

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3319

To direct the Postmaster General to conduct a pilot program to provide nonpostal services at certain post offices, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Postmaster General to conduct a pilot program to provide nonpostal services at certain post offices, 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 “Postal Innovation
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANDED SERVICES.**

7 (a) PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROVISION OF NONPOSTAL
8 SERVICES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, and notwith-
3 standing the provisions of title 39, United States
4 Code, the Postmaster General shall establish a pilot
5 program to provide nonpostal services through pub-
6 lic-private partnerships in 5 postal districts or re-
7 gions, as determined by the Postmaster General, of
8 which at least 1 district or region contains a post of-
9 fice located in a rural area.

10 (2) SERVICES.—The nonpostal services de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1) may include—

12 (A) financial services;

13 (B) warehousing;

14 (C) experimental postal products market
15 testing;

16 (D) community support services;

17 (E) Internet voting;

18 (F) municipal broadband Internet service;

19 (G) public wireless Internet service;

20 (H) emergency broadband Internet service;

21 and

22 (I) passport services.

23 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date of the establishment of the pilot program under

1 subsection (a), the Postmaster General shall submit
2 to Congress a report containing—

3 (A) an analysis of the pilot program con-
4 ducted under paragraph (1); and

5 (B) an assessment of the most cost-effec-
6 tive implementation of nonpostal services under
7 the pilot program.

8 (b) GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES.—Section 411 of title
9 39, United States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in the second sentence, by striking “this
11 section” and inserting “this subsection”;

12 (2) in the heading of such section, by striking
13 “**Government**” and inserting “**government**”;

14 (3) by striking “Executive agencies” and insert-
15 ing “(a) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Executive agen-
16 cies”; and

17 (4) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(b) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

19 “(1) AUTHORITY OF POSTAL SERVICE.—The
20 Postal Service is authorized to furnish property and
21 services to a State, local government, or tribal gov-
22 ernment under such terms and conditions, including
23 the possibility for reimbursement, as the Postal
24 Service and the applicable State, local government,
25 or tribal government shall determine appropriate.

1 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

2 “(A) the term ‘State’ means each of the
3 several States, the District of Columbia, Amer-
4 ican Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the
5 Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth
6 of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United
7 States, and any other territory or possession of
8 the United States.

9 “(B) the term ‘tribal government’ means
10 the government of an Indian tribe (as defined
11 in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination
12 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e))).”.

13 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item related to
14 section 411 in the analysis of chapter 4 of title 39, United
15 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“411. Cooperation with other government agencies.”.

16 **SEC. 3. SHIPPING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

17 (a) MAILABILITY.—

18 (1) NONMAILABLE ARTICLES.—Section 1716(f)
19 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by strik-
20 ing “mails” and inserting “mails, except to the ex-
21 tent that the mailing is allowable under section
22 3001(p) of title 39”.

23 (2) MAILABLE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.—Sec-
24 tion 1154(a) of title 18, United States Code, is
25 amended, by inserting “or, with respect to the mail-

1 ing of alcoholic beverages to the extent allowed
2 under section 3001(p) of title 39” after “mechanical
3 purposes”.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—Section 3001 of title 39, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(p)(1) Alcoholic beverages shall be considered mail-
8 able if mailed—

9 “(A) by a covered shipper in accordance with
10 applicable regulations under paragraph (2); and

11 “(B) in accordance with the delivery require-
12 ments otherwise applicable to privately carried ship-
13 ments of alcoholic beverages.

14 “(2) The Postal Service shall prescribe such regula-
15 tions as may be necessary to carry out this subsection,
16 including regulations providing that—

17 “(A) the mailing shall be by a means estab-
18 lished by the Postal Service to ensure direct delivery
19 to the addressee or a duly authorized agent at a
20 postal facility;

21 “(B) the addressee (and any duly authorized
22 agent) shall be an individual at least 21 years of
23 age, and shall present a valid, government-issued
24 photo identification at the time of delivery;

1 “(C) the alcoholic beverage may not be for re-
2 sale or other commercial purpose; and

3 “(D) the covered shipper involved shall—

4 “(i) certify in writing to the satisfaction of
5 the Postal Service, through a registration proc-
6 ess administered by the Postal Service, that the
7 mailing is not in violation of any provision of
8 this subsection or regulation prescribed under
9 this subsection; and

10 “(ii) provide any other information or af-
11 firmation that the Postal Service may require,
12 including with respect to the prepayment of
13 State alcohol beverage taxes.

