

TITLE 39—POSTAL SERVICE

This title was enacted by Pub. L. 86-682, §1, Sept. 2, 1960, 74 Stat. 578, and was revised and reenacted by Pub. L. 91-375, §2, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719

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IV.	Mail Matter	3001
V.	Transportation of Mail	5001

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TABLE I

This Table lists the sections of former Title 39, The Postal Service, and indicates the sections of Title 39, as enacted in 1960, which covered similar and related subject matter.

	<i>Title 39 Former Sections</i>	<i>Title 39 1960 Revision Sections</i>
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32	3312	
33	Rep.	
34	502	
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36	502	
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69, 70	704	
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82	703	
83-103a	Rep.	
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109	3555	
110-112d, 113-120	Rep.	
121	3555	
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123	3556	
124-127	Rep.	
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132	502	
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291	Rep.
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295	4052, 4364
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323	4152
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328	Rep.
329	4164
330	4152
331	4451, 4653, 4654
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338	4152
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483	6101, 6106
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554	Elim.
555	6210
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557	Elim.
558	6210
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625	3556
626	Rep.
627	3555
628, 629	Rep.
630	3582
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633-637	Rep.
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652	6101, 6402
653	6101
654	6101, 6409
655	6304, 6435
656	6106, 6406
657-666	Rep.
667	6403, 6404
668	Rep.
669	6103
670, 671	Rep.
672	706
673, 674	Rep.
691-693a, 694, 695	Rep.
696	502
697-699	Rep.
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702	Rep.
703	3556
704	3112
711	5101, 5102
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713	2209, 5102, 5103
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783	1, 2209
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794c	2206
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794g	Rep.
795	2212
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802	2006
803, 804	2004
805	508
806-808	Rep.
809	2004
809a-811	Rep.
812	3104
813-819	Rep.
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821-823a, 824-824e, 825	Rep.
826	2331
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838	See T. 28 § 2711
839	See T. 28 § 2712
840	See T. 28 § 2713
841	See T. 28 § 2714
842	See T. 28 § 2715
843	See T. 28 § 2716
844	See T. 28 § 2717
845	Rep.
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848b	2202
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1021	Rep.
1031	702
1032	3105
1033-1038	Rep.
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1055	6354
1056	6355
1071	2231
1072	2232
1073	2233
1074	2234
1075	2332

TABLE II

This Table lists the sections of former Title 39, The Postal Service, and indicates the sections of Title 39, Postal Service, as revised in 1970, which cover similar and related subject matter.

<i>Title 39 1960 Revision Sections</i>	<i>Title 39 New Sections</i>
1	See 102, 2001
2	See 403
301	See 201
302	See 203
303	See 207
304	See 203
305	See 204
306	See 206
307	See 204
308	Rep.
308a	See 204
309	See 402
501	See 202, 401, 403, 404
502	Elim.
503	See 2002
504	See 403
505	See 407
506	See 408
507	See 404, 3622
508	See 401
509	See 404
510	See 401
701	See 403, 404
702	See 403
703, 704	Elim.
705	See 404, 406
706	Elim.
707-710	See 404
711	Rep.
712	See 406, 2601
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902	602
903	603
904	604
905	605
906	606
2001-2006	See 401
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2010	2201
2011	See 404
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2103	See 401, 2002
2104-2106	See 401
2107	Elim.
2108	See 401
2109	Elim.
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2115	See 401, 2002
2116	See 2402
2201	See 2002, 2004, 2401
2202	See 2003
2203	See 2401
2204	See 2603
2205	Elim.
2206	See 2008
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2209	See 1001
2210	See 2601
2211	See 401, 2008
2212	See 2601
2231-2234	See 2003, 2010
2301	See 101
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2303	See 2009, 3401, 3403, 3621-3623, 3627, 3641, 3661
2304	See 2402, 3601, 3621-3628, 3641, 3661
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2306	See 1005, 3621
2331	See 2402
2332	Rep.
2401	See 2601
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2405, 2406	Elim.
2407	See 404
2408	2605
2409	See 2603
2410	2604
2411, 2501-2505	See 404
2506	405
2507-2510	See 404
3101	Elim.
3103	1011
3104	1009
3105	See 1001, 1006
3106	See 1003
3107	Elim.
3108	See 1001
3111	Elim.
3112	See 1010
3113, 3114	See 1001
3115	See 1008
3116, 3301-3303, 3311, 3312	See 1001
3313, 3314	Elim.
3315	See 1001
3316, 3317	Elim.
3331	See 1001
3332	Elim.
3333	See 1001, 1006
3334	See 1005
3335	See 1001
3336	Elim.
3337	See 1007
3338, 3339	Elim.
3501	See 1003
3502, 3511-3531, 3541-3544	Elim.
3551	See 1001
3552-3557	Elim.
3558	Rep.
3559, 3560	Elim.
3571	See 1001
3572-3577, 3581, 3582	Elim.
4001, 4002	See 3001
4003	3003
4004	3004
4005	3005
4006	3006
4007	3007
4008	Elim.
4009	3008
4010	3002
4051, 4052	See 404
4053, 4054	Elim.
4055	See 3681
4056	Elim.
4057	See 404, 3623
4058-4060	Elim.
4101-4103	See 404
4104	See 407
4105	See 404
4106	Elim.
4107	See 404
4108	Elim.
4109	See 404
4110	Elim.
4151	3201
4152	3202
4153	3203
4154	3204
4155	3205
4156	3206
4157	Rep.
4158	See 3207
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4162	See 3211
4163	3212
4164	3213
4165	3214
4166	3215
4167	See 3216
4168	3217
4169	See 3401
4170	See 3402
4171	3218
4251	See 3623
4252	See 3682
4253, 4254, 4301, 4302	Elim.
4303	See 3401
4304	Elim.
4305	See 3682
4351-4357	Elim.
4358	See 3626, 3627
4359	See 3626, 3627
4360, 4361	Rep.
4362-4368	Elim.
4369	See 3685
4370	Elim.
4421	See 3626, 3627
4422	See 3626, 3627
4451	Elim.
4452	See 3626, 3627
4453, 4551	Elim.
4552	See 3682
4553	Elim.
4554	See 3626, 3627, 3682, 3683
4555-4559	Elim.
4560	See 3401
4651	Elim.
4652	Rep.
4653	See 3403
4654	3404
4655	3405
5001-5013, 5101-5105, 5201-5229	Elim.
6001, 6002	See 404
6003, 6004	Elim.
6005	See 101
6006-6009	Elim.
6101	See 5001
6102	Elim.
6103	See 5002
6104	See 5005
6105	5003
6106	See 5004
6107	See 101
6201	See 5201
6202	See 5202, 5210
6203	See 5007, 5203
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6205	See 5204
6206	See 5205
6207	See 5206
6208	See 5207
6209	See 5208
6210	See 5209
6211	Elim.
6212	See 3662
6213	See 5210
6214	See 5211
6215	See 5212
6216	See 5213
6301	See 5401
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6304	See 5403
6305, 6351-6355	Elim.
6401	See 5201
6402	See 5005, 5215
6402a	See 5214
6403	See 5005
6404	5601
6405	See 5605
6406	5602
6407	See 5005
6408	See 5605
6409	Elim.
6410	5603
6411, 6412	See 5005
6413	See 5005, 5605
6414, 6415	Elim.
6416	See 5005
6417-6421	Elim.
6422, 6423	See 5005
6424-6431	Elim.
6432	5006
6433	See 5007
6434	Elim.
6435	5604
6436-6440	Elim.

TABLE III

This Table lists the sections of Title 39, Postal Service, as revised in 1970, and indicates the sections of former Title 39, The Postal Service, which covered similar and related subject matter.

<i>Title 39 New Sections</i>	<i>Title 39 Former Sections</i>
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202	501
203	302, 304
204	305, 307, 308a
205	
206	306
207	303
208	
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402	309
403	2, 501, 504, 701, 702, 2302
404	501, 507, 509, 701, 705, 707-710, 2007-2009, 2011, 2407, 2411, 2501-2505, 2507-2510, 4051, 4052, 4057, 4101-4103, 4105, 4107, 4109, 6001, 6002
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406	705, 712
407	505, 4104
408	506
409	
410	2114
411, 412	
601	901
602	902
603	903
604	904
605	905
606	906
1001	2209, 3105, 3108, 3113, 3114, 3116, 3301-3303, 3311, 3312, 3315, 3331, 3333, 3335, 3551, 3571
1002	
1003	3106, 3501
1004	
1005	2306, 3334
1006	3105, 3333
1007	3337
1008	3115
1009	3104
1010	3112
1011	3103
1201-1209	
2001	1
2002	503, 2103, 2113, 2115, 2201
2003	2202, 2231-2234
2004	2201
2005-2007	
2008	2206-2208, 2211
2009	2303
2010	2231-2234
2201	2010
2401	2201, 2203
2402	2116, 2304, 2331
2601	712, 2210, 2212, 2401, 2403, 2404
2602	2402
2603	2204, 2409
2604	2410
2605	2408
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3002	4010
3003	4003
3004	4004
3005	4005
3006	4006
3007	4007
3008	4009
3009-3011	
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3202	4152
3203	4153
3204	4154
3205	4155
3206	4156
3207	4158
3208	4159
3209	4160
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3215	4166
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POSITIVE LAW

This title was enacted into law by Pub. L. 91-375, §2, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719, which provided that: "Title 39, United States Code, is revised and reenacted, and the sections thereof may be cited as 39 U.S.C. § ___".

EFFECTIVE DATES

Pub. L. 91-375, §15, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 787, provided that:

"(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this section and sections 9 through 13 of this Act [set out as notes below and under sections 1001, 1003, 1201, and 2004 of this title], and sections 202, 203, 205(b) and (c), 206, and 401(2), and subchapter I of chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code [sections 3601 to 3604 of this title], as enacted by section 2 of this Act, shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970]. Except as otherwise provided in this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] the other provisions of this Act shall become effective within 1 year after the enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970] on the date or dates established therefor by the Board of Governors and published by it in the Federal Register. References to the Postal Service in any provision of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] (other than a provision referred to in the first sentence of this subsection) which becomes effective before the Postal Service commences operations shall be held and considered to refer to the Post Office Department until the Postal Service commences operations.

"(b) Sections 3010 and 3011 of title 39, United States Code, as enacted by section 2 of this Act, and sections 1735, 1736, and 1737 of title 18, United States Code, as enacted by section 6(j) of this Act, shall become effective

on the first day of the sixth month which begins after the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970]."

The provisions of Title 39, as revised by Pub. L. 91-375, §2, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719, are effective on the following dates:

Effective Aug. 12, 1970, pursuant to section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375:

Sections 202, 203, 205(b), (c), 206, 401(2), and 3601 to 3604.

Effective Feb. 1, 1971, pursuant to section 15(b) of Pub. L. 91-375:

Sections 3010 and 3011.

Effective Jan. 16, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-5 of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service:

Sections 207 and 402.

Effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution Nos. 71-7, 71-8 and 71-10 of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service:

Sections 101, 204, 403, 404(2), 410(b)(1), (c)(4), 1003, 2004, 2401(b)(c), 3621 to 3628, 3641 and 3681 to 3685.

Effective Mar. 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-13 of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service:

Sections 1001 and 1002.

Effective Apr. 13, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-14 of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service:

Section 410(a), (b)(2) to (6), (c)(1) to (3), (5), (6).

Effective July 1, 1971, all other provisions of Title 39, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors, which provided in part: "The Board of Governors establishes July 1, 1971, as the date upon which the Postal Service shall commence operations. All provisions of the Act [Pub. L. 91-375] not made effective on an earlier date shall become effective upon the commencement of operations."

SAVINGS PROVISION

Pub. L. 91-375, §5, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 774, provided that:

"(a) All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, contracts, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

"(1) which have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective—

"(A) under any provision of law amended by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title]; or

"(B) in the exercise of duties, powers, or functions which are transferred under this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title];

by (i) any department or agency, any functions of which are transferred by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title], or (ii) any court of competent jurisdiction; and

"(2) which are in effect at the time the United States Postal Service commences operations, shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or repealed by the Postal Service (in the exercise of any authority vested in it by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title]), by any court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

"(b) The provisions of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] shall not affect any proceedings pending at the time this section takes effect before any department or agency (or component thereof), the functions of which are transferred by this Act but such proceedings shall be continued before the Postal Service. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this Act had not been enacted; and orders issued in any such proceedings shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or repealed by the Postal Service (in the exercise of any authority vested in it by this Act), by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

“(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection—

“(A) the provisions of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] shall not affect suits commenced prior to the date this section takes effect; and

“(B) in all such suits proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered, in the same manner and effect as if this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] had not been enacted.

No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against any officer in his official capacity as an officer of any department or agency, functions of which are transferred by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act. No cause of action by or against any department or agency, functions of which are transferred by this Act, or by or against any officer thereof in his official capacity shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act. Causes of actions, suits, actions, or other proceedings may be asserted by or against the Postal Service or such official of that Service as may be appropriate and, in any litigation pending when this section takes effect, the court may at any time, on its own motion or that of any party, enter an order which will give effect to the provisions of this subsection.

“(2) If before the date on which any provision of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] takes effect, any department or agency, or officer thereof in his official capacity, is a party to a suit, and under this Act—

“(A) such department or agency is transferred to the Postal Service; or

“(B) any function of such department, agency, or officer is transferred to the Postal Service; such suit shall be continued by the Postal Service.

“(d) The amendment of any statute by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] shall not release or extinguish any criminal prosecution, penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under such statute, unless the amending Act shall so expressly provide, and such statute shall be treated as still remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any proper action or prosecution for the enforcement of such prosecution, penalty, forfeiture, or liability.

“(e) With respect to any function, power, or duty transferred by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] and exercised after the effective date of this Act, reference in any other Federal law to any department or agency, officer, or office so transferred, or functions of which are so transferred, shall be deemed to mean the officer or agency of the Postal Service in which this Act vests such function after such transfer.

“(f) Provisions of title 39, United States Code, in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this section, but not reenacted by this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title], shall remain in force as rules or regulations of the Postal Service established by this Act, to the extent the Postal Service is authorized to adopt such provisions as rules or regulations, until they are revoked, amended, or revised by the Postal Service.

“(g) Notwithstanding section 202 of title 39, United States Code, as enacted by section 2 of this Act, Governors of the Board of Governors of the Postal Service may be paid \$300 a day for not more than 60 days of meetings in each of the first 2 years following the effective date of such section 202 [see section 15(b) of Pub. L. 91-375 set out as an Effective Date note above].”

Provisions of section 5 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note above.

CORRESPONDING REFERENCES

Pub. L. 91-375, §6(o)-(q), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 783, provided that:

“(o) Whenever any reference is made in any provision of law (other than this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] or a provision of law amended by this Act), regulation, rule, record, or document to the Post Office Department, the Postal Service, the postal field service, the field postal service, or the departmental service or departmental headquarters of the Post Office Department, such reference shall be considered a reference to the United States Postal Service. Any reference to any officer or employee of the Post Office Department, the Postal Service, the postal field service, the field postal service, or the departmental service or departmental headquarters of the Post Office Department shall be deemed a reference to the appropriate officer or employee of the United States Postal Service.

“(p) Whenever reference is made in any provision of law (other than this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] or provision of law amended by this Act), regulation, rule, record, or document to a postal inspector or chief postal inspector of the Post Office Department, such reference shall be deemed to be a reference to the appropriate officer or employee of the United States Postal Service who performs duties related to the inspection of postal matters.

“(q) Whenever reference is made in any law to title 39, United States Code, or provision of that title, as such title or provision existed prior to the effective date of this section [see Effective Date note set out above], that reference shall be considered a reference to the appropriate provision of title 39, as amended by section 2 of this Act, unless no such provision is included therein.”

Provisions of section 6(o) to (q) of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note above.

