

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1837

To amend title 39, United States Code, to enhance the security and efficiency of nationwide mail and parcel delivery.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. FARENTHOLD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to enhance the security and efficiency of nationwide mail and parcel delivery.

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 “Secure Delivery for  
5       America Act of 2015”.

6       **SEC. 2. DELIVERY-POINT MODERNIZATION.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VII of chapter 36 of  
8       title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
9       end the following:

1 **“§ 3692. Delivery-point modernization**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this sec-  
3 tion—

4 “(1) the term ‘delivery point’ means a mailbox  
5 or other receptacle to which mail is delivered;

6 “(2) the term ‘primary mode of mail delivery’  
7 means the typical method by which the Postal Serv-  
8 ice delivers letter mail to the delivery point of a  
9 postal patron;

10 “(3) the term ‘door delivery’ means a primary  
11 mode of mail delivery whereby mail is placed into a  
12 slot or receptacle at or near the postal patron’s door  
13 or is hand delivered to a postal patron, but does not  
14 include centralized, curbside, or sidewalk delivery;

15 “(4) the term ‘centralized delivery’ means a pri-  
16 mary mode of mail delivery whereby mail receptacles  
17 of a number of delivery points are grouped or clus-  
18 tered at a single location;

19 “(5) the term ‘curbside delivery’ means a pri-  
20 mary mode of mail delivery whereby a mail recep-  
21 tacle is situated at the edge of a sidewalk abutting  
22 a road or curb, at a road, or at a curb, and can be  
23 served by a letter carrier from a motorized vehicle;  
24 and

25 “(6) the term ‘sidewalk delivery’ means a pri-  
26 mary mode of mail delivery whereby a mail recep-

1       tacle is situated at the edge of a sidewalk and can  
2       be served by a letter carrier from the sidewalk.

3       “(b) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the Postal  
4 Service—

5           “(1) to provide access to secure, convenient  
6       package delivery receptacles to the greatest number  
7       of postal patrons feasible; and

8           “(2) to use the most cost-effective primary  
9       mode of mail delivery feasible for postal patrons.

10       “(c) PHASEOUT OF DOOR DELIVERY.—

11           “(1) NEW ADDRESSES.—For new addresses es-  
12       tablished after September 30, 2016, the Postal Serv-  
13       ice shall provide a primary mode of mail delivery  
14       other than door delivery, with a preference for se-  
15       cure, centralized delivery to the maximum extent  
16       feasible.

17           “(2) BUSINESS ADDRESS CONVERSION.—Sub-  
18       ject to paragraph (4), the Postal Service shall imple-  
19       ment a program to convert existing business ad-  
20       dresses with door delivery to centralized delivery to  
21       the maximum extent feasible.

22           “(3) RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS CONVERSION.—

23           “(A) IDENTIFICATION.—Within 1 year  
24       after the date of the enactment of this section,  
25       each Postal Service district office shall identify

1 residential addresses within its service area that  
2 are appropriate candidates for conversion from  
3 door delivery to centralized, curbside, or side-  
4 walk delivery, in accordance with standards es-  
5 tablished by the Postal Service.

6 “(B) VOLUNTARY CONVERSION.—Subject  
7 to paragraph (4), the Postal Service shall seek  
8 to voluntarily convert the delivery points identi-  
9 fied under subparagraph (A) from door delivery  
10 to more cost-effective primary modes of mail  
11 delivery.

12 “(C) PROCEDURES.—In carrying out con-  
13 versions under subparagraph (B), the Postal  
14 Service shall establish procedures—

15 “(i) to solicit, consider, and respond  
16 to input from postal patrons, State and  
17 local governments, local associations, and  
18 property owners; and

19 “(ii) to place centralized delivery  
20 points in locations that maximize delivery  
21 efficiency, ease of use for postal patrons,  
22 and respect for private property rights.