14 “(3) For purposes of this subsection—

15 “(A) the term ‘alcoholic beverage’ has the
16 meaning given such term in section 203 of the Fed-
17 eral Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 214);
18 and

19 “(B) the term ‘covered shipper’ means a win-
20 ery, brewery, or beverage distilled spirits plant, or
21 other wholesaler, distributor, or retailer of alcoholic
22 beverages that—

23 “(i) possesses a notice of registration or
24 permit approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco
25 Tax and Trade Bureau of the Department of

1 the Treasury pursuant to the Federal Alcohol
2 Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 et seq.); or
3 “(ii) has registered with, obtained a permit
4 from, or obtained approval of a notice or an ap-
5 plication from, the Secretary of the Treasury
6 pursuant to Chapter 51 of the Internal Revenue
7 Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 5001 et seq.).”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
9 this section shall take effect on the earlier of—

10 (1) the date on which the Postal Service issues
11 regulations under section 3001(p) of title 39, United
12 States Code, as amended by this section; or

13 (2) 120 days after the date of enactment of this
14 Act.

15 **SEC. 4. UPGRADING THE FLEET OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.**

16 (a) CONTRACTING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Postmaster General
18 may enter into contracts to upgrade the postal fleet
19 to increase long-term savings by reducing collision,
20 maintenance, fuel, or other costs.

21 (2) REVIEW.—In determining whether to enter
22 into contracts under paragraph (1), the Postal Serv-
23 ice shall review and identify routes for which the
24 Postal Service provides delivery to determine if
25 motor vehicles used on such routes can be replaced

1 or retrofitted with commercially available tech-
2 nologies that—

3 (A) increase average fuel economy;

4 (B) reduce collisions with other motorized
5 vehicles, nonmotorized vehicles, and pedes-
6 trians; or

7 (C) reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

8 (b) GUIDELINES.—The Postmaster General shall de-
9 velop guidelines for contracted vehicles and vehicles pur-
10 chased or leased for use by the Postal Service, that, at
11 a minimum, require that—

12 (1) in the case of a passenger car, the car
13 meets—

14 (A) with respect to emissions of carbon di-
15 oxide, the more stringent of—

16 (i) the applicable standards developed
17 by the Environmental Protection Agency
18 under title II of the Clean Air Act (42
19 U.S.C. 7521 et seq.); or

20 (ii) on average, less than 235 grams
21 per mile; and

22 (B) with respect to average fuel economy,
23 the more stringent of—

24 (i) the applicable average fuel econ-
25 omy standards developed by the National

1 Highway Traffic Safety Administration
2 under chapter 329 of title 49, United
3 States Code; or

4 (ii) 37.8 miles per gallon;

5 (2) in the case of a light-duty truck, the truck
6 meets—

7 (A) with respect to emissions of carbon di-
8 oxide, the more stringent of—

9 (i) the applicable standards developed
10 by the Environmental Protection Agency
11 under title II of the Clean Air Act (42
12 U.S.C. 7521 et seq.); or

13 (ii) on average, less than 310 grams
14 per mile; and

15 (B) with respect to average fuel economy,
16 the more stringent of—

17 (i) the applicable average fuel econ-
18 omy standards developed by the National
19 Highway Traffic Safety Administration
20 under chapter 329 of title 49, United
21 States Code; or

22 (ii) 28.8 miles per gallon;

23 (3) medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles com-
24 ply with applicable standards—

1 (A) for emissions of carbon dioxide devel-
2 oped by the Administrator of the Environ-
3 mental Protection Agency under title II of the
4 Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521 et seq.); and

5 (B) for average fuel economy developed by
6 the Secretary of Transportation under chapter
7 329 of title 49, United States Code; and

8 (4) for safety, the vehicles described in para-
9 graphs (1) through (3) are equipped with commer-
10 cially available crash avoidance solutions, includ-
11 ing—

12 (A) camera-based sensors; and

13 (B) automatic emergency braking for new
14 vehicles.

15 (c) APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES.—The standards
16 described in subsection (b) shall apply to contracted vehi-
17 cles and vehicles purchased or leased for use by the Postal
18 Service after the date that is 1 year after the date of en-
19 actment of this Act.

20 (d) REDUCTION OF CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM
21 PRODUCTS.—The Postmaster General shall reduce the
22 total consumption of petroleum products by vehicles in the
23 postal fleet by not less than 2 percent annually through
24 the end of fiscal year 2025, relative to the baseline estab-
25 lished for fiscal year 2005.

1 **SEC. 5. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE POSTAL SERV-**
2 **ICE.**

3 The Postmaster General may use cost savings from
4 section 2 to reinvest in innovation, research and develop-
5 ment, and operations of the Postal Service.

6 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
9 shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of the
10 Postal Service providing Internet services to the public,
11 including access to broadband Internet and Internet vot-
12 ing services. Such study shall include—

13 (1) cost-effective strategies for using the infra-
14 structure, technology, and processes of existing net-
15 works that the Postal Service uses for transpor-
16 tation, delivery, and retail to provide the Internet
17 services;

18 (2) recommendations for providing such serv-
19 ices in a manner that is consistent with the public
20 interest; and

21 (3) an analysis of whether providing such serv-
22 ices has the potential to improve the financial posi-
23 tion of the Postal Service.

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION.**

2 In this Act, the term “Postal Service” means the
3 United States Postal Service.

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