SEPARABILITY; LEGISLATIVE CONSTRUCTION

Pub. L. 91-375, §11, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 785, provided that:

“(a) If a part of title 39, United States Code, as enacted by section 2 of this Act, is held invalid, the remainder of such title shall not be affected thereby; and if any other part of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Act shall not be affected thereby.

“(b) An inference of a legislative construction is not to be drawn by reason of a chapter in title 39, United States Code, as enacted by section 2 of this Act in which a section is placed nor by reason of the caption or catchline.”

Provisions of section 11 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note above.

TITLE REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This title is referred to in title 49 sections 5126, 41901.

PART I—GENERAL

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CHAPTER 1—POSTAL POLICY AND DEFINITIONS

Sec.	
101.	Postal policy.
102.	Definitions.

§ 101. Postal policy

(a) The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service pro-

vided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people.

(b) The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities.

(c) As an employer, the Postal Service shall achieve and maintain compensation for its officers and employees comparable to the rates and types of compensation paid in the private sector of the economy of the United States. It shall place particular emphasis upon opportunities for career advancements of all officers and employees and the achievement of worthwhile and satisfying careers in the service of the United States.

(d) Postal rates shall be established to apportion the costs of all postal operations to all users of the mail on a fair and equitable basis.

(e) In determining all policies for postal services, the Postal Service shall give the highest consideration to the requirement for the most expeditious collection, transportation, and delivery of important letter mail.

(f) In selecting modes of transportation, the Postal Service shall give highest consideration to the prompt and economical delivery of all mail and shall make a fair and equitable distribution of mail business to carriers providing similar modes of transportation services to the Postal Service. Modern methods of transporting mail by containerization and programs designed to achieve overnight transportation to the destination of important letter mail to all parts of the Nation shall be a primary goal of postal operations.

(g) In planning and building new postal facilities, the Postal Service shall emphasize the need for facilities and equipment designed to create desirable working conditions for its officers and employees, a maximum degree of convenience for efficient postal services, proper access to existing and future air and surface transportation facilities, and control of costs to the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding this section.

SHORT TITLE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §701(a), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1267, provided that: "This title [enacting section

3642 of this title, amending sections 410, 2401, 3202, 3601, 3625 to 3627, and 3683 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2401, 3621, 3626, and 3683 of this title] may be cited as the 'Revenue Forgone Reform Act'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-421, §1, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1303, provided: "That this Act [amending sections 404, 2003, 2401, 3601, 3604, 3622, 3623, 3624, 3626, 3641, and 3683 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 404, 3601, 3624, 3641, and 3661 of this title] may be cited as the 'Postal Reorganization Act Amendments of 1976'."

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 91-375, §1, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719, provided: "That this Act [revising this title, enacting sections 1735 to 1737 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, amending section 356 of Title 2, The Congress, section 19 of Title 3, The President, sections 101, 104, 2104, 2105, 3104, 3304a, 4301, 5102, 5303, 5304, 5312, 5314 to 5316, 5541, 6301, 6323, 7101, and 8344 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, sections 24 seventh par., 1701d-3, and 1701e of Title 12, Banks and Banking, section 637 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, section 4601-1 of Title 16, Conservation, section 8 of former Title 17, Copyrights, sections 12, 440, 441, 500, 501, 612, 876, 877, 1114, 1303, 1341, 1342, 1463, 1696, 1699, 1703, 1704, 1707, 1709 to 1713, 1715, 1716, 1716A, 1717, 1718, 1721 to 1725, 1729, 1730, 1733, and 3061 of Title 18, section 611 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse, sections 72 fifth par., 129, and 724a of former Title 31, Money and Finance, sections 356, 474, 615, 723, and 724 of Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works, and section 2942 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, repealing section 3327 of Title 5 and section 1028 of former Title 31, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 201, 601, 1001, 1003, 1201, 2002, 2004, 3010, and 3621 of this title] may be cited as the 'Postal Reorganization Act'."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 404, 1003, 2401, 5001 of this title.

§ 102. Definitions

As used in this title—

(1) "Postal Service" means the United States Postal Service established by section 201 of this title;

(2) "Board of Governors", and "Board", unless the context otherwise requires, mean the Board of Governors established under section 202 of this title;

(3) "Governors" means the 9 members of the Board of Governors appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, under section 202(a) of this title; and

(4) "Inspector General" means the Inspector General appointed under section 202(e) of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 720; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(a)(2)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-379.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (4). Pub. L. 104-208 added par. (4).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

CHAPTER 2—ORGANIZATION

Sec.	
201.	United States Postal Service.
202.	Board of Governors.
203.	Postmaster General; Deputy Postmaster General.
204.	General Counsel; Judicial Officer; Chief Postal Inspector.
205.	Procedures of the Board of Governors.
206.	Advisory Council.
207.	Seal.
208.	Reservation of powers.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(f)(2)(B)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-383, in item 204 substituted “General Counsel; Judicial Officer; Chief Postal Inspector” for “Assistant Postmasters General; General Counsel; Judicial Officer”.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 1003 of this title.

§ 201. United States Postal Service

There is established, as an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, the United States Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 720.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS; ABOLITION OF OFFICE

Section 4(a) of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that: “There are hereby transferred to the United States Postal Service all the functions, powers, and duties of the Post Office Department and the Postmaster General of the Post Office Department, and the Post Office Department and the office of Postmaster General of the Post Office Department are abolished.”

Provisions of section 4(a) of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(e)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-382, provided that:

“(1) **FIRST APPOINTMENT.**—The first Inspector General of the United States Postal Service appointed pursuant to the amendments made by this section [amending sections 102, 202, 204, 410, and 1003 of this title, section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-452, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, and renumbering another section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 as 8H] shall be appointed before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996].

“(2) **TRANSFERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—All measures described in section 8G(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 necessary to establish an Office of Inspector General within the United States Postal Service pursuant to this section, including all appropriate transfers, shall occur—

“(i) no earlier than the date the appointment under paragraph (1) is made; and

“(ii) no later than 60 days after the date the appointment under paragraph (1) is made.

“(B) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO PERSONNEL.**—

“(i) **CONSULTATION.**—Decisions concerning which personnel are to be transferred pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made by the Governors (within the meaning of section 102(3) of title 39, United States Code) in consultation with the Inspector General appointed under paragraph (1).

“(ii) **TRANSFERRED PERSONNEL.**—Personnel transferred pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall, to the extent not inconsistent with other provisions of this subsection, be transferred in accordance with applicable laws and regulations relating to the transfer of functions within the United States Postal Service, except that, notwithstanding any provision of section 1003(b) of title 39, United States Code, as amended by this section, the classification and compensation of such personnel shall not be reduced, by reason of having been transferred, for 1 year after being so transferred.

“(3) **TRANSITION PROVISION.**—The Chief Postal Inspector may continue to serve as Inspector General of the United States Postal Service until the date on which an Inspector General is appointed under paragraph (1) or, if earlier, the end of the period referred to in such paragraph. Compensation for any service under this paragraph shall be determined as if this section had not been enacted.”

TRANSITIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses of United States Postal Service from Aug. 12, 1970, until date of commencement of operations of Postal Service deemed administrative expenses of Post Office Department, see section 12 of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note under section 2004 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 102 of this title.

§ 202. Board of Governors

(b) The terms of the 9 Governors shall be 9 years, except that the terms of the 9 Governors first taking office shall expire as designated by the President at the time of appointment, 1 at the end of 1 year, 1 at the end of 2 years, 1 at the end of 3 years, 1 at the end of 4 years, 1 at the end of 5 years, 1 at the end of 6 years, 1 at the end of 7 years, 1 at the end of 8 years, and 1 at the end of 9 years, following the appointment of the first of them. Any Governor appointed to fill a vacancy before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall serve for the remainder of such term. A Governor may continue to serve after the expiration of his term until his successor has qualified, but not to exceed one year.

(c) The Governors shall appoint and shall have the power to remove the Postmaster General, who shall be a voting member of the Board. His pay and term of service shall be fixed by the Governors.

(d) The Governors and the Postmaster General shall appoint and shall have the power to remove the Deputy Postmaster General, who shall be a voting member of the Board. His term of service shall be fixed by the Governors and the Postmaster General and his pay by the Governors.

(e)(1) The Governors shall appoint and shall have the power to remove the Inspector General.

(2) The Inspector General shall be appointed—

(A) for a term of 7 years;

(B) without regard to political affiliation; and

(C) solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.

(3) The Inspector General may at any time be removed upon the written concurrence of at least 7 Governors, but only for cause. Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to exempt the Governors from the requirements of section 8G(e) of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 720; Pub. L. 98-81, § 2, Aug. 23, 1983, 97 Stat. 487; Pub. L. 99-190, § 144, Dec. 19, 1985, 99 Stat. 1324; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, § 101(f) [title VI, §§ 644(a), 662(a)(1)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-366, 3009-378.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (e), is section 8G of Pub. L. 95-452, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-208, § 101(f) [title VI, § 644(a)], substituted “\$30,000 a year” for “\$10,000 a year”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-208, § 101(f) [title VI, § 662(a)(1)], added subsec. (e).

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-190 substituted “42” for “30” in two places.

1983—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-81 inserted provision that a Governor may continue to serve after the expiration of his term until his successor has qualified, but not to exceed one year.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 101(f) [title VI, § 644(b)] of Pub. L. 104-208 provided that: “Subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect at the beginning of the next applicable pay period beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996].”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Payment to Governors of Board of Governors of Postal Service of \$300 a day for not more than 60 days of meetings in each of first 2 years following effective date of this section [see Effective Date note set out above], notwithstanding this section, see section 5(g) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 102, 203, 1001, 1005 of this title; title 2 section 356.

§ 203. Postmaster General; Deputy Postmaster General

The chief executive officer of the Postal Service is the Postmaster General appointed under section 202(c) of this title. The alternate chief executive officer of the Postal Service is the Deputy Postmaster General appointed under section 202(d) of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 721.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 204. General Counsel; Judicial Officer; Chief Postal Inspector

There shall be within the Postal Service a General Counsel, such number of Assistant Postmasters General as the Board shall consider appropriate, a Judicial Officer, and a Chief Postal Inspector. The General Counsel, the Assistant Postmasters General, the Judicial Officer, and the Chief Postal Inspector shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Postmaster General. The Judicial Officer shall perform such quasi-judicial duties, not inconsistent with chapter 36 of this title, as the Postmaster General may designate. The Judicial Officer shall be the agency for the purposes of the requirements of chapter 5 of title 5, to the extent that functions are delegated to him by the Postmaster General. The Chief Postal Inspector shall report to, and be under the general supervision of, the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General shall promptly notify the Governors and both Houses of Congress in writing if he or she removes the Chief Postal Inspector or transfers the Chief Postal Inspector to another position or location within the Postal Service, and shall include in any such notification the reasons for the removal or transfer.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 721; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, § 101(f) [title VI, § 662(f)(2)(A)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-382.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-208, § 101(f) [title VI, § 662(f)(2)(A)(i)], in section catchline substituted “General Counsel; Judicial Officer; Chief Postal Inspector” for “Assistant Postmasters General; General Counsel; Judicial Officer”.

Pub. L. 104-208, § 101(f) [title VI, § 662(f)(2)(A)(ii)-(iv)], substituted “a Judicial Officer, and a Chief Postal Inspector.” for “and a Judicial Officer.” and “the Judicial Officer, and the Chief Postal Inspector” for “and the Judicial Officer”, and inserted at end “The Chief Postal Inspector shall report to, and be under the general supervision of, the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General shall promptly notify the Governors and both Houses of Congress in writing if he or she removes the Chief Postal Inspector or transfers the Chief Postal Inspector to another position or location within the Postal Service, and shall include in any such notification the reasons for the removal or transfer.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-7 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1001, 1005 of this title.

§ 205. Procedures of the Board of Governors

(a) The Board shall direct and control the expenditures and review the practices and policies of the Postal Service, and perform other functions and duties prescribed by this title.

(b) Vacancies in the Board, as long as there are sufficient members to form a quorum, shall not impair the powers of the Board under this title.

(c) The Board shall act upon majority vote of those members who are present, and any 6 mem-

bers present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Board, except—

(1) that in the appointment or removal of the Postmaster General, and in setting the compensation of the Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General, a favorable vote of an absolute majority of the Governors in office shall be required;

(2) that in the appointment or removal of the Deputy Postmaster General, a favorable vote of an absolute majority of the Governors in office and the member serving as Postmaster General shall be required; and

(3) as otherwise provided in this title.

(d) No officer or employee of the United States may serve concurrently as a Governor. A Governor may hold any other office or employment not inconsistent or in conflict with his duties, responsibilities, and powers as an officer of the Government of the United States in the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 721.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subsecs. (a) and (d) effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors, and subsecs. (b) and (c) effective Aug. 12, 1970. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 206. Advisory Council

(a) There shall be a Postal Service Advisory Council of which the Postmaster General shall be the Chairman and the Deputy Postmaster General shall be the Vice Chairman. The Advisory Council shall have 11 additional members appointed by the President. He shall appoint as such members (1) 4 persons from among persons nominated by those labor organizations recognized as collective-bargaining representatives for employees of the Postal Service in one or more collective-bargaining units, (2) 4 persons as representatives of major mail users, and (3) 3 persons as representatives of the public at large. All members shall be appointed for terms of 2 years except that, of those first appointed, 2 of the members representative of labor organizations, 2 of the members representative of major postal users, and 1 member representing the public at large shall be appointed for 1 year. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall serve for the remainder of such term.

(b) The Postal Service shall consult with and receive the advice of the Advisory Council regarding all aspects of postal operations.

(c) The members of the Council representative of the public at large shall receive for each meeting of the Council an amount equal to the daily rate applicable to level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5. All members of the Council shall be reimbursed for necessary travel and reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Council.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 722.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COUNCILS

Advisory councils in existence on Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period following Jan. 5, 1973, unless, in the case of a council established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such council is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a council established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. See sections 3(2) and 14 of Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, 776, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 207. Seal

The seal of the Postal Service shall be filed by the Board in the Office of the Secretary of State, judicially noticed, affixed to all commissions of officers of the Postal Service, and used to authenticate records of the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 722.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 16, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-5 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 208. Reservation of powers

Congress reserves the power to alter, amend, or repeal any or all of the sections of this title, but no such alteration, amendment, or repeal shall impair the obligation of any contract made by the Postal Service under any power conferred by this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 722.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

CHAPTER 4—GENERAL AUTHORITY

Sec.	
401.	General powers of the Postal Service.
402.	Delegation of authority.
403.	General duties.
404.	Specific powers.
405.	Printing of illustrations of United States postage stamps.
406.	Postal services at Armed Forces installations.
407.	International postal arrangements.
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409.	Suits by and against the Postal Service.
410.	Application of other laws.
411.	Cooperation with other Government agencies.
412.	Nondisclosure of lists of names and addresses.
413.	Postal services at diplomatic posts.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-524, §5(b), Nov. 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 2303, added item 413.

