

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3515

To improve communication between the United States Postal Service and local communities relating to the relocation and establishment of Postal Service retail service facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 14, 2023

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

A BILL

To improve communication between the United States Postal Service and local communities relating to the relocation and establishment of Postal Service retail service facilities, 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 “Mandating Advisable
5 and Informed Locations and Solutions Act” or the
6 “MAILS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

- 1 (1) POST OFFICE.—The term “post office”—
2 (A) means a facility that—
3 (i) is owned or leased by the Postal
4 Service;
5 (ii) is managed by a Postmaster;
6 (iii) has responsibility for—
7 (I) customer services;
8 (II) local delivery; and
9 (III) receipt and dispatch of all
10 classes of mail; and
11 (iv) may have responsibility for proc-
12 essing and distribution of mail for other
13 such facilities in the surrounding geo-
14 graphic area; and
15 (B) includes a remotely managed post of-
16 fice, a part-time post office, and an administra-
17 tive post office.
- 18 (2) POSTAL SERVICE.—The term “Postal Serv-
19 ice” means the United States Postal Service.
- 20 (3) TEMPORARY RELOCATION.—The term
21 “temporary relocation” means a temporary reloca-
22 tion of retail services from a post office to support
23 Postal Service business for a holiday, special event,
24 or overflow business, as described in paragraph

1 (a)(2)(i) of section 241.4 of title 39, Code of Federal
2 Regulations.

3 **SEC. 3. REQUESTS FOR NEW POST OFFICES.**

4 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Postal Service shall establish by regulation
6 a formal process for a local government official to request
7 a new post office within the locality.

8 **SEC. 4. COMMUNICATION RELATING TO POST OFFICE RE-**
9 **LOCATION.**

10 The Postal Service shall amend section 241.4 of title
11 39, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide the following:

12 (1) **COMMUNITY INPUT.**—The Postal Service
13 may not implement a temporary relocation, including
14 for a commemorative event, for a period longer than
15 2 days without collecting and considering community
16 input under paragraph (c) of that section.

17 (2) **NOTIFICATION.**—

18 (A) **ELECTED OFFICIALS.**—Not later than
19 30 days before the date of a temporary reloca-
20 tion, the Postal Service shall—

21 (i) submit to 1 or more local elected
22 officials in the area in which the affected
23 post office is located a written outline of
24 the proposal; and

1 (ii) offer to discuss the proposal with
2 the elected official under paragraph (c) of
3 that section.

4 (B) PUBLIC PRESENTATION.—The Postal
5 Service shall—

6 (i) not later than 15 days before the
7 date of a temporary relocation, provide
8 public notice of the temporary relocation in
9 the area in which the affected post office
10 is located; and

11 (ii) not later than 15 days after pro-
12 viding notice to local elected officials under
13 subparagraph (A)(i), hold a public presen-
14 tation under paragraph (c) of that section.

15 (3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not later than 60
16 days after the end of the initial 30-day comment pe-
17 riod under paragraph (c) of that section, and every
18 60 days thereafter until the date that is 60 days
19 after the last day of a temporary relocation, the
20 Postal Service shall submit to relevant local govern-
21 ment officials updates on the status of the tem-
22 porary relocation.

23 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

24 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—With respect to any tem-
25 porary relocation for a period that is longer than 180 days

1 (whether due to the originally projected length of the relo-
2 cation or due to an extension), not later than 30 days after
3 the first day of the temporary relocation (or of the exten-
4 sion that caused the length of the relocation to exceed 180
5 days, if applicable), the Postal Service shall submit a re-
6 port relating to the temporary relocation or extension to—

7 (1) the Committee on Homeland Security and
8 Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

9 (2) the Committee on Oversight and Account-
10 ability of the House of Representatives; and

11 (3) the members of Congress who represent the
12 congressional district or State in which the affected
13 post office is located.

14 (b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report described
15 in subsection (a) shall include a discussion of—

16 (1) whether the communication requirements
17 were met within the required timelines, and if not,
18 an explanation for the failure to comply with the re-
19 quirements; and

20 (2) whether the period of the temporary reloca-
21 tion is being extended, and if so, an explanation for
22 the extension.

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