23 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making any deter-  
24 mination to convert the primary mode of mail deliv-  
25 ery for an existing address from door delivery to any

1 other primary mode of mail delivery, or to provide  
2 a primary mode of mail delivery to a new address,  
3 the Postal Service shall consider—

4 “(A) the impact of weather conditions,  
5 physical barriers, or any other factor that may  
6 impact the feasibility of providing a primary  
7 mode of mail delivery other than door delivery  
8 (such as a factor that may significantly reduce  
9 the potential cost savings associated with pro-  
10 viding centralized or curbside delivery);

11 “(B) whether the address is in a registered  
12 historic district (as that term is defined in sec-  
13 tion 47(e)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code  
14 of 1986), is listed on the National Register of  
15 Historic Places, is designated as a National  
16 Historic Landmark, or is of historic value; and

17 “(C) population density and the concentra-  
18 tion of poverty.

19 “(5) WAIVER FOR PHYSICAL HARDSHIP.—The  
20 Postal Service shall establish and maintain a waiver  
21 program under which, upon application, door deliv-  
22 ery may be continued, or provided, at no cost to the  
23 applicant in any case in which—

1           “(A) centralized or curbside delivery would,  
2           but for this paragraph, otherwise be the pri-  
3           mary mode of mail delivery; and

4           “(B) door delivery is necessary in order to  
5           avoid causing significant physical hardship or  
6           physical safety risks to a postal patron.

7           “(d) DELIVERY MODERNIZATION REQUIREMENT.—

8           “(1) DELIVERY-POINT CONVERSIONS.—During  
9           each fiscal year from fiscal year 2017 through fiscal  
10          year 2026, the Postal Service shall convert not less  
11          than 1,500,000 of the door delivery points extant on  
12          December 31, 2015, to centralized, curbside, or side-  
13          walk delivery.

14          “(2) CONVERSION TYPE.—In carrying out para-  
15          graph (1), the Postal Service shall, to the greatest  
16          extent feasible, convert delivery points to centralized  
17          delivery and include secure package lockers co-lo-  
18          cated with mail receptacles at the centralized deliv-  
19          ery point.

20          “(3) CONVERSION ORDER.—In determining  
21          which delivery points to convert under paragraph  
22          (1), the delivery point or points of postal patrons  
23          who voluntarily agree to convert their delivery point  
24          or points under subsection (c)(3) shall take prece-

1       dence over any other conversions to the greatest ex-  
2       tent practicable.

3               “(4) PROCEDURES.—In carrying out conver-  
4       sions under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall  
5       establish procedures to—

6                       “(A) solicit, consider, and respond to input  
7       from the general public, postal patrons, State  
8       and local governments, local associations, and  
9       property owners which shall include, but not be  
10      limited to—

11                               “(i) a public community meeting prior  
12      to the commencement of the conversion of  
13      a community;

14                               “(ii) prior to the completion of the  
15      conversion of a community; and

16                               “(iii) at any point in the process when  
17      the District Manager makes a change to  
18      the delivery method or the location of cen-  
19      tralized delivery points;

20                               “(B) calculate and make publicly accessible  
21      the cost or savings of the conversion to the  
22      Postal Service as well as the average conversion  
23      cost or savings to each postal patron and any  
24      cost or savings to the State and local govern-  
25      ment; and

1           “(C) place centralized delivery points in lo-  
2           cations that maximize delivery efficiency, ease  
3           of use for postal patrons, and respect for pri-  
4           vate property rights.

5           “(5) NOTIFICATION.—In carrying out conver-  
6           sions under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall  
7           provide written notice at least 60 days in advance of  
8           the implementation date of a change in primary  
9           mode of mail delivery to postal customers served by  
10          an applicable delivery point.

11          “(6) VOUCHER PROGRAM.—The Postal Service  
12          shall, in accordance with such standards and proce-  
13          dures as the Postal Service shall by regulation pre-  
14          scribe, provide for a voucher program under which,  
15          upon application, the Postal Service may defray all  
16          or any portion of the costs associated with conver-  
17          sion from door delivery under this section which  
18          would otherwise be borne by postal patrons.

19          “(7) LEGACY DOOR-DELIVERY SERVICE.—

20                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service  
21                 may continue to provide, for a fee to be paid by  
22                 the addressee, door delivery to an address that  
23                 received door delivery as of January 1, 2016,  
24                 but was converted or scheduled to be converted  
25                 to a different primary mode of mail delivery as



1 a result of the requirements of paragraph (1),  
2 subject to succeeding provisions of this para-  
3 graph.