§ 401. General powers of the Postal Service

The Postal Service shall have the following general powers:

- (1) to sue and be sued in its official name;
- (2) to adopt, amend, and repeal such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to accomplish the objectives of this title;
- (3) to enter into and perform contracts, execute instruments, and determine the character of, and necessity for, its expenditures;

(4) to determine and keep its own system of accounts and the forms and contents of its contracts and other business documents, except as otherwise provided in this title;

(5) to acquire, in any lawful manner, such personal or real property, or any interest therein, as it deems necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business; to hold, maintain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property or any interest therein; and to provide services in connection therewith and charges therefor;

(6) to construct, operate, lease, and maintain buildings, facilities, equipment, and other improvements on any property owned or controlled by it, including, without limitation, any property or interest therein transferred to it under section 2002 of this title;

(7) to accept gifts or donations of services or property, real or personal, as it deems, necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business;

(8) to settle and compromise claims by or against it;

(9) to exercise, in the name of the United States, the right of eminent domain for the furtherance of its official purposes; and to have the priority of the United States with respect to the payment of debts out of bankrupt, insolvent, and decedents' estates; and

(10) to have all other powers incidental, necessary, or appropriate to the carrying on of its functions or the exercise of its specific powers.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 722.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Cls. (1) and (3) to (10) effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors and cl. (2) effective Aug. 12, 1970. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNCTIONS

For assignment of certain emergency preparedness functions to the Postmaster General, see Parts 1, 2, and 26 of Ex. Ord. No. 12656, Nov. 18, 1988, 53 F.R. 47491, set out as a note under section 5195 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

§ 402. Delegation of authority

Except for those powers, duties, or obligations specifically vested in the Governors, as distinguished from the Board of Governors, the Board may delegate the authority vested in it to the Postmaster General under such terms, conditions, and limitations, including the power of re-delegation, as it deems desirable. The Board may establish such committees of the Board, and delegate such powers to any committee, as the Board determines appropriate to carry out its functions and duties. Delegations to the Postmaster General or committees shall be consistent with other provisions of this title, shall not relieve the Board of full responsibility for the carrying out of its duties and functions, and shall be revocable by the Governors in their exclusive judgment.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 723.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 16, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-5 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of

Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 403. General duties

(a) The Postal Service shall plan, develop, promote, and provide adequate and efficient postal services at fair and reasonable rates and fees. The Postal Service shall receive, transmit, and deliver throughout the United States, its territories and possessions, and, pursuant to arrangements entered into under sections 406 and 411 of this title, throughout the world, written and printed matter, parcels, and like materials and provide such other services incidental thereto as it finds appropriate to its functions and in the public interest. The Postal Service shall serve as nearly as practicable the entire population of the United States.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the Postal Service—

(1) to maintain an efficient system of collection, sorting, and delivery of the mail nationwide;

(2) to provide types of mail service to meet the needs of different categories of mail and mail users; and

(3) to establish and maintain postal facilities of such character and in such locations, that postal patrons throughout the Nation will, consistent with reasonable economies of postal operations, have ready access to essential postal services.

(c) In providing services and in establishing classifications, rates, and fees under this title, the Postal Service shall not, except as specifically authorized in this title, make any undue or unreasonable discrimination among users of the mails, nor shall it grant any undue or unreasonable preferences to any such user.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 723; Pub. L. 96-70, title I, §1331(e)(1), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 482.)

AMENDMENTS

1979—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-70 substituted “The Postal Service” for “Except as provided in the Canal Zone Code, the Postal Service”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-70 effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 3304 of Pub. L. 96-70, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

CONTINUATION OF MAIL DELIVERY SERVICES

Provisions requiring continuation of six-day delivery and rural delivery of mail at not less than the 1983 level were contained in the following appropriations acts:

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title II], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-326.

Pub. L. 104-52, title II, Nov. 19, 1995, 109 Stat. 476.

Pub. L. 103-329, title II, Sept. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 2392.

Pub. L. 103-123, title II, Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1234.

Pub. L. 102-393, title II, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1737.

Pub. L. 102-141, title II, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 843.

Pub. L. 101-509, title II, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1396.

Pub. L. 101-136, title II, Nov. 3, 1989, 103 Stat. 790.
 Pub. L. 100-440, title II, Sept. 22, 1988, 102 Stat. 1727.
 Pub. L. 100-202, §§101(m) [title II], 102, Dec. 22, 1987,
 101 Stat. 1329-390, 1329-397, 1329-433.
 Pub. L. 99-500, §§101(m) [title II], 102, Oct. 18, 1986, 100
 Stat. 1783-308, 1783-314, 1783-346, and Pub. L. 99-591,
 §§101(m) [title II], 102, Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-308,
 3341-314, 3341-346.
 Pub. L. 99-190, §§101(h) [H.R. 3036, title II], 102, Dec.
 19, 1985, 99 Stat. 1291, 1315.
 Pub. L. 98-473, §§101(j) [H.R. 5798, title II], 102, Oct. 12,
 1984, 98 Stat. 1963, 1964.
 Pub. L. 98-151, §§102, 106, Nov. 14, 1983, 97 Stat. 975.
 Pub. L. 98-107, §§102, 108, Oct. 1, 1983, 97 Stat. 740, 741.
 Pub. L. 97-377, title I, §111B, Dec. 21, 1982, 96 Stat.
 1912.
 Pub. L. 97-35, title XVII, §1722, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat.
 759, as amended by Pub. L. 98-369, div. B, title II, §2209,
 July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 1061.
 Pub. L. 96-499, title IV, §412, Dec. 5, 1980, 94 Stat. 2607.

PROHIBITION OF 9-DIGIT ZIP CODE

Pub. L. 97-35, title XVII, §1726, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat.
 761, provided that:

“(a) The Postal Service shall not implement any ZIP
 code system using more than 5 digits before October 1,
 1983. This subsection shall not be construed as preclud-
 ing the Postal Service or the Postal Rate Commission
 from taking such actions as may be required before Octo-
 ber 1, 1983, to prepare for the implementation of such
 a ZIP code system.

“(b) During the period beginning on the date of the
 enactment of this Act [Aug. 13, 1981] and ending Decem-
 ber 31, 1982, no Executive agency shall take any action
 to conform its mailing procedures to those appropriate
 for use under any ZIP code system using more than 5
 digits. As used in this subsection, the term ‘Executive
 agency’ has the same meaning given such term by sec-
 tion 105 of title 5, United States Code.”

§ 404. Specific powers

(a) Without limitation of the generality of its
 powers, the Postal Service shall have the follow-
 ing specific powers, among others:

(1) to provide for the collection, handling,
 transportation, delivery, forwarding, return-
 ing, and holding of mail, and for the disposi-
 tion of undeliverable mail;

(2) to prescribe, in accordance with this
 title, the amount of postage and the manner in
 which it is to be paid;

(3) to determine the need for post offices,
 postal and training facilities and equipment,
 and to provide such offices, facilities, and
 equipment as it determines are needed;

(4) to provide and sell postage stamps and
 other stamped paper, cards, and envelopes and
 to provide such other evidences of payment of
 postage and fees as may be necessary or desir-
 able;

(5) to provide philatelic services;

(6) to provide, establish, change, or abolish
 special nonpostal or similar services;

(7) to investigate postal offenses and civil
 matters relating to the Postal Service;

(8) to offer and pay rewards for information
 and services in connection with violation of
 the postal laws, and, unless a different dis-
 posal is expressly prescribed, to pay one-half
 of all penalties and forfeitures imposed for vi-
 olations of law affecting the Postal Service, its
 revenues, or property, to the person informing
 for the same, and to pay the other one-half
 into the Postal Service Fund; and

(9) to authorize the issuance of a substitute
 check for a lost, stolen, or destroyed check of
 the Postal Service.

(b)(1) The Postal Service, prior to making a
 determination under subsection (a)(3) of this
 section as to the necessity for the closing or
 consolidation of any post office, shall provide
 adequate notice of its intention to close or con-
 solidate such post office at least 60 days prior to
 the proposed date of such closing or consolida-
 tion to persons served by such post office to en-
 sure that such persons will have an opportunity
 to present their views.

(2) The Postal Service, in making a determina-
 tion whether or not to close or consolidate a
 post office, shall consider—

(A) the effect of such closing or consolida-
 tion on the community served by such post of-
 fice;

(B) the effect of such closing or consolida-
 tion on employees of the Postal Service em-
 ployed at such office;

(C) whether such closing or consolidation is
 consistent with the policy of the Government,
 as stated in section 101(b) of this title, that
 the Postal Service shall provide a maximum
 degree of effective and regular postal services
 to rural areas, communities, and small towns
 where post offices are not self-sustaining;

(D) the economic savings to the Postal Ser-
 vice resulting from such closing or consolida-
 tion; and

(E) such other factors as the Postal Service
 determines are necessary.

(3) Any determination of the Postal Service to
 close or consolidate a post office shall be in
 writing and shall include the findings of the
 Postal Service with respect to the consider-
 ations required to be made under paragraph (2)
 of this subsection. Such determination and find-
 ings shall be made available to persons served
 by such post office.

(4) The Postal Service shall take no action to
 close or consolidate a post office until 60 days
 after its written determination is made avail-
 able to persons served by such post office.

(5) A determination of the Postal Service to
 close or consolidate any post office may be ap-
 pealed by any person served by such office to the
 Postal Rate Commission within 30 days after
 such determination is made available to such
 person under paragraph (3). The Commission
 shall review such determination on the basis of
 the record before the Postal Service in the mak-
 ing of such determination. The Commission
 shall make a determination based upon such re-
 view no later than 120 days after receiving any
 appeal under this paragraph. The Commission
 shall set aside any determination, findings, and
 conclusions found to be—

(A) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discre-
 tion, or otherwise not in accordance with the
 law;

(B) without observance of procedure required
 by law; or

(C) unsupported by substantial evidence on
 the record.

The Commission may affirm the determination
 of the Postal Service or order that the entire
 matter be returned for further consideration,
 but the Commission may not modify the deter-
 mination of the Postal Service. The Commission
 may suspend the effectiveness of the determina-

tion of the Postal Service until the final disposition of the appeal. The provisions of section 556, section 557, and chapter 7 of title 5 shall not apply to any review carried out by the Commission under this paragraph.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 724; Pub. L. 94-421, §9(a), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1310.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-421 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 9(b) of Pub. L. 94-421 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) of this section [amending this section] shall take effect on the day after the date on which the Commission on Postal Service transmits its final report under section 7(f)(1) of this Act [set out as a note under section 3661 of this title]."

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pars. (1), (3) to (9) of subsec. (a) of this section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors and par. (2) of subsec. (a) effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 42 section 10601.

§ 405. Printing of illustrations of United States postage stamps

(a) When requested by the Postal Service, the Public Printer shall print, as a public document for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, illustrations in black and white or in color of postage stamps of the United States, together with such descriptive, historical, and philatelic information with regard to the stamps as the Postal Service deems suitable.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 505 of title 44, stereotype or electrotype plates, or duplicates thereof, used in the publications authorized to be printed by this section may not be sold or otherwise disposed of.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 724.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 406. Postal services at Armed Forces installations

(a) The Postal Service may establish branch post offices at camps, posts, bases, or stations of the Armed Forces and at defense or other strategic installations.

(b) The Secretaries of Defense and Transportation shall make arrangements with the Postal Service to perform postal services through personnel designated by them at or through branch post offices established under subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 724.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of

Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 403, 413, 3401, 3406 of this title.

§ 407. International postal arrangements

(a) The Postal Service, with the consent of the President, may negotiate and conclude postal treaties or conventions, and may establish the rates of postage or other charges on mail matter conveyed between the United States and other countries. The decisions of the Postal Service construing or interpreting the provisions of any treaty or convention which has been or may be negotiated and concluded shall, if approved by the President, be conclusive upon all officers of the Government of the United States.

(b) The Postal Service shall transmit a copy of each postal convention concluded with other governments to the Secretary of State, who shall furnish a copy of the same to the Public Printer for publication.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 724.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Memorandum of President of the United States, Dec. 15, 1994, 59 F.R. 65471, provided:

Memorandum for the Governors of the United States Postal Service

I have been advised by the Department of Justice that the United States District Court for the District of Delaware held in *UPS Worldwide Forwarding v. United States Postal Service*, Civil Action No. 93-340, May 16, 1994 [853 F. Supp. 800], that the Postal Service must obtain the approval of the President to establish rates of postage or other charges on mail matter conveyed between the United States and other countries.

On appeal of the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the Government argues that the explicit consent of the President is not required. In the view of the Government, to the extent that 39 U.S.C. 407(a) does require the President to consent, it does not require that consent be given in any particular manner. The Government's position is that the failure of the President to object to the establishment of international postage rates and other charges is consent to the establishment of such rates and other charges. This has been the practice of the Government for the past 120 years.

To the extent that the District Court's decision creates or appears to create an obligation for the President to give his consent to the establishment of rates of postage and other charges on mail matter conveyed between the United States and other countries in a particular manner, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Governors of the United States Postal Service, as defined by section 202(a) of title 39 of the United States Code, any authority vested in me by section 407(a) of title 39 of the United States Code, with respect to the establishment of rates of postage and other charges on mail matter conveyed between the United States and other countries. This delegation is effective until the date on which the Third Circuit Court of Appeals issues its mandate in the aforementioned appeal. This delegation relates only to the establishment of rates of postage

and other charges on mail matter conveyed between the United States and other countries; it does not affect the obligation of the Postal Service to seek the consent of the President to negotiate and conclude postal treaties or conventions.

This memorandum shall be published in the Federal Register.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

[*UPS Worldwide Forwarding v. United States Postal Service*, 853 F. Supp. 800, D.C. Del., 1994, reversed 66 F.3d 621 (3rd Cir. 1995), cert. denied, — U.S. — (1996)]

§ 408. International money-order exchanges

The Postal Service may make arrangements with other governments, with which postal conventions are or may be concluded, for the exchange of sums of money by means of postal orders. It shall fix limitations on the amount which may be so exchanged and the rates of exchange.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 725.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 409. Suits by and against the Postal Service

(a) Except as provided in section 3628 of this title, the United States district courts shall have original but not exclusive jurisdiction over all actions brought by or against the Postal Service. Any action brought in a State court to which the Postal Service is a party may be removed to the appropriate United States district court under the provisions of chapter 89 of title 28.

(b) Unless otherwise provided in this title, the provisions of title 28 relating to service of process, venue, and limitations of time for bringing action in suits in which the United States, its officers, or employees are parties, and the rules of procedure adopted under title 28 for suits in which the United States, its officers, or employees are parties, shall apply in like manner to suits in which the Postal Service, its officers, or employees are parties.

(c) The provisions of chapter 171 and all other provisions of title 28 relating to tort claims shall apply to tort claims arising out of activities of the Postal Service.

(d) The Department of Justice shall furnish, under section 411 of this title, the Postal Service such legal representation as it may require, but with the prior consent of the Attorney General the Postal Service may employ attorneys by contract or otherwise to conduct litigation brought by or against the Postal Service or its officers or employees in matters affecting the Postal Service.

(e) A judgment against the Government of the United States arising out of activities of the Postal Service shall be paid by the Postal Service out of any funds available to the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 725; Pub. L. 97-258, §2(k), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1062.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES 1982 ACT

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
409(e)	31:724a (last sentence).	July 27, 1956, ch. 748, 70 Stat. 678, § 1302 (last sentence); added Aug. 12, 1970, Pub. L. 91-375, § 6(l)(3), 84 Stat. 782.

The words “Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section” are omitted as unnecessary.

AMENDMENTS

1982—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 97-258 added subsec. (e).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3012 of this title.

§ 410. Application of other laws

(a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this section, and except as otherwise provided in this title or insofar as such laws remain in force as rules or regulations of the Postal Service, no Federal law dealing with public or Federal contracts, property, works, officers, employees, budgets, or funds, including the provisions of chapters 5 and 7 of title 5, shall apply to the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service.

(b) The following provisions shall apply to the Postal Service:

(1) section 552 (public information), section 552a (records about individuals), section 552b (open meetings), section 3102 (employment of personal assistants for blind, deaf, or otherwise handicapped employees), section 3110 (restrictions on employment of relatives), section 3333 and chapters 72 (antidiscrimination; right to petition Congress) and 73 (suitability, security, and conduct of employees), section 5520 (withholding city income or employment taxes), and section 5532 (dual pay) of title 5, except that no regulation issued under such chapters or section shall apply to the Postal Service unless expressly made applicable;

(2) all provisions of title 18 dealing with the Postal Service, the mails, and officers or employees of the Government of the United States;

(3) section 107 of title 20 (known as the Randolph-Sheppard Act, relating to vending machines operated by the blind);

(4) the following provisions of title 40:

(A) sections 258a-258e¹ (relating to condemnation proceedings);

(B) sections 270a-270e (known as the Miller Act, relating to performance bonds);

(C) sections 276a-276a-7 (known as the Davis-Bacon Act, relating to prevailing wages);

(D) section 276c (relating to wage payments of certain contractors);

(E) chapter 5 (the Contract Work Hours Standards Act); and

¹ See References in Text note below.

