Fund is paid, amounts may be transferred to the Employees' Compensation Fund or to USPS for repayment of any obligation issued by it. Sets forth procedures for the transfer of such amounts.

Prescribes the "average pay" and the appropriate percentage thereof to be used in determining annuities for civilian employment with USPS for purposes of provisions relating to future benefits attributable to such employment.

Revises the method for calculating the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund liability. Requires OPM to provide data based on assumptions set by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement System and used in the actuarial valuations of the annuity and post-retirement health obligations of USPS.

Requires USPS to develop a plan for the expansion of retail alternatives to post offices, such as self-service kiosks, vending machines, the Internet, Postal Service employees or contractors on delivery routes, and contract postal units.

Allows USPS to exercise its authority to: (1) establish service standards for market-dominant products, and (2) adjust the frequency of the delivery of such products.

Requires USPS to obtain an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission for any change in the nature of postal services relating to market-dominant products that will generally affect nationwide service. Requires the Commission to issue an advisory opinion not later than 90 days after receipt of a request from USPS.

Authorizes the shipping of wine and malt beverages by USPS.

Permits USPS to provide other services that are not postal services if the provision of such services is consistent with the public interest, does not create unfair competition, and utilizes the existing postal network.

Revises provisions relating to labor disputes in USPS to require the arbitration board to render a decision not later than 45 days after its appointment and to consider certain relevant factors in rendering a decision, including the financial condition of USPS.

Changes the date of the annual report of USPS to the Postal Regulatory Commission concerning costs, revenues, rates, and service from 90 days after the end of each year to the next January 15 after the end of each year.

Includes USPS and the Postal Regulatory Commission as executive agencies for purposes of provisions relating to the resolution of public contract disputes.

H.R.4270 — Postal Executive Accountability Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Hochul, Kathleen C. \[D-NY-26\]](#) (Introduced 03/27/2012)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 03/27/2012 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (03/27/2012)

Postal Executive Accountability Act – Prohibits bonuses or other rewards to the Postmaster General or any other officer of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) in a senior executive position in any year in which any postal retail facility or mail processing facility is closed.

Repeals exceptions to the limit on total compensation for USPS officers and employees.

H.R.3744 — Rural Service Preservation Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. \[R-AL-4\]](#) (Introduced 12/20/2011)

Committees: House – Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 12/20/2011 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. ([All Actions](#))

Introduced in House (12/20/2011)

Rural Service Preservation Act – Requires the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to continue rural mail delivery at its current level for the five-year period beginning on the enactment of this Act.

Limits the number of buy-outs offered to employees who work in rural post offices and the number of rural post offices closed or consolidated to 10% of the total number of postal employee buy-outs and post office closings or consolidations during the five-year period beginning on the enactment date of this Act.

Defines “rural post office” as a post office located in an area that has a population not exceeding 10,000, and that is not contiguous or adjacent to a town, village, or city that has a population greater than 150,000 or an urbanized area of such town, village, or city.