4 “(B) OFFSET.—The fee described in sub-  
5 paragraph (A) shall, when taken in the nation-  
6 wide aggregate, offset the additional cost to the  
7 Postal Service for door delivery (compared to  
8 the cost of the primary mode of mail delivery  
9 which would otherwise exist for such address)  
10 as a result of the requirements of subsection  
11 (d).

12 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The fee shall be  
13 subject to the requirements of section  
14 3622(d)(1)(B) and the Postmaster General may  
15 by regulation prescribe the method of the fee’s  
16 calculation.

17 “(D) QUALIFICATIONS.—Postal patrons  
18 may only qualify for the option of legacy door-  
19 delivery service if—

20 “(i) the postal patron received mail at  
21 the applicable address on the date on  
22 which—

23 “(I) the Postal Service provided  
24 written notice of its intent to convert

1 a delivery point in compliance with  
2 paragraph (5); or

3 “(II) the primary mode of mail  
4 delivery was changed pursuant to the  
5 requirements of paragraph (1);

6 “(ii) the postal patron registered and  
7 paid the initial fee for such service not  
8 later than 6 months after the date on  
9 which the primary mode of mail delivery  
10 was changed for the applicable address;  
11 and

12 “(iii) the provision of legacy door-de-  
13 livery service has been continuous at the  
14 applicable address since its commencement.

15 “(8) TREATMENT OF EXEMPTION.—Addresses  
16 receiving door delivery or legacy door delivery as a  
17 result of subsection (c)(5) or paragraph (7)—

18 “(A) shall be counted as addresses that re-  
19 ceive the primary mode of mail delivery which  
20 the address would be subject to if not for the  
21 applicable exemption; and

22 “(B) shall, within 60 days after ceasing to  
23 meet the requirements of such subsection (c)(5)  
24 or paragraph (7), as applicable, be converted to

1 the primary mode of mail delivery which was  
2 otherwise applicable.

3 “(9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days  
4 after the end of each of fiscal years 2015 through  
5 2024, the Postal Service shall submit to Congress  
6 and the Inspector General of the Postal Service a re-  
7 port on the implementation of this section during  
8 the most recently completed fiscal year. Each such  
9 report shall include—

10 “(A) the number of residential and busi-  
11 ness addresses that—

12 “(i) receive door delivery as of the end  
13 of the fiscal year preceding the most re-  
14 cently completed fiscal year;

15 “(ii) receive door delivery as of the  
16 end of the most recently completed fiscal  
17 year; and

18 “(iii) during the most recently com-  
19 pleted fiscal year, were converted from  
20 door delivery to—

21 “(I) centralized delivery points;

22 “(II) curbside delivery points;

23 and

24 “(III) any other primary mode of  
25 mail delivery, respectively;

1           “(B) the estimated cost savings from the  
2 conversions described in subparagraph (A)(iii);

3           “(C) a description of the progress made by  
4 the Postal Service toward meeting the require-  
5 ments of subsection (c) and paragraph (1) of  
6 this subsection; and

7           “(D) any other information which the  
8 Postal Service considers appropriate.

9           “(10) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The In-  
10 spector General of the Postal Service shall issue an  
11 annual audit report on the implementation of the  
12 conversion requirement under paragraph (1) not  
13 later than 90 days after the date on which the Post-  
14 al Service releases its annual report under para-  
15 graph (9). At a minimum, the report under this  
16 paragraph shall contain—

17           “(A) an audit of the data contained in the  
18 Postal Service’s report under paragraph (9);  
19 and

20           “(B) an evaluation of the Postal Service’s  
21 implementation of the procedural requirements  
22 described in paragraph (4).

23           “(e) REVIEW.—Subchapters IV and V shall not apply  
24 with respect to any action taken by the Postal Service  
25 under this section.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
2 for chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended  
3 by adding after the item relating to section 3691 the fol-  
4 lowing:

“3692. Delivery-point modernization.”.

5 (c) UPDATED DELIVERY COST DATA.—

6 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the  
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Postal Service  
8 shall begin to collect data on delivery mode costs and  
9 the potential savings of converting to more cost-effi-  
10 cient primary modes of mail delivery.

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2017,  
12 the Postal Service shall submit a report to the Com-  
13 mittee on Oversight and Government Reform of the  
14 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
15 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
16 Senate describing the findings of the study con-  
17 ducted under paragraph (1).

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