(F) chapter 15 (the Government Losses in Shipment Act);

(5) the following provisions of title 41:

(A) sections 35–45 (known as the Walsh-Healey Act, relating to wages and hours); and

(B) chapter 6 (the Service Contract Act of 1965);

(6) sections 2000d, 2000d–1—2000d–4 of title 42 (title VI, the Civil Rights Act of 1964);

(7) section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 668);

(8) the provisions of the Act of August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151–4156);

(9) chapter 39 of title 31;

(10) the Inspector General Act of 1978; and

(11) section 5520a of title 5.

(c) Subsection (b)(1) of this section shall not require the disclosure of—

(1) the name or address, past or present, of any postal patron;

(2) information of a commercial nature, including trade secrets, whether or not obtained from a person outside the Postal Service, which under good business practice would not be publicly disclosed;

(3) information prepared for use in connection with the negotiation of collective-bargaining agreements under chapter 12 of this title or minutes of, or notes kept during, negotiating sessions conducted under such chapter;

(4) information prepared for use in connection with proceedings under chapter 36 of this title;

(5) the reports and memoranda of consultants or independent contractors except to the extent that they would be required to be disclosed if prepared within the Postal Service; and

(6) investigatory files, whether or not considered closed, compiled for law enforcement purposes except to the extent available by law to a party other than the Postal Service.

(d)(1) A lease agreement by the Postal Service for rent of net interior space in excess of 6,500 square feet in any building or facility, or part of a building or facility, to be occupied for purposes of the Postal Service shall include a provision that all laborers and mechanics employed in the construction, modification, alteration, repair, painting, decoration, or other improvement of the building or space covered by the agreement, or improvement at the site of such building or facility, shall be paid wages at not less than those prevailing for similar work in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor under section 276a of title 40.

(2) The authority and functions of the Secretary of Labor with respect to labor standards enforcement under Reorganization Plan numbered 14 of 1950 (title 5, appendix), and regulations for contractors and subcontractors under section 276c of title 40, shall apply to the work under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) Paragraph (2) of this subsection shall not be construed to give the Secretary of Labor authority to direct the cancellation of the lease agreement referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 91–375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 725; Pub. L. 91–656, §8(a), Jan. 8, 1971, 84 Stat. 1955; Pub. L. 93–340, §2, July 10, 1974, 88 Stat. 294; Pub. L. 94–82, title I, §101, Aug. 9, 1975, 89 Stat. 419; Pub. L. 94–409, §5(a), Sept. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 1247; Pub. L. 94–541, title II, §203, Oct. 18, 1976, 90 Stat. 2508; Pub. L. 95–454, title III, §302(c), title VII, §703(c)(4), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1146, 1217; Pub. L. 96–523, §1(c)(2), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 3040; Pub. L. 100–496, §2(c)(2), Oct. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 2456; Pub. L. 100–504, title I, §104(b), Oct. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 2525; Pub. L. 103–82, title II, §202(g)(6), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 890; Pub. L. 103–94, §9(b)(2), Oct. 6, 1993, 107 Stat. 1010; Pub. L. 103–123, title VII, §708(a), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1272; Pub. L. 104–208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(f)(1)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–314, 3009–382.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 107 of title 20, known as the Randolph-Sheppard Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), is section 1 of act June 20, 1936, ch. 638, 49 Stat. 1559, as amended. The act of June 20, 1936, popularly known as the Randolph-Sheppard Act and also as the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act, is classified generally to chapter 6A (§107 et seq.) of Title 20, Education. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 107 of Title 20 and Tables.

Sections 258a–258e of title 40, referred to in subsec. (b)(4)(A), are based on act Feb. 26, 1931, ch. 307, 46 Stat. 1421, as amended, known as the “Declaration of Taking Act”, which is classified to section 258a et seq. of Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works. Pub. L. 99–656, §1(2), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3668, amended act Feb. 26, 1931 by adding section 6, which is classified to section 258e–1 of Title 40.

Sections 270a–270e, known as the Miller Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(4)(B), is act Aug. 24, 1935, ch. 642, 49 Stat. 793, as amended, known as the Miller Act, which is classified generally to sections 270a to 270d–1 of Title 40. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 270a of Title 40 and Tables.

Sections 276a–276a–7, known as the Davis-Bacon Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(4)(C), is act Mar. 3, 1931, ch. 411, 46 Stat. 1494, as amended, popularly known as the Davis-Bacon Act, which is classified generally to sections 276a to 276a–5 of Title 40. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 276a of Title 40 and Tables.

Chapter 5 (the Contract Work Hours Standards Act), referred to in subsec. (b)(4)(E), probably means title I of Pub. L. 87–581, Aug. 13, 1962, 76 Stat. 357, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§327 et seq.) of chapter 5 of Title 40, and was redesignated the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act by section 2 of Pub. L. 91–54, Aug. 9, 1969, 83 Stat. 98. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 327 of Title 40 and Tables.

Chapter 15 (the Government Losses in Shipment Act), referred to in subsec. (b)(4)(F), probably means act July 8, 1937, ch. 444, 50 Stat. 479, as amended, known as the Government Losses in Shipment Act, which is classified principally to chapter 15 (§721 et seq.) of Title 40. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 721 of Title 40 and Tables.

The Walsh-Healey Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(5)(A), is act June 30, 1936, ch. 881, 49 Stat. 2036, as amended, which is classified generally to sections 35 to 45 of Title 41, Public Contracts. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 35 of Title 41 and Tables. See also section 262 of Title 29, Labor.

The Service Contract Act of 1965, referred to in subsec. (b)(5)(B), is Pub. L. 89–286, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat.

1034, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 6 (§351 et seq.) of Title 41. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 351 of Title 41 and Tables.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, referred to in subsec. (b)(6), is Pub. L. 88-352, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 241, as amended. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is classified generally to subchapter V (§2000d et seq.) of chapter 21 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000a of Title 42 and Tables.

Section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 668), referred to in subsec. (b)(7), is section 19 of Pub. L. 91-596, Dec. 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 1609, which enacted section 668 of Title 29, Labor, and amended section 7902 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

The provisions of the Act of August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151-4156), referred to in subsec. (b)(8), probably means Pub. L. 90-480, Aug. 12, 1968, 82 Stat. 718, as amended, popularly known as the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, which is classified generally to chapter 51 (§4151 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4151 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (b)(10), is Pub. L. 95-452, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Reorganization Plan numbered 14 of 1950 (title 5, appendix), referred to in subsec. (d)(2), is Reorg. Plan No. 14 of 1950, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3176, 64 Stat. 1267, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 104-208, §101(f) [title VI, §662(f)(1)(A)], struck out “and” at end.

Subsec. (b)(10). Pub. L. 104-208, §101(f) [title VI, §662(f)(1)(B)], substituted “(10) the Inspector General Act of 1978; and” for “the provisions of section 8F of the Inspector General Act of 1978.”

1993—Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(6)(A), and Pub. L. 103-123, §708(a)(1), amended par. (8) identically, striking out “and” at end.

Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 103-123, §708(a)(2), substituted “chapter” for “Chapter” in par. (9) relating to title 31.

Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(6)(B), and Pub. L. 103-123, §708(a)(2), amended par. (9), relating to title 31, identically, substituting “; and” for period at end.

Pub. L. 103-94, §9(b)(2)(A), and Pub. L. 103-123, §708(a)(3), which directed the identical amendment of subsec. (b) by redesignating par. (9), providing for applicability to Postal Service of provisions of section 8E of Inspector General Act of 1978, as (10), could not be executed because Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(6)(C), struck out such par. See below.

Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(6)(C), struck out second par. (9) which provided for applicability to Postal Service of the provisions of section 8E of Inspector General Act of 1978.

Subsec. (b)(10). Pub. L. 103-94, §9(b)(2)(A), and Pub. L. 103-123, §708(a)(3), which directed the identical amendment of subsec. (b) by redesignating par. (9), providing for applicability to Postal Service of provisions of section 8E of Inspector General Act of 1978, as (10), could not be executed because Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(6)(C), struck out such par. See above.

Pub. L. 103-82, §202(g)(6)(C), added par. (10).

Subsec. (b)(11). Pub. L. 103-94, §9(b)(2)(B), added par. (11).

1988—Subsec. (b)(6) to (8). Pub. L. 100-504, §104(b)(1)-(4), struck out “and” after semicolon in par. (6), substituted semicolon for period in par. (7), and substituted “the provisions” for “The provisions” and “; and” for period in par. (8).

Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 100-504, §104(b)(5), added par. (9) relating to section 8E of Inspector General Act.

Pub. L. 100-496 added par. (9) relating to chapter 39 of title 31.

1980—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 96-523 substituted “section 3102 (employment of personal assistants for blind, deaf, or otherwise handicapped)” for “3102 (employment of reading assistants for blind employees and interpreting assistants for deaf”.

1978—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 95-454 inserted provisions relating to reading and interpreting assistants, and substituted provisions respecting applicability of chapter 72 of title 5, for provisions respecting applicability of chapter 71 of title 5.

1976—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 94-409 inserted references to sections 552a and 552b of title 5.

Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 94-541 added par. (8).

1975—Subsec. (b)(7). Pub. L. 94-82 added par. (7).

1974—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 93-340 inserted “section 5520 (withholding city income or employment taxes),” before “and section 5532 (dual pay)”.

1971—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 91-656 inserted “section 3110 (restrictions on employment of relatives),” before “section 3333” and substituted “no regulation” for “not regulation”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENTS; SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-94 effective 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, but not to release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under amended provision, which is to be treated as remaining in force for purpose of sustaining any proper proceeding or action for enforcement of that penalty, forfeiture, or liability, and no provision of Pub. L. 103-94 to affect any proceedings with respect to which charges were filed on or before 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, with orders to be issued in such proceedings and appeals taken therefrom as if Pub. L. 103-94 had not been enacted, see section 12 of Pub. L. 103-94, set out as an Effective Date; Savings Provision note under section 7321 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-82 effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 202(i) of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as an Effective Date note under section 12651 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-504 effective 180 days after Oct. 18, 1988, see section 113 of Pub. L. 100-504, set out as a note under section 5 of Pub. L. 95-452 (Inspector General Act of 1978) in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-496 applicable with respect to all obligations incurred on or after Jan. 1, 1989, see section 14(c) of Pub. L. 100-496, set out as a note under section 3902 of Title 31, Money and Finance.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-523 effective sixty days after Dec. 12, 1980, see section 3 of Pub. L. 96-523, set out as a note under section 3102 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-454 effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 1101 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-409 effective 180 days after Sept. 13, 1976, see section 6 of Pub. L. 94-409, set out as an Effective Date note under section 552b of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-340 effective on 90th day following July 10, 1974, see section 3 of Pub. L. 93-340, set out as an Effective Date note under section 5520 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Section 8(b) of Pub. L. 91-656 provided that: “The provisions of this section [amending this section] shall be-

come effective on the effective date prescribed under section 15(a) of the Postal Reorganization Act [set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title] for section 410 of title 39, United States Code, as enacted by that Act.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subsecs. (a), (b)(2) to (6), and (c)(1) to (3), (5), (6) of this section effective Apr. 13, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-14 of the Board of Governors, subsecs. (b)(1), relating to section 552 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and (c)(4) effective Jan. 20, 1971 pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors, and subsec. (d) effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

APPLICABILITY OF HATCH ACT REFORM AMENDMENTS OF 1993 TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Section 7 of Pub. L. 103-94 provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [enacting sections 5520a and 7321 to 7326 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and section 610 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, amending this section, sections 1216, 2302, 3302, and 3303 of Title 5, sections 602 and 603 of Title 18, and sections 1973d and 9904 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and omitting former sections 7321 to 7328 of Title 5] (except for the amendments made by section 8 [amending sections 2302 and 3303 of Title 5]), and any regulations thereunder, shall apply with respect to employees of the United States Postal Service and the Postal Rate Commission, pursuant to sections 410(b) and 3604(e) of title 39, United States Code.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2803, 3604 of this title; title 31 section 1344.

§ 411. Cooperation with other Government agencies

Executive agencies within the meaning of section 105 of title 5 and the Government Printing Office are authorized to furnish property, both real and personal, and personal and nonpersonal services to the Postal Service, and the Postal Service is authorized to furnish property and services to them. The furnishing of property and services under this section shall be under such terms and conditions, including reimbursability, as the Postal Service and the head of the agency concerned shall deem appropriate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 726.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 403, 409 of this title.

§ 412. Nondisclosure of lists of names and addresses

(a) Except as specifically provided by subsection (b) or other law, no officer or employee of the Postal Service shall make available to the public by any means or for any purpose any mailing or other list of names or addresses (past or present) of postal patrons or other persons.

(b) The Postal Service shall provide to the Secretary of Commerce for use by the Bureau of

the Census such address information, address-related information, and point of postal delivery information, including postal delivery codes, as may be determined by the Secretary to be appropriate for any census or survey being conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The provision of such information under this subsection shall be in accordance with such mutually agreeable terms and conditions, including reimbursability, as the Postal Service and the Secretary of Commerce shall deem appropriate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 727; Pub. L. 103-430, § 4, Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4394.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-430 substituted “(a) Except as specifically provided by subsection (b) or other law,” for “Except as specifically provided by law,” and added subsec. (b).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 413. Postal services at diplomatic posts

(a) The Postal Service and the Department of State may enter into 1 or more agreements for field testing to ascertain the feasibility of providing postal services through personnel provided by the Department of State at branch post offices established by the Postal Service in United States diplomatic missions at locations abroad for which branch post offices are not established under section 406.

(b) To the extent that the Postal Service and the Department of State conclude it to be feasible and in the public interest, the Postal Service may establish branch post offices at United States diplomatic missions in locations abroad for which branch post offices are not established under section 406, and the Department of State may enter into an agreement with the Postal Service to perform postal services at such branch post offices through personnel designated by the Department of State.

(c) The Department of State shall reimburse the Postal Service for any amounts, determined by the Postal Service, equal to the additional costs incurred by the Postal Service, including transportation costs, incurred by the Postal Service in the performance of its obligations under any agreement entered into under this section.

(d) Each agreement entered into under this section shall include—

(1) provisions under which the Department of State shall make any reimbursements required under subsection (c);

(2) provisions authorizing the Postal Service to terminate the agreement, and the services provided thereunder, in the event that the Department of State does not comply with the provisions under paragraph (1); and

(3) any other provisions which may be necessary, including provisions relating to the closing of a post office under this section if necessary because a post office under section 406 is established in the same location.

(Added Pub. L. 101-524, §5(a), Nov. 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 2303.)

CHAPTER 6—PRIVATE CARRIAGE OF LETTERS

Sec.	
601.	Letters carried out of the mail.
602.	Foreign letters out of the mails.
603.	Searches authorized.
604.	Seizing and detaining letters.
605.	Searching vessels for letters.
606.	Disposition of seized mail.

§ 601. Letters carried out of the mail

(a) A letter may be carried out of the mails when—

- (1) it is enclosed in an envelope;
- (2) the amount of postage which would have been charged on the letter if it had been sent by mail is paid by stamps, or postage meter stamps, on the envelope;
- (3) the envelope is properly addressed;
- (4) the envelope is so sealed that the letter cannot be taken from it without defacing the envelope;
- (5) any stamps on the envelope are canceled in ink by the sender; and
- (6) the date of the letter, of its transmission or receipt by the carrier is endorsed on the envelope in ink.

(b) The Postal Service may suspend the operation of any part of this section upon any mail route where the public interest requires the suspension.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 727.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

STUDY OF PRIVATE CARRIAGE OF MAIL: REPORTS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

Section 7 of Pub. L. 91-375 required the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service to make a study of the restrictions on the private carriage of letters and packets and to submit a report and recommendations for modernization to the President and to the Congress within 2 years after the effective date of this section.

Provisions of section 7 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 602 of this title; title 18 section 1696.

