

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4553

To amend title 18, United States Code, to impose certain penalties for the forging or counterfeiting of any postmarking stamp or impression thereof with respect to a mailed ballot for an election for Federal, State, or local office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2023

Mr. MASSIE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to impose certain penalties for the forging or counterfeiting of any postmarking stamp or impression thereof with respect to a mailed ballot for an election for Federal, State, or local office, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Prohibiting U.S. Post-
5 mark Abuse Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. POSTMARKING STAMPS.**

2 Section 503 of title 18, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) by striking “Whoever forges” and inserting
5 “(a) Whoever forges”;

6 (2) by striking “or such impression thereof,”
7 and all that follows and inserting the following:

8 “or such impression thereof—

9 “(1) shall be fined under this title or impris-
10 oned not more than five years, or both; or

11 “(2) if the impression from a postmarking
12 stamp or impression thereof forged, counterfeited,
13 used, sold, or possessed in violation of this section
14 is applied to a mailed ballot for an election for Fed-
15 eral, State, or local office, shall be fined under this
16 title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or
17 both.”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end following new sub-
19 section:

20 “(b) Whoever, with the intent to falsify the date on
21 which a postmark was applied, applies to a mailed ballot
22 described in subsection (a)(2) a genuine postmark that
23 bears a date other than the date on which such postmark
24 was applied, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in
25 such subsection.”.