

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1885

To amend title 39, United States Code, to cap rural post office closures at no more than 5 percent of total closures in any given year, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to cap rural post office closures at no more than 5 percent of total closures in any given year, 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 “Securing Access to
5 Rural Postal Services Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CLOSURES AND CONSOLIDATIONS.**

7 (a) RURAL POST OFFICE ANNUAL CLOSURE LIMITA-
8 TION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 404a(a) of title 39,
2 United States Code, is amended—

3 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at
4 the end;

5 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
6 riod and inserting “; or”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) in any calendar year, close, consolidate, or
9 suspend the operations of more than 5 percent of
10 the postal facilities that—

11 “(A) were operating as of the first day of
12 such calendar year; and

13 “(B) were within the K or L cost ascer-
14 tainment grouping as of June 23, 2011.”.

15 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 404a of title 39,
16 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(d) For purposes of subsection (a)(4), the term
19 ‘postal facility’ means a post office, post office branch,
20 post office classified station, or other facility which is op-
21 erated by the Postal Service, and the primary function of
22 which is to provide retail postal services.”.

23 (b) ALTERNATIVE POSTAL ACCESS CHOICE.—Sec-
24 tion 404(d) of title 39, United States Code, is amended

1 by striking all that precedes paragraph (2) and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(d)(1) The Postal Service, prior to making a deter-
4 mination under subsection (a)(3) as to the necessity for
5 the closing or consolidation or any post office, shall—

6 “(A) provide adequate notice of its intention to
7 close or consolidate such post office at least 60 days
8 prior to the proposed date of such closing or consoli-
9 dation to postal customers served by such post of-
10 fice;

11 “(B) conduct a nonbinding survey on the pro-
12 posed closing or consolidation to allow postal cus-
13 tomers served by such post office an opportunity to
14 indicate their preference between or among—

15 “(i) the closing or consolidation; and

16 “(ii) 1 or more alternative options; and

17 “(C) ensure that—

18 “(i) should the closure or consolidation of
19 a post office be deemed necessary, it shall be
20 the policy of the Postal Service to provide alter-
21 native access to postal services to those served
22 by the post office by—

23 “(I) the alternative option under sub-
24 paragraph (B)(ii); or

1 “(II) if more than one, the option
2 under subparagraph (B)(ii) preferred by
3 the greatest number of survey respondents;
4 and

5 “(ii) if the Postal Service is unable to pro-
6 vide alternative access through the option de-
7 scribed in clause (i) or if such option would be
8 cost prohibitive, the Postal Service—

9 “(I) may provide alternative access
10 through a different means; and

11 “(II) shall provide written notice to
12 postal customers served by the post office
13 identifying and explaining why the option
14 identified by clause (i) was not possible or
15 cost prohibitive, as the case may be.”.

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