§ 602. Foreign letters out of the mails

(a) Except as provided in section 601 of this title, the master of a vessel departing from the United States for foreign ports may not receive on board or transport any letter which originated in the United States that—

- (1) has not been regularly received from a United States post office; or
- (2) does not relate to the cargo of the vessel.

(b) The officer of the port empowered to grant clearances shall require from the master of such a vessel, as a condition of clearance, an oath

that he does not have under his care or control, and will not receive or transport, any letter contrary to the provisions of this section.

(c) Except as provided in section 1699 of title 18, the master of a vessel arriving at a port of the United States carrying letters not regularly in the mails shall deposit them in the post office at the port of arrival.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 727.)

§ 603. Searches authorized

The Postal Service may authorize any officer or employee of the Postal Service to make searches for mail matter transported in violation of law. When the authorized officer has reason to believe that mailable matter transported contrary to law may be found therein, he may open and search any—

- (1) vehicle passing, or having lately passed, from a place at which there is a post office of the United States;
- (2) article being, or having lately been, in the vehicle; or
- (3) store or office, other than a dwelling house, used or occupied by a common carrier or transportation company, in which an article may be contained.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 727.)

§ 604. Seizing and detaining letters

An officer or employee of the Postal Service performing duties related to the inspection of postal matters, a customs officer, or United States marshal or his deputy, may seize at any time, letters and bags, packets, or parcels containing letters which are being carried contrary to law on board any vessel or on any post road. The officer or employee who makes the seizure shall convey the articles seized to the nearest post office, or, by direction of the Postal Service or the Secretary of the Treasury, he may detain them until 2 months after the final determination of all suits and proceedings which may be brought within 6 months after the seizure against any person for sending or carrying the letters.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 728.)

§ 605. Searching vessels for letters

An officer or employee of the Postal Service performing duties related to the inspection of postal matters, when instructed by the Postal Service to make examinations and seizures, and any customs officer without special instructions shall search vessels for letters which may be on board, or which may have been conveyed contrary to law.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 728.)

§ 606. Disposition of seized mail

Every package or parcel seized by an officer or employee of the Postal Service performing duties related to the inspection of postal matters, a customs officer, or United States marshal or his deputies, in which a letter is unlawfully concealed, shall be forfeited to the United States. The same proceedings may be used to enforce forfeitures as are authorized in respect of goods,

wares, and merchandise forfeited for violation of the revenue laws. Laws for the benefit and protection of customs officers making seizures for violating revenue laws apply to officers and employees making seizures for violating the postal laws.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 728.)

PART II—PERSONNEL

Chap.		Sec.
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CHAPTER 10—EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE POSTAL SERVICE

Sec.	
1001.	Appointment and status.
1002.	Political recommendations.
1003.	Employment policy.
1004.	Supervisory and other managerial organizations.
1005.	Applicability of laws relating to Federal employees.
1006.	Right of transfer.
1007.	Seniority for employees in rural service.
1008.	Temporary employees or carriers.
1009.	Personnel not to receive fees.
1010.	Administration of oaths related to postal inspection matters.
1011.	Oath of office.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 3604 of this title.

§ 1001. Appointment and status

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the Postal Service shall appoint all officers and employees of the Postal Service.

(b) Officers and employees of the Postal Service (other than those individuals appointed under sections 202, 204, and 1001(c) of this title) shall be in the postal career service, which shall be a part of the civil service. Such appointments and promotions shall be in accordance with the procedures established by the Postal Service. The Postal Service shall establish procedures, in accordance with this title, to assure its officers and employees meaningful opportunities for promotion and career development and to assure its officers and employees full protection of their employment rights by guaranteeing them an opportunity for a fair hearing on adverse actions, with representatives of their own choosing.

(c) The Postal Service may hire individuals as executives under employment contracts for periods not in excess of 5 years. Notwithstanding any such contract, the Postal Service may at its discretion and at any time remove any such individual without prejudice to his contract rights.

(d) Notwithstanding section 5533, 5535, or 5536 of title 5, or any other provision of law, any officer or employee of the Government of the United States is eligible to serve and receive pay concurrently as an officer or employee of the Postal Service (other than as a member of the Board or of the Postal Rate Commission) and as an officer or employee of any other department, agency, or establishment of the Government of the United States.

(e) The Postal Service shall have the right, consistent with section 1003 and chapter 12 of this title and applicable laws, regulations, and collective-bargaining agreements—

(1) to direct officers and employees of the Postal Service in the performance of official duties;

(2) to hire, promote, transfer, assign, and retain officers and employees in positions within the Postal Service, and to suspend, demote, discharge, or take other disciplinary action against such officers and employees;

(3) to relieve officers and employees from duties because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons;

(4) to maintain the efficiency of the operations entrusted to it;

(5) to determine the methods, means, and personnel by which such operations are to be conducted;

(6) to prescribe a uniform dress to be worn by letter carriers and other designated employees; and

(7) to take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out its mission in emergency situations.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 728.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Mar. 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-13 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

TRANSFER TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Section 8 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that: "Officers and employees of the Post Office Department shall become officers and employees of the United States Postal Service on the effective date of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons occupying the positions of Postmaster General, Deputy Postmaster General, Assistant Postmasters General, General Counsel, or Judicial Officer. This section shall not be construed, however, to prohibit the appointment of such persons to positions in the Postal Service."

Provisions of section 8 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

APPOINTMENT OF POSTMASTERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES ON MERIT BASIS

Section 13 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that:

"(a) [Methods of Appointment; Order of precedence; Status of Postmasters in Office] Between the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970] and the date on which the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service determines that section 1001 of title 39, United States Code (as enacted by section 2 of this Act), is effective, the Postmaster General shall appoint postmasters at offices of all classes in the competitive civil service by one of the three following methods which shall be applied in the following order of precedence:

"(1) by selection of a qualified employee serving at the post office where the vacancy occurs, including an acting postmaster who was serving on January 1, 1969, who shall acquire a competitive status upon being appointed postmaster;

"(2) if no qualified employee serving at the post office where the vacancy occurs is available for, and willing to accept, appointment by the method de-

scribed in subparagraph (1), by selection of a qualified employee serving in the postal field service; or

“(3) if no qualified employee is available for, and willing to accept, appointment by the methods described in subparagraph (1) or (2), by competitive examination in accordance with the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

Enactment of this subsection shall not affect the status or tenure of postmasters in office on the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970].

“(b) [Political Test Prohibition; Merit and Fitness Basis of Personnel Actions; Disciplinary Actions for Violations; Exceptions] (1) In the selection, appointment, and promotion of employees of the Post Office Department between the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970] and the date on which the Board of Governors of the Postal Service determines that former section 3311 of title 39, United States Code, is no longer effective, no political test or qualification shall be permitted or given consideration, and all such personnel actions shall be taken on the basis of merit and fitness. Any officer or employee of the Post Office Department who violates this subsection shall be removed from office or otherwise disciplined in accordance with procedures for disciplinary action established pursuant to law.

“(2) This subsection does not apply to the selection and appointment of officers whose appointment is vested in the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, or to the selection, appointment, or promotion to a position designated by the Civil Service Commission as a position of a confidential or policy-determining character or as a position to be filled by a noncareer executive assignment.”

Provisions of section 13 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1005 of this title.

§ 1002. Political recommendations

(a) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, each appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation, interim or otherwise, of an officer or employee in the Postal Service (except a Governor or member of the Postal Rate Commission) shall be made without regard to any recommendation or statement, oral or written, with respect to any person who requests or is under consideration for such appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation, made by—

(1) any Member of the Senate or House of Representatives (including the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico);

(2) any elected official of the government of any State (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) or of any county, city, or other political subdivision of such State or Commonwealth;

(3) any official of a national political party or of a political party of any State (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico), county, city, or other subdivision of such State or Commonwealth; or

(4) any other individual or organization.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person or organization referred to in clause (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a) of this section is prohibited from making or transmitting to the Postal Service, or to any other officer or employee of the Government of the United States, any recommendation or state-

ment, oral or written, with respect to any person who requests or is under consideration for any such appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation. The Postal Service and any officer or employee of the Government of the United States, subject to subsection (e) of this section—

(1) shall not solicit, request, consider, or accept any such recommendation or statement; and

(2) shall return any such written recommendation or statement received by him, appropriately marked as in violation of this section, to the person or organization making or transmitting the same.

(c) A person who requests or is under consideration for any such appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation is prohibited from requesting or soliciting any such recommendation or statement from any person or organization except a statement of the type referred to in subsection (e)(2) of this section.

(d) Each employment form of the Postal Service used in connection with any such appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation shall contain appropriate language in boldface type informing all persons concerned of the provisions of this section. During the time any such appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation is under consideration, appropriate notice of the provisions of this section printed in boldface type shall be posted in the post office concerned.

(e) The Postal Service or any authorized officer or employee of the Government of the United States may solicit, accept, and consider, and any other individual or organization may furnish or transmit to the Postal Service or such authorized officer or employee, any statement with respect to a person who requests or is under consideration for such appointment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or designation, if—

(1) the statement is furnished pursuant to a request or requirement of the Postal Service and consists solely of an evaluation of the work performance, ability, aptitude, and general qualifications of such person;

(2) the statement relates solely to the character and residence of such person;

(3) the statement is furnished pursuant to a request made by an authorized representative of the Government of the United States solely in order to determine whether such person meets the loyalty, suitability, and character requirements for employment with the Government of the United States; or

(4) the statement is furnished by a former employer of such person pursuant to a request of the Postal Service, and consists solely of an evaluation of the work performance, ability, aptitude, and general qualifications of such person during his employment with such former employer.

(f) The Postal Service shall take any action it determines necessary and proper, including but not limited to suspension, removal from office, or disqualification from the Postal Service, to enforce the provisions of this section.

(g) The provisions of this section shall not affect the right of an officer or employee of the

Postal Service to petition Congress as authorized by section 7211 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 729; Pub. L. 95-454, title VII, §703(c)(5), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1217.)

AMENDMENTS

1978—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 95-454 substituted “section 7211” for “section 7102”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-454 effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 1101 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Mar. 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-13 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 1003. Employment policy

(a) Except as provided under chapters 2 and 12 of this title, section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978, or other provision of law, the Postal Service shall classify and fix the compensation and benefits of all officers and employees in the Postal Service. It shall be the policy of the Postal Service to maintain compensation and benefits for all officers and employees on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the private sector of the economy. No officer or employee shall be paid compensation at a rate in excess of the rate for level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5.

(b) Compensation and benefits for all officers and employees serving in or under the Office of Inspector General of the United States Postal Service shall be maintained on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the respective Offices of Inspector General of the various establishments named in section 11(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

(c) Compensation and benefits for all Postal Inspectors shall be maintained on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the executive branch of the Government outside of the Postal Service. As used in this subsection, the term “Postal Inspector” included¹ any agent to whom any investigative powers are granted under section 3061 of title 18.

(d) The Postal Service shall follow an employment policy designed, without compromising the policy of section 101(a) of this title, to extend opportunity to the disadvantaged and the handicapped.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 730; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(c)(2)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-380.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 8G and 11(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subssecs. (a) and (b), are sections 8G and 11(2) of Pub. L. 95-452, which are set out in the Ap-

pendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-208, §101(f) [title VI, §662(c)(2)(B)], substituted “chapters 2 and 12 of this title, section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978,” for “chapters 2 and 12 of this title”.

Subsecs. (b) to (d). Pub. L. 104-208, §101(f) [title VI, §662(c)(2)(A)], added subssecs. (b) and (c) and redesignated former subsec. (b) as (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-8 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES

Section 9 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that:

“(a) [*Increase in Basic Pay Rate; Effective Date*] The Postmaster General, under regulations made by him, shall increase the rates of basic pay or compensation of employees in the Post Office Department so that such rates will equal, as nearly as practicable, 108 percent of the rates of basic pay or compensation in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970]. Such increases shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period which begins on or after April 16, 1970.

“(b) [*Retroactive Pay*] Retroactive pay, compensation, or salary shall be paid by reason of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this title] only in the case of an individual in the service of the United States (including service in the Armed Forces of the United States) on the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970], except that such retroactive pay, compensation, or salary shall be paid—

“(1) to an officer or employee who retired, during the period beginning on the first day of the first pay period which began on or after April 16, 1970, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970], for services rendered during such period; and

“(2) in accordance with subchapter VIII of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code [section 5581 et seq. of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees], relating to settlement of accounts, for services rendered, during the period beginning on the first day of the first pay period which began on or after April 16, 1970, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970], by an officer or employee who died during such period.

Such retroactive pay, compensation, or salary shall not be considered as basic pay for the purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code [section 8331 et seq. of Title 5], relating to civil service retirement, or any other retirement law or retirement system, in the case of any such retired or deceased officer or employee.

“(c) [*Period for Restoration to Government Position, as Service*] For the purposes of this section, service in the Armed Forces of the United States, in the case of an individual relieved from training and service in the Armed Forces of the United States or discharged from hospitalization following such training and service, shall include the period provided by law for the mandatory restoration of such individual to a position in or under the Government of the United States.

“(d) [*Group Life Insurance; Amount; Effective Date*] For purposes of determining the amount of insurance for which an individual is eligible under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code [section 8701 et seq. of Title 5], relating to group life insurance for Government employees, all changes in rates of pay, compensation, and salary which result from the enactment of this section shall be held and considered to become effective as of the date of such enactment [Aug. 12, 1970].

“(e) [*Limitation of Basic Pay Rate*] No rate of basic pay or compensation, in excess of the rate of basic pay for

¹ So in original. Probably should be “includes”.

GS-18 of the General Schedule in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, shall be paid by reason of the enactment of this section.”

Provisions of section 9 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1001, 1004 of this title.

§ 1004. Supervisory and other managerial organizations

(a) It shall be the policy of the Postal Service to provide compensation, working conditions, and career opportunities that will assure the attraction and retention of qualified and capable supervisory and other managerial personnel; to provide adequate and reasonable differentials in rates of pay between employees in the clerk and carrier grades in the line work force and supervisory and other managerial personnel; to establish and maintain continuously a program for all such personnel that reflects the essential importance of a well-trained and well-motivated force to improve the effectiveness of postal operations; and to promote the leadership status of such personnel with respect to rank-and-file employees, recognizing that the role of such personnel in primary level management is particularly vital to the process of converting general postal policies into successful postal operations.

(b) The Postal Service shall provide a program for consultation with recognized organizations of supervisory and other managerial personnel who are not subject to collective-bargaining agreements under chapter 12 of this title. Upon presentation of evidence satisfactory to the Postal Service that a supervisory organization represents a majority of supervisors, or that a managerial organization (other than an organization representing supervisors) represents a substantial percentage of managerial employees, such organization or organizations shall be entitled to participate directly in the planning and development of pay policies and schedules, fringe benefit programs, and other programs relating to supervisory and other managerial employees.

(c)(1) The Postal Service and the supervisors' organization shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed to, meet at least once each month to implement the consultation and direct participation procedures of subsection (b) of this section.

(2)(A) At least 7 days before each meeting, each party shall—

- (i) provide notice of agenda items, and
- (ii) describe in detail the proposals such party will make with respect to each such item.

(B) Grievances of individual employees shall not be matters which may be included as agenda items under this paragraph.

(d)(1) In order to facilitate consultation and direct participation by the supervisors' organization in the planning and development of programs under subsection (b) of this section which affect members of the supervisors' organization, the Postal Service shall—

- (A) provide in writing a description of any proposed program and the reasons for it;

(B) give the organization at least 60 days (unless extraordinary circumstances require earlier action) to review and make recommendations with respect to the program; and

(C) give any recommendation from the organization full and fair consideration in deciding whether or how to proceed with the program.

(2) If the Postal Service decides to implement a program described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Postal Service shall before such implementation—

(A) give the supervisors' organization details of its decision to implement the program, together with the information upon which the decision is based;

(B) give the organization an opportunity to make recommendations with respect to the program; and

(C) give such recommendations full and fair consideration, including the providing of reasons to the organization if any of such recommendations are rejected.

(3) If a program described in paragraph (1) of this subsection is implemented, the Postal Service shall—

(A) develop a method for the supervisors' organization to participate in further planning and development of the program, and

(B) give the organization adequate access to information to make that participation productive.

(4) The Postal Service and the supervisors' organization may, by agreement, adopt procedures different from those provided by this subsection.

(e)(1) The Postal Service shall, within 45 days of each date on which an agreement is reached on a collective bargaining agreement between the Postal Service and the bargaining representative recognized under section 1203 of this title which represents the largest number of employees, make a proposal for any changes in pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for members of the supervisors' organization which are to be in effect during the same period as covered by such agreement.

(2) The Postal Service and the supervisors' organization shall strive to resolve any differences concerning the proposal described in paragraph (1) of this subsection under the procedures provided for, or adopted under, subsection (d) of this section.

(3) The Postal Service shall provide its decision concerning changes proposed under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the supervisors' organization within 90 days following the submission of the proposal.

(f)(1) If, notwithstanding the mutual efforts required by subsection (e) of this section, the supervisors' organization believes that the decision of the Postal Service is not in accordance with the provisions of this title, the organization may, within 10 days following its receipt of such decision, request the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to convene a factfinding panel (hereinafter referred to as the "panel") concerning such matter.

(2) Within 15 days after receiving a request under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall provide a list of 7 individuals recognized as ex-

perts in supervisory and managerial pay policies. Each party shall designate one individual from the list to serve on the panel. If, within 10 days after the list is provided, either of the parties has not designated an individual from the list, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall make the designation. The first two individuals designated from the list shall meet within 5 days and shall designate a third individual from the list. The third individual shall chair the panel. If the two individuals designated from the list are unable to designate a third individual within 5 days after their first meeting, the Director shall designate the third individual.

(3)(A) The panel shall recommend standards for pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs affecting the members of the supervisors' organization for the period covered by the collective bargaining agreement specified in subsection (e)(1) of this section. The standards shall be consistent with the policies of this title, including sections 1003(a) and 1004(a) of this title.

(B) The panel shall, consistent with such standards, make appropriate recommendations concerning the differences between the parties on such policies, schedules, and programs.

(4) The panel shall make its recommendation no more than 30 days after its appointment, unless the Postal Service and the supervisors' organization agree to a longer period. The panel shall hear from the Postal Service and the supervisors' organization in such a manner as it shall direct. The cost of the panel shall be borne equally by the Postal Service and the supervisors' organization.

(5) Not more than 15 days after the panel has made its recommendation, the Postal Service shall provide the supervisors' organization its final decision on the matters covered by fact-finding under this subsection. The Postal Service shall give full and fair consideration to the panel's recommendation and shall explain in writing any differences between its final decision and the panel's recommendation.

(g) Not earlier than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and from time to time thereafter, the Postal Service or the supervisors' organization may request, by written notice to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and to the other party, the creation of a panel to review the effectiveness of the procedures and the other provisions of this section and the provisions of section 1003 of this title. The panel shall be designated in accordance with the procedure established in subsection (f)(2) of this section. The panel shall make recommendations to the Congress for changes in this title as it finds appropriate.

(h) For purposes of this section—

(1) "supervisors' organization" means the organization recognized by the Postal Service under subsection (b) of this section as representing a majority of supervisors; and

(2) "members of the supervisors' organization" means employees of the Postal Service who are recognized under an agreement between the Postal Service and the supervisors' organization as represented by such organization.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 731; Pub. L. 96-326, Aug. 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 1023.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (g), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 96-326, which was approved Aug. 8, 1980.

AMENDMENTS

1980—Subsecs. (c) to (h). Pub. L. 96-326 added subsecs. (c) to (h).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1005 of this title; title 5 section 8473; title 18 section 205.

§ 1005. Applicability of laws relating to Federal employees

(a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the provisions of chapter 75 of title 5 shall apply to officers and employees of the Postal Service except to the extent of any inconsistency with—

(A) the provisions of any collective-bargaining agreement negotiated on behalf of and applicable to them; or

(B) procedures established by the Postal Service and approved by the Civil Service Commission.

(2) The provisions of title 5 relating to a preference eligible (as that term is defined under section 2108(3) of such title) shall apply to an applicant for appointment and any officer or employee of the Postal Service in the same manner and under the same conditions as if the applicant, officer, or employee were subject to the competitive service under such title. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be modified by any program developed under section 1004 of this title or any collective-bargaining agreement entered into under chapter 12 of this title.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to those individuals appointed under sections 202, 204, and 1001(c) of this title.

(4)(A) Subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 5 shall apply—

(i) to any preference eligible in the Postal Service who is an employee within the meaning of section 7511(a)(1)(B) of such title; and

(ii) to any other individual who—

(I) is in the position of a supervisor or a management employee in the Postal Service, or is an employee of the Postal Service engaged in personnel work in other than a purely nonconfidential clerical capacity; and

(II) has completed 1 year of current continuous service in the same or similar positions.

(B)(i) The second sentence of paragraph (2) of this subsection applies with respect to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, to the extent that such provisions relate to preference eligibles.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not, to the extent that such pro-

visions relate to an individual under clause (ii) of such subparagraph, be modified by any program developed under section 1004 of this title.

(b) Section 5941 of title 5 shall apply to the Postal Service. For purposes of such section, the pay of officers and employees of the Postal Service shall be considered to be fixed by statute, and the basic pay of an employee shall be the pay (but not any allowance or benefit) of that officer or employee established in accordance with the provisions of this title.

(c) Officers and employees of the Postal Service shall be covered by subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, relating to compensation for work injuries.

(d)(1) Officers and employees of the Postal Service (other than the Governors) shall be covered by chapters 83 and 84 of title 5. The Postal Service shall withhold from pay and shall pay into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund the amounts specified in or determined under such chapter 83 and subchapter II of such chapter 84, respectively. The Postal Service shall pay into the Federal Retirement Thrift Savings Fund the amounts specified in or determined under subchapters III and VII of such chapter 84.

(2) The provisions of subsection (g) of section 5532, subsections (i) and (l)(2) of section 8344, and subsections (f) and (i)(2) of section 8468 of title 5 shall apply with respect to the Postal Service. For purposes of so applying such provisions—

(A) any reference in such provisions to the head of an Executive agency shall be considered a reference to the Postmaster General; and

(B) any reference in such provisions to an employee shall be considered a reference to an officer or employee of the Postal Service.

(e) Sick and annual leave, and compensatory time of officers and employees of the Postal Service, whether accrued prior to or after commencement of operations of the Postal Service, shall be obligations of the Postal Service under the provisions of this chapter.

(f) Compensation, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this section, whether provided by statute or by rules and regulations of the former Post Office Department or the executive branch of the Government of the United States, shall continue to apply to officers and employees of the Postal Service, until changed by the Postal Service in accordance with this chapter and chapter 12 of this title. Subject to the provisions of this chapter and chapter 12 of this title, the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 85 and chapters 87 and 89 of title 5 shall apply to officers and employees of the Postal Service, unless varied, added to, or substituted for, under this subsection. No variation, addition, or substitution with respect to fringe benefits shall result in a program of fringe benefits which on the whole is less favorable to the officers and employees than fringe benefits in effect on the effective date of this section, and as to officers and employees for whom there is a collective-bargaining representative, no such variation, addition, or substitution shall be made except by agreement between the collective-bargaining representative and the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 731; Pub. L. 93-349, §2, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 354; Pub. L. 99-335, title III, §306, June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 607; Pub. L. 100-90, §1(a), Aug. 18, 1987, 101 Stat. 673; Pub. L. 103-336, §3, Oct. 3, 1994, 108 Stat. 2661.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this section, referred to in subsec. (f), is July 1, 1971. See Effective Date note below.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-336 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1987—Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 100-90 added par. (4).

1986—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99-335 amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (d) read as follows: “Officers and employees of the Postal Service (other than the Governors) shall be covered by chapter 83 of title 5 relating to civil service retirement. The Postal Service shall withhold from pay and shall pay into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund the amounts specified in such chapter. The Postal Service shall pay into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund the amounts determined by the Civil Service Commission under section 8348(h) of title 5.”

1974—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 93-349 substituted requirement that the Postal Service pay into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund the amounts determined by the Civil Service Commission under section 8348(h) of title 5, for requirement that the Postal Service pay to the Civil Service Commission upon request of the Civil Service Commission but not less frequently than annually the costs reasonably related to the administration of Fund activities for officers and employees of the Postal Service.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Section 1(b)(1) of Pub. L. 100-90 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall be effective after the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 18, 1987].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Section 3 of Pub. L. 93-349 provided that: “The effective date of this Act [amending this section and section 8348 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees] shall be July 1, 1971, except that the Postal Service shall not be required to make (1) the payments due June 30, 1972, June 30, 1973, and June 30, 1974, attributable to pay increases granted by the Postal Service prior to July 1, 1973, until such time as funds are appropriated to the Postal Service for that purpose, and (2) the transfer to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund required by title II of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriation Act, 1974, Public Law 93-143 [which is not classified to the Code].”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions vested by statute in United States Civil Service Commission or Chairman thereof transferred to Director of Office of Personnel Management (except as otherwise specified) by Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1978, §102, 43 F.R. 36037, 92 Stat. 3783, set out under section 1101 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, effective Jan. 1, 1979, as provided by section 1-102 of Ex. Ord. No. 12107, Dec. 28, 1978, 44 F.R. 1055, set out under section 1101 of Title 5.

ABATEMENT OF ACTIONS

Section 1(b)(2) of Pub. L. 100-90 provided that: “An action which is commenced under section 1005(a)(1)(B)

of title 39, United States Code, before the effective date of the amendment made by subsection (a) [see Effective Date of 1987 Amendment note above] shall not abate by reason of the enactment of this Act [amending this section and enacting provisions set out as a note above]. Determinations with respect to any such action shall be made as if this Act had not been enacted.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 5 section 7511; title 10 section 1599c.

§ 1006. Right of transfer

Officers and employees in the postal career service of the Postal Service shall be eligible for promotion or transfer to any other position in the Postal Service or the executive branch of the Government of the United States for which they are qualified. The authority given by this section shall be used to provide a maximum degree of career promotion opportunities for officers and employees and to insure continued improvement of postal services.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 732.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 5 section 5734.

§ 1007. Seniority for employees in rural service

Subject to agreements made under chapter 12 of this title, the seniority of an employee of the Postal Service occupying a position whose regular duty involves the collection and delivery of mail on a rural route shall be preserved. Seniority for such employee shall commence on the first day of his service in such a position, or, in the event such an employee transfers to another such position, on the day he enters duty in the other position. Upon initial assignment, such an employee shall be assigned to the least desirable route and shall attain assignment to more desirable routes by seniority. Promotions and assignments for such an employee in such position shall be based on seniority and ability. If ability be sufficient, seniority shall govern.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 732.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 1008. Temporary employees or carriers

(a) A person temporarily employed to deliver mail is deemed an employee of the Postal Service and is subject to the provisions of chapter 83 of title 18 to the same extent as other employees of the Postal Service.

(b) Any person, when engaged in carrying mail under contract with the Postal Service, or employed by the Postal Service, is deemed a carrier or person entrusted with the mail and having custody thereof, within the meaning of sections 1701, 1708, and 2114 of title 18.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 732.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 1009. Personnel not to receive fees

An officer or employee of the Postal Service may not receive any fee or perquisite from a patron of the Postal Service on account of the duties performed by virtue of his appointment, except as authorized by law.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 733.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 1010. Administration of oaths related to postal inspection matters

Officers and employees of the Postal Service performing duties related to the inspection of postal matters may administer oaths required or authorized by law or regulation with respect to any matter coming before them in the performance of their official duties.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 733.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 1011. Oath of office

Before entering upon their duties and before receiving any salary, all officers and employees of the Postal Service shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.”

A person authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States, including section 2903 of title 5, or of a State or territory, or an officer, civil or military, holding a commission under the United States, or any officer or employee of the Postal Service designated by the Board may administer and certify the oath or affirmation.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 733.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

CHAPTER 12—EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Sec.
1201. Definition.

Sec.	
1202.	Bargaining units.
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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 1001, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, 2010, 3604 of this title; title 18 section 205.

§ 1201. Definition

As used in this chapter, “guards” means—

(1) maintenance guards who, on the effective date of this chapter, are in key position KP-5 under the provisions of former section 3514 of title 39; and

(2) security guards, who may be employed in the Postal Service and whose primary duties shall include the exercise of authority to enforce rules to protect the safety of property, mail, or persons on the premises.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 733.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this chapter, referred to in par. (1), is July 1, 1971. See Effective Date note below.

Former section 3514 of title 39, referred to in par. (1), means section 3514 of former Title 39, The Postal Service, prior to the general revision and reenactment of Title 39 by Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

LABOR AGREEMENTS

Section 10 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that:

“(a) [*Wages, Hours, and Working Conditions; Parties to Agreement*] As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act [Aug. 12, 1970], the Postmaster General and the labor organizations which as of the effective date of this section [see note below] hold national exclusive recognition rights granted by the Post Office Department, shall negotiate an agreement or agreements covering wages, hours, and working conditions of the employees represented by such labor organizations. The parties shall commence bargaining for such agreement or agreements not later than 30 days following delivery of a written request therefor by a labor organization to the Postmaster General or by the Postmaster General to a labor organization. Any agreement made pursuant to this section shall continue in force after the commencement of operations of the United States Postal Service in the same manner and to the same extent as if entered into between the Postal Service and recognized collective-bargaining representatives under chapter 12 of title 39, United States Code.

“(b) [*Wage Schedule; Service Period for Maximum Pay; Pay Step Advancement*] Any agreement negotiated under this section shall establish a new wage schedule whereunder postal employees will reach the maximum pay step for their respective labor grades after not more than 8 years of satisfactory service in such grades. The agreements shall provide that where an employee had sufficient satisfactory service in the pay step he occupied on the effective date of this section [see note below] to have qualified for advancement to the next highest pay step under the new wage schedule, had such schedule been in effect throughout the period of such service, the employee shall be advanced to such next

highest pay step in the new schedule on the effective date of the new schedule.

“(c) [*Effective Date; Establishment of Wages, Hours, and Working Conditions*] An agreement made under this section shall become effective at any time after the commencement of bargaining, in accordance with the terms thereof. The Postmaster General shall establish wages, hours, and working conditions in accordance with the terms of any agreement or agreements made under this section notwithstanding the provisions of any law other than title 39.

“(d) [*Fact-finding Panel, Other Procedure, or Arbitration Board for Resolution of Differences*] If the parties fail to reach agreement within 90 days of the commencement of collective bargaining, a fact-finding panel will be established in accordance with the terms of section 1207(b) of title 39, United States Code, unless the parties have previously agreed to another procedure for a binding resolution of their differences. If the parties fail to reach agreement within 180 days of the commencement of collective bargaining, and if they have not agreed to another procedure for binding resolution, an arbitration board shall be established to provide conclusive and binding arbitration in accordance with the terms of section 1207(c) of such title.

“(e) [*Appropriation Provisions Inapplicable*] Agreements made pursuant to this section and expenditures made under such agreements shall not be subject to the provisions of section 3679 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (31 U.S.C. 665) [sections 1341, 1342, and 1349-1351, subchapter II and chapter 15 of Title 31, Money and Finance].

“(f) [*References to Title 39*] For the purposes of this section, references to title 39 and sections of title 39 are references to title 39, United States Code, as enacted by section 2 of this Act.”

[Provisions of section 10 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.]

§ 1202. Bargaining units

The National Labor Relations Board shall decide in each case the unit appropriate for collective bargaining in the Postal Service. The National Labor Relations Board shall not include in any bargaining unit—

(1) any management official or supervisor;

(2) any employee engaged in personnel work in other than a purely nonconfidential clerical capacity;

(3) both professional employees and employees who are not professional employees unless a majority of such professional employees vote for inclusion in such unit; or

(4) together with other employees, any individual employed as a security guard to enforce against employees and other persons, rules to protect property of the Postal Service or to protect the safety of property, mail, or persons on the premises of the Postal Service; but no labor organization shall be certified as the representative of employees in a bargaining unit of security guards if such organization admits to membership, or is affiliated directly or indirectly with an organization which admits to membership, employees other than guards.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 733.)

§ 1203. Recognition of labor organizations

(a) The Postal Service shall accord exclusive recognition to a labor organization when the organization has been selected by a majority of

the employees in an appropriate unit as their representative.

(b) Agreements and supplements in effect on the date of enactment of this section covering employees in the former Post Office Department shall continue to be recognized by the Postal Service until altered or amended pursuant to law.

(c) When a petition has been filed, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the National Labor Relations Board—

(1) by an employee, a group of employees, or any labor organization acting in their behalf, alleging that (A) a substantial number of employees wish to be represented for collective bargaining by a labor organization and that the Postal Service declines to recognize such labor organization as the representative; or (B) the labor organization which has been certified or is being currently recognized by the Postal Service as the bargaining representative is no longer a representative; or

(2) by the Postal Service, alleging that one or more labor organizations has presented to it a claim to be recognized as the representative;

the National Labor Relations Board shall investigate such petition and, if it has reasonable cause to believe that a question of representation exists, shall provide for an appropriate hearing upon due notice. Such hearing may be conducted by an officer or employee of the National Labor Relations Board, who shall not make any recommendations with respect thereto. If the National Labor Relations Board finds upon the record of such hearing that such a question of representation exists, it shall direct an election by secret ballot and shall certify the results thereof.

(d) A petition filed under subsection (c)(1) of this section shall be accompanied by a statement signed by at least 30 percent of the employees in the appropriate unit stating that they desire that an election be conducted for either of the purposes set forth in such subsection.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the waiving of hearings by stipulation for the purpose of a consent election in conformity with regulations and rules of decision of the National Labor Relations Board.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 734.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (b), means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 91-375, which was approved Aug. 12, 1970.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1004, 1206, 1209 of this title; title 5 section 8473.

§ 1204. Elections

(a) All elections authorized under this chapter shall be conducted under the supervision of the National Labor Relations Board, or persons designated by it, and shall be by secret ballot. Each employee eligible to vote shall be provided the opportunity to choose the labor organization he wishes to represent him, from among those on the ballot, or “no union”.

(b) In any election where none of the choices on the ballot receives a majority, a runoff shall be conducted, the ballot providing for a selection between the 2 choices receiving the largest and second largest number of valid votes cast in the election. In the event of a tie vote, additional runoff elections shall be conducted until one of the choices has received a majority of the votes.

(c) No election shall be held in any bargaining unit within which, in the preceding 12-month period, a valid election has been held.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 735.)

§ 1205. Deductions of dues

(a) When a labor organization holds exclusive recognition, or when an organization of personnel not subject to collective-bargaining agreements has consultation rights under section 1004 of this title, the Postal Service shall deduct the regular and periodic dues of the organization from the pay of all members of the organization in the unit of recognition if the Post Office Department or the Postal Service has received from each employee, on whose account such deductions are made, a written assignment which shall be irrevocable for a period of not more than one year.

(b) Any agreement in effect immediately prior to the date of enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act between the Post Office Department and any organization of postal employees which provides for deduction by the Department of the regular and periodic dues of the organization from the pay of its members, shall continue in full force and effect and the obligation for such deductions shall be assumed by the Postal Service. No such deduction shall be made from the pay of any employee except on his written assignment, which shall be irrevocable for a period of not more than one year.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 735.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act, referred to in subsec. (b), means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 91-375, which was approved Aug. 12, 1970.

§ 1206. Collective-bargaining agreements

(a) Collective-bargaining agreements between the Postal Service and bargaining representatives recognized under section 1203 of this title shall be effective for not less than 2 years.

(b) Collective-bargaining agreements between the Postal Service and bargaining representatives recognized under section 1203 may include any procedures for resolution by the parties of grievances and adverse actions arising under the agreement, including procedures culminating in binding third-party arbitration, or the parties may adopt any such procedures by mutual agreement in the event of a dispute.

(c) The Postal Service and bargaining representatives recognized under section 1203 may by mutual agreement adopt procedures for the resolution of disputes or impasses arising in the negotiation of a collective-bargaining agreement.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 735.)

USE OF FUNDS FOR RESTRUCTURING OF EMPLOYEE
COMPENSATION PRACTICES

Pub. L. 98-396, title III, §303, Aug. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 1422, provided that: "None of the funds made available to the United States Postal Service under this Act [see Tables for classification] or any other Act may be used to restructure employee compensation practices as in effect under the most recently effective collective bargaining agreement under section 1206 of title 39, United States Code, except in accordance with the results of procedures set forth in section 1207 of such title."

§ 1207. Labor disputes

(a) If there is a collective-bargaining agreement in effect, no party to such agreement shall terminate or modify such agreement unless the party desiring such termination or modification serves written notice upon the other party to the agreement of the proposed termination or modification not less than 90 days prior to the expiration date thereof, or not less than 90 days prior to the time it is proposed to make such termination or modification. The party serving such notice shall notify the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service of the existence of a dispute within 45 days of such notice, if no agreement has been reached by that time.

(b) If the parties fail to reach agreement or to adopt a procedure providing for a binding resolution of a dispute by the expiration date of the agreement in effect, or the date of the proposed termination or modification, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall direct the establishment of a factfinding panel consisting of 3 persons. For this purpose, he shall submit to the parties a list of not less than 15 names, from which list each party, within 10 days, shall select 1 person. The 2 so selected shall then choose from the list a third person who shall serve as chairman of the factfinding panel. If either of the parties fails to select a person or if the 2 members are unable to agree on the third person within 3 days, the selection shall be made by the Director. The factfinding panel shall issue after due investigation a report of its findings, with or without recommendations, to the parties no later than 45 days from the date the list of names is submitted.

(c)(1) If no agreement is reached within 90 days after the expiration or termination of the agreement or the date on which the agreement became subject to modification under subsection (a) of this section, or if the parties decide upon arbitration but do not agree upon the procedures therefor, an arbitration board shall be established consisting of 3 members, not members of the factfinding panel, 1 of whom shall be selected by the Postal Service, 1 by the bargaining representative of the employees, and the third by the 2 thus selected. If either of the parties fails to select a member, or if the members chosen by the parties fail to agree on the third person within 5 days after their first meeting, the selection shall be made by the Director. If the parties do not agree on the framing of the issues to be submitted, the factfinding panel shall frame the issues and submit them to the arbitration board.

(2) The arbitration board shall give the parties a full and fair hearing, including an opportunity to present evidence in support of their claims,

and an opportunity to present their case in person, by counsel or by other representative as they may elect. Decisions of the arbitration board shall be conclusive and binding upon the parties. The arbitration board shall render its decision within 45 days after its appointment.

(3) Costs of the arbitration board and factfinding panel shall be shared equally by the Postal Service and the bargaining representative.

(d) In the case of a bargaining unit whose recognized collective-bargaining representative does not have an agreement with the Postal Service, if the parties fail to reach agreement within 90 days of the commencement of collective bargaining, a factfinding panel will be established in accordance with the terms of subsection (b) of this section, unless the parties have previously agreed to another procedure for a binding resolution of their differences. If the parties fail to reach agreement within 180 days of the commencement of collective bargaining, and if they have not agreed to another procedure for binding resolution, an arbitration board shall be established to provide conclusive and binding arbitration in accordance with the terms of subsection (c) of this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 735.)

§ 1208. Suits

(a) The courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction with respect to actions brought by the National Labor Relations Board under this chapter to the same extent that they have jurisdiction with respect to actions under title 29.

(b) Suits for violation of contracts between the Postal Service and a labor organization representing Postal Service employees, or between any such labor organizations, may be brought in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the parties, without respect to the amount in controversy.

(c) A labor organization and the Postal Service shall be bound by the authorized acts of their agents. Any labor organization may sue or be sued as an entity and in behalf of the employees whom it represents in the courts of the United States. Any money judgment against a labor organization in a district court of the United States shall be enforceable only against the organization as an entity and against its assets, and shall not be enforceable against any individual member or his assets.

(d) For the purposes of actions and proceedings by or against labor organizations in the district courts of the United States, district courts shall be deemed to have jurisdiction of a labor organization (1) in the district in which such organization maintains its principal offices, or (2) in any district in which its duly authorized officers or agents are engaged in representing or acting for employee members.

(e) The service of summons, subpoena, or other legal process of any court of the United States upon an officer or agent of a labor organization, in his capacity as such, shall constitute service upon the labor organization.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 736.)

§ 1209. Applicability of Federal labor laws

(a) Employee-management relations shall, to the extent not inconsistent with provisions of

this title, be subject to the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 7 of title 29.

(b) The provisions of chapter 11 of title 29 shall be applicable to labor organizations that have or are seeking to attain recognition under section 1203 of this title, and to such organizations, officers, agents, shop stewards, other representatives, and members to the extent to which such provisions would be applicable if the Postal Service were an employer under section 402 of title 29. In addition to the authority conferred on him under section 438 of title 29, the Secretary of Labor shall have authority, by regulation issued with the written concurrence of the Postal Service, to prescribe simplified reports for any such labor organization. The Secretary of Labor may revoke such provision for simplified forms of any such labor organization if he determines, after such investigation as he deems proper and after due notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the purposes of this chapter and of chapter 11 of title 29 would be served thereby.

(c) Each employee of the Postal Service shall have the right, freely and without fear of penalty or reprisal, to form, join, and assist a labor organization or to refrain from any such activity, and each employee shall be protected in the exercise of this right.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 737.)

PART III—MODERNIZATION AND FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

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AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-62, §11(c), Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 296, added item for chapter 28.

CHAPTER 20—FINANCE

Sec.	
2001.	Definitions.
2002.	Capital of the Postal Service.
2003.	The Postal Service Fund.
2004.	Transitional appropriations.
2005.	Obligations.
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2007.	Public debt character of the obligations of the Postal Service.
2008.	Audit and expenditures.
2009.	Annual budget.
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2010.	Restrictions on agreements.

AMENDMENTS

1989—Pub. L. 101-239, title IV, §4001(a)(2), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2133, added item 2009a.

§ 2001. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) "Fund" means the Postal Service Fund established by section 2003 of this chapter; and

(2) "obligations", when referring to debt instruments issued by the Postal Service, means

notes, bonds, debentures, mortgages, and any other evidence of indebtedness.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 738.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 2002. Capital of the Postal Service

(a) The initial capital of the Postal Service shall consist of the equity, as reflected in the budget of the President, of the Government of the United States in the former Post Office Department. The value of assets and the amount of liabilities transferred to the Postal Service upon the commencement of operations of the Postal Service shall be determined by the Postal Service subject to the approval of the Comptroller General, in accordance with the following guidelines:

(1) Assets shall be valued on the basis of original cost less depreciation, to the extent that such value can be determined. The value recorded on the former Post Office Department's books of account shall be prima facie evidence of asset value.

(2) All liabilities attributable to operations of the former Post Office Department shall remain liabilities of the Government of the United States, except that upon commencement of operations of the Postal Service, the unexpended balances of appropriations made to, held or used by, or available to the former Post Office Department and all liabilities chargeable thereto shall become assets and liabilities, respectively, of the Postal Service.

(b) The capital of the Postal Service at any time shall consist of its assets, including the balance in the Fund, less its liabilities.

(c) The Postal Service, and the Administrator of General Services where properties under the jurisdiction of the Administrator are involved, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall determine which Federal properties shall be transferred to the Postal Service and which shall remain under the jurisdiction of any other department, agency, or establishment of the Government of the United States upon the commencement of operations of the Postal Service. The transfer shall be accomplished at the time of or as near as possible to the commencement of operations of the Postal Service and the valuation of the assets and capital of the Postal Service shall be adjusted accordingly. The following properties shall be included in the transfer:

(1) the mail equipment shops located in Washington, District of Columbia;

(2) all machinery, equipment, and appurtenances of the former Post Office Department;

(3) all real property whose ownership was acquired by the Postmaster General under former section 2103 of this title, as in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this section, or which immediately prior to such effective date, is under the administration of the former Post Office Department for the

purpose of constructing a postal building from funds appropriated or transferred to the former Post Office Department, together with all funds appropriated or allocated therefor;

(4) all real property 55 percent or more of which is occupied by or under control of the former Post Office Department immediately prior to the effective date of this section;

(5) all contracts, records, and documents relating to the operation of the departmental service and the postal field service of the former Post Office Department; and

(6) all other property and assets of the former Post Office Department.

(d) After the commencement of operations of the Postal Service, the President is authorized to transfer to the Postal Service, and the Postal Service is authorized to transfer to other departments, agencies, or independent establishments of the Government of the United States, with or without reimbursement, any property of that department, agency, or independent establishment and the Postal Service, respectively, when the public interest would be served by such transfer.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 738.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this section, referred to in subsec. (c)(3), (4), is July 1, 1971. See Effective Date note set out under section 2001 of this title.

ASSETS OF POSTAL SERVICE

Section 4(b) of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that: "Postal revenues and fees collected on and after the effective date of this section [see note below] shall be considered assets of the Postal Service."

Provisions of section 4(b) of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

EX. ORD. NO. 11672. TRANSFER OR FURNISHING OF PROPERTY

Ex. Ord. No. 11672, June 6, 1972, 37 F.R. 11455, provided: By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Postal Reorganization Act (39 U.S.C. 2002(d)) and section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, and as President of the United States it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. The authority conferred upon the President by section 2002(d) of title 39 of the United States Code is hereby delegated to the Administrator of General Services subject to the provisions of this order.

SEC. 2. Property transferred to the Postal Service under this order shall be subject to reimbursement at fair market value, as agreed to by the Administrator of General Services and the Postmaster General, unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget finds that a different basis of valuation, or transfer without reimbursement, is more equitable or better serves the public interest.

SEC. 3. Reimbursement of fair market value required for property transfers to the Postal Service under this order may consist of cash payments or, subject to approval by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, property transferred from the Postal Service to other departments, agencies, or independent establishments of the Government of the United States, or both cash and approved properties.

SEC. 4. Heads of agencies furnishing property to the Postal Service under section 411 of title 39 of the United States Code shall require reimbursement at fair market value of such property or at a rate based on ap-

propriate commercial charges for comparable property, as agreed to by the agency head and the Postmaster General, unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget finds that a different basis of valuation is more equitable or better serves the public interest.

SEC. 5. Delegations of authority made in this order may be redelegated.

RICHARD NIXON.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 401 of this title.

§ 2003. The Postal Service Fund

(a) There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be called the Postal Service Fund which shall be available to the Postal Service without fiscal-year limitation to carry out the purposes, functions, and powers authorized by this title.

(b) There shall be deposited in the Fund, subject to withdrawal by check by the Postal Service—

(1) revenues from postal and nonpostal services rendered by the Postal Service;

(2) amounts received from obligations issued by the Postal Service;

(3) amounts appropriated for the use of the Postal Service;

(4) interest which may be earned on investments of the Fund;

(5) any other receipts of the Postal Service;

(6) the balance in the Post Office Department Fund established under former section 2202 of title 39 as of the commencement of operations of the Postal Service;

(7) amounts (including proceeds from the sale of forfeited items) from any civil forfeiture conducted by the Postal Service; and

(8) any transfers from the Secretary of the Treasury from the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund which shall be available to the Postmaster General only for Federal law enforcement related purposes.

(c) If the Postal Service determines that the moneys of the Fund are in excess of current needs, it may request the investment of such amounts as it deems advisable by the Secretary of the Treasury in obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by, the Government of the United States, and, with the approval of the Secretary, in such other obligations or securities as it deems appropriate.

(d) With the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postal Service may deposit moneys of the Fund in any Federal Reserve bank, any depository for public funds, or in such other places and in such manner as the Postal Service and the Secretary may mutually agree.

(e)(1) The Fund shall be available for the payment of all expenses incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out its functions as provided by law and, subject to the provisions of section 3604 of this title, all of the expenses of the Postal Rate Commission. The Postmaster General shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund amounts appropriate to reflect the degree of participation of Department of the Treasury law enforcement organizations (described in section 9703(p)¹ of title

¹ See References in Text note below.

31) in the law enforcement effort resulting in the forfeiture pursuant to laws enforced or administered by the Postal Service. Neither the Fund nor any of the funds credited to it shall be subject to apportionment under the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 15 of title 31.

(2) Funds appropriated to the Postal Service under sections 2401 and 2004 of this title shall be apportioned as provided in this paragraph. From the total amounts appropriated to the Postal Service for any fiscal year under the authorizations contained in sections 2401 and 2004 of this title, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Postal Service 25 percent of such amount at the beginning of each quarter of such fiscal year.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any amounts appropriated to the Postal Service under subsection (d) of section 2401 of this title and deposited into the Fund shall be expended by the Postal Service only for the purposes provided in such subsection.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of section 8147 of title 5, whenever the Secretary of Labor furnishes a statement to the Postal Service indicating an amount due from the Postal Service under subsection (b) of that section, the Postal Service shall make the deposit required pursuant to that statement (and any additional payment under subsection (c) of that section, to the extent that it relates to the period covered by such statement) not later than 30 days after the date on which such statement is so furnished. Any deposit (and any additional payment) which is subject to the preceding sentence shall, once made, remain available without fiscal year limitation.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 739; Pub. L. 94-421, §2(c), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1304; Pub. L. 97-35, title XVII, §1725, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 760; Pub. L. 97-258, §3(l)(1), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1066; Pub. L. 99-500, §101(m) [title II, §201(b)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-308, 1783-314, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(m) [title II, §201(b)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-308, 3341-314; Pub. L. 100-690, title VI, §6252, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4362; Pub. L. 101-239, title IV, §4004(a), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2135; Pub. L. 102-393, title VI, §638(g), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1790.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Former section 2202 of title 39, referred to in subsec. (a)(6), means section 2202 of former Title 39, The Postal Service, prior to the general revision and reenactment of Title 39 by Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

Section 9703(f) of title 31, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), probably means the section 9703 of title 31 added by section 638(b)(1) of Pub. L. 102-393, title VI, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1779.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 99-591 is a corrected version of Pub. L. 99-500.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 102-393, §638(g)(1), added par. (8).

Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 102-393, §638(g)(2), inserted after first sentence “The Postmaster General shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund amounts appropriate to reflect the degree of participation of Department of the Treasury law en-

forcement organizations (described in section 9703(p) of title 31) in the law enforcement effort resulting in the forfeiture pursuant to laws enforced or administered by the Postal Service.”

1989—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-239 added subsec. (g).

1988—Subsec. (b)(7). Pub. L. 100-690 struck out “administrative” after “civil” and “under title 18” after “Service”.

1986—Subsec. (b)(7). Pub. L. 99-500 and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(m) [title II, §201(b)(1)-(3)], added par. (7).

Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 99-500 and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(m) [title II, §201(b)(4)], substituted “as provided by law” for “under this title”.

1982—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 97-258 substituted “subchapter II of chapter 15 of title 31” for “section 665 of title 31”.

1981—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 97-35 redesignated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1976—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 94-421 added subsec. (f).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Section 4004(b) of Pub. L. 101-239 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1989.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Section 1727 of Pub. L. 97-35 provided that: “The provisions of this subtitle [subtitle B (§§1721-1727) of title XVII of Pub. L. 97-35, amending this section and section 2401 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 403, 2004, and 2401 of this title] (other than section 1726 and this section) shall take effect on October 1, 1981. The provisions of sections 1726 [enacting a provision set out as a note under section 403 of this title] and this section [enacting this provision] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 13, 1981].”

CONTRIBUTIONS BY UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY FUND

Pub. L. 100-203, title VI, §6002, Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-276, provided that:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTAL SERVICE ESCROW FUND.—There is established as a separate account in the United States Treasury, the ‘Postal Service Escrow Fund’. Such Fund shall—

“(1) have such amounts described under subsection (b)(2) deposited no later than October 31, 1988;

“(2) not be available for expenditures of any amounts therein during the existence of such Fund; and

“(3) cease to exist on October 1, 1989, and on such date all amounts deposited in such Fund under subsection (b)(2) shall be deposited in the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39, United States Code.

“(b) DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN SAVINGS IN CERTAIN FUNDS.—

“(1) FISCAL YEAR 1988.—From all funds available to the United States Postal Service in fiscal year 1988, the Postal Service shall deposit into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund established under section 8348 of title 5, United States Code, an amount of \$350,000,000 in fiscal year 1988, in addition to any amount deposited pursuant to subsection (h) of such section.

“(2) FISCAL YEAR 1989.—From all funds available to the United States Postal Service in fiscal year 1989, the Postal Service shall deposit into the Postal Service Escrow Fund an amount of \$465,000,000 no later than October 31, 1988.

“(c) CAPITAL LIMITATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1988 AND 1989.—

“(1) The United States Postal Service may not make any commitment or obligation to expend any monies deposited in the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39, United States Code, for the capital investment program—

“(A) in excess of \$625,000,000 in fiscal year 1988; and

“(B) in excess of \$1,995,000,000 in fiscal year 1989.
“(2) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS.—For the purposes of paragraph (1) the term ‘capital investment program’ shall include all investments in long-term assets and capital investment expenditures (including direct and indirect costs associated with such investments and expenditures, such as obligations through contracts).”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2001, 3604 of this title; title 18 section 2254; title 21 section 881; title 28 section 524; title 31 sections 3806, 9703; title 40 section 356; title 42 section 10601.

§ 2004. Transitional appropriations

Such sums as are necessary to insure a sound financial transition for the Postal Service and a rate policy consistent with chapter 36 of this title are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Fund without regard to fiscal-year limitation.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 739.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

REDUCTION OF TRANSITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Pub. L. 97-35, title XVII, §1724, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 760, provided that:

“(a) Notwithstanding the authorization contained in section 2004 of title 39, United States Code, no sums are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund for the purposes of such section during fiscal years 1982 through 1984. During fiscal year 1985, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such section during such fiscal year, together with such amounts as would have been available to the Fund for fiscal years 1982 through 1984 were this section not enacted.

“(b) From amounts available to the Postal Service from the Fund, during fiscal years 1982 through 1984 the Postal Service shall meet the transitional expenses referred to under section 2004 of title 39, United States Code, to the same extent as the Postal Service would have met such expenses were subsection (a) of this section not enacted.”

TRANSITIONAL EXPENSES

Section 12 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that the expenses of the United States Postal Service and the Postal Rate Commission from Aug. 12, 1970, to the commencement of operations of the Postal Service and the Commission were deemed necessary expenses of the administration of the Post Office Department as now constituted.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2003 of this title.

§ 2005. Obligations

(a)(1) The Postal Service is authorized to borrow money and to issue and sell such obligations as it determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this title. The aggregate amount of any such obligations outstanding at any one time shall not exceed the maximum amount then allowable under paragraph (2) of this subsection. In any one fiscal year the net increase in the amount of obligations outstanding issued for the purpose of capital improvements shall not exceed \$2,000,000,000, and the net increase in the

amount of obligations outstanding issued for the purpose of defraying operating expenses of the Postal Service shall not exceed \$1,000,000,000.

(2) The maximum amount allowable under this paragraph is—

- (A) \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1990;
- (B) \$12,500,000,000 for fiscal year 1991; and
- (C) \$15,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1992 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) The Postal Service may pledge the assets of the Postal Service and pledge and use its revenues and receipts for the payment of the principal of or interest on such obligations, for the purchase or redemption thereof, and for other purposes incidental thereto, including creation of reserve, sinking, and other funds which may be similarly pledged and used, to such extent and in such manner as it deems necessary or desirable. The Postal Service is authorized to enter into binding covenants with the holders of such obligations, and with the trustee, if any, under any agreement entered into in connection with the issuance thereof with respect to the establishment of reserve, sinking, and other funds, application and use of revenues and receipts of the Postal Service, stipulations concerning the subsequent issuance of obligations or the execution of leases or lease purchases relating to properties of the Postal Service and such other matters as the Postal Service deems necessary or desirable to enhance the marketability of such obligations.

(c) Obligations issued by the Postal Service under this section—

- (1) shall be in such forms and denominations;
- (2) shall be sold at such times and in such amounts;
- (3) shall mature at such time or times;
- (4) shall be sold at such prices;
- (5) shall bear such rates of interest;
- (6) may be redeemable before maturity in such manner, at such times, and at such redemption premiums;
- (7) may be entitled to such relative priorities of claim on the assets of the Postal Service with respect to principal and interest payments; and
- (8) shall be subject to such other terms and conditions;

as the Postal Service determines.

(d) Obligations issued by the Postal Service under this section shall—

- (1) be negotiable or nonnegotiable and bearer or registered instruments, as specified therein and in any indenture or covenant relating thereto;
- (2) contain a recital that they are issued under this section, and such recital shall be conclusive evidence of the regularity of the issuance and sale of such obligations and of their validity;
- (3) be lawful investments and may be accepted as security for all fiduciary, trust, and public funds, the investment or deposit of which shall be under the authority or control of any officer or agency of the Government of the United States, and the Secretary of the Treasury or any other officer or agency having authority over or control of any such fiduciary,

trust, or public funds, may at any time sell any of the obligations of the Postal Service acquired under this section;

(4) be exempt both as to principal and interest from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by any State or local taxing authority except estate, inheritance, and gift taxes; and

(5) not be obligations of, nor shall payment of the principal thereof or interest thereon be guaranteed by, the Government of the United States, except as provided in section 2006(c) of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 740; Pub. L. 101-227, § 3(a), Dec. 12, 1989, 103 Stat. 1944.)

AMENDMENTS

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-227 designated existing provisions as par. (1), substituted “the maximum amount then allowable under paragraph (2) of this subsection” for “\$10,000,000,000”, “\$2,000,000,000” for “\$1,500,000,000”, and “\$1,000,000,000” for “\$500,000,000” and added par. (2).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Section 3(b) of Pub. L. 101-227 provided that: “(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1990.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the amendments made by subsection (a) shall not take effect, if no law to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 5 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year 1990 is enacted before October 1, 1990.” [Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, Pub. L. 101-239, Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2106, was enacted Dec. 19, 1989.]

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2006 of this title.

§ 2006. Relationship between the Treasury and the Postal Service

(a) At least 15 days before selling any issue of obligations under section 2005 of this title, the Postal Service shall advise the Secretary of the Treasury of the amount, proposed date of sale, maturities, terms and conditions, and expected maximum rates of interest of the proposed issue in appropriate detail and shall consult with him or his designee thereon. The Secretary may elect to purchase such obligations under such terms, including rates of interest, as he and the Postal Service may agree, but at a rate of yield no less than the prevailing yield on outstanding marketable Treasury securities of comparable maturity, as determined by the Secretary. If the Secretary does not purchase such obligations, the Postal Service may proceed to issue and sell them to a party or parties other than the Secretary upon notice to the Secretary and upon consultation as to the date of issuance, maximum rates of interest, and other terms and conditions.

(b) Subject to the conditions of subsection (a) of this section, the Postal Service may require the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase obligations of the Postal Service in such amounts as will not cause the holding by the Secretary of the Treasury resulting from such required purchases to exceed \$2,000,000,000 at any one time. This subsection shall not be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary to purchase

obligations of the Postal Service in excess of such amount.

(c) Notwithstanding section 2005(d)(5) of this title, obligations issued by the Postal Service shall be obligations of the Government of the United States, and payment of principal and interest thereon shall be fully guaranteed by the Government of the United States, such guaranty being expressed on the face thereof, if and to the extent that—

(1) the Postal Service requests the Secretary of the Treasury to pledge the full faith and credit of the Government of the United States for the payment of principal and interest thereon; and

(2) the Secretary, in his discretion, determines that it would be in the public interest to do so.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 741.)

§ 2007. Public debt character of the obligations of the Postal Service

For the purpose of any purchase of the obligations of the Postal Service, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to use as a public debt transaction the proceeds from the sale of any securities issued under chapter 31 of title 31, as now or hereafter in force, and the purposes for which securities may be issued under chapter 31 of title 31, as now or hereafter in force, are extended to include any purchases of the obligations of the Postal Service under this chapter. The Secretary of the Treasury may, at any time, sell any of the obligations of the Postal Service acquired by him under this chapter. All redemptions, purchases, and sales by the Secretary of the obligations of the Postal Service shall be treated as public debt transactions of the United States.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 741; Pub. L. 97-452, § 2(f), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2479.)

AMENDMENTS

1983—Pub. L. 97-452 substituted “chapter 31 of title 31” for “the Second Liberty Bond Act” wherever appearing.

§ 2008. Audit and expenditures

(a) The accounts and operations of the Postal Service shall be audited by the Comptroller General and reports thereon made to the Congress to the extent and at such times as he may determine.

(b) The Postal Service shall maintain an adequate internal audit of the financial transactions of the Postal Service.

(c) Subject only to the provisions of this chapter, the Postal Service is authorized to make such expenditures and to enter into such contracts, agreements, and arrangements, upon such terms and conditions and in such manner as it deems necessary, including the final settlement of all claims and litigation by or against the Postal Service.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as denying to the Postal Service the power to obtain audits of the accounts of the Postal Service and reports concerning its financial condition and operations by certified public accounting firms. Such audits and reports shall be in addition to those required by this section.

(e) At least once each year beginning with the fiscal year commencing after June 30, 1971, the Postal Service shall obtain a certification from an independent, certified public accounting firm of the accuracy of any financial statements of the Postal Service used in determining and establishing postal rates.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 741.)

§ 2009. Annual budget

The Postal Service shall cause to be prepared annually a budget program which shall be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, under such rules and regulations as the President may establish as to the date of submission, the form and content, the classifications of data, and the manner in which such budget program shall be prepared and presented. The budget program shall be a business-type budget, or plan of operations, with due allowance given to the need for flexibility, including provision for emergencies and contingencies, in order that the Postal Service may properly carry out its activities as authorized by law. The budget program shall contain estimates of the financial condition and operations of the Postal Service for the current and ensuing fiscal years and the actual condition and results of operation for the last completed fiscal year. Such budget program shall include a statement of financial condition, a statement of income and expense, an analysis of surplus or deficit, a statement of sources and application of funds, and such other supplementary statements and information as are necessary or desirable to make known the financial condition and operations of the Postal Service. Such statements shall include estimates of operations by major types of activities, together with estimates of administrative expenses and estimates of borrowings. The budget program shall also include separate statements of the amounts which the Postal Service requests to be appropriated under subsections (b) and (c) of section 2401 of this title. The President shall include these amounts, with his recommendations but without revision, in the budget transmitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 742; Pub. L. 93-328, § 3, June 30, 1974, 88 Stat. 288; Pub. L. 97-258, § 3(l)(2), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1066.)

AMENDMENTS

1982—Pub. L. 97-258 substituted “section 1105 of title 31” for “section 11 of title 31”.

1974—Pub. L. 93-328 required the budget program to include separate statements of the amounts which the Postal Service requests to be appropriated under section 2401(b) and (c) of this title and the President to include these amounts in the budget transmitted to Congress.

OPERATIONS OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AS MAJOR TYPE OF ACTIVITY FOR BUDGET PURPOSES

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(a)(3)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-379, provided that: “For purposes of the fifth sentence of section 2009 of title 39, United States Code, the operations of the Office of Inspector General of the United States Postal Service shall be considered a major type of activity.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2401 of this title.

§ 2009a. Budgetary treatment of the Postal Service Fund

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the receipts and disbursements of the Postal Service Fund, including disbursements for administrative expenses incurred in connection with the Fund—

(1) shall not be included in the totals of—

(A) the budget of the United States Government as submitted by the President, or

(B) the congressional budget (including allocations of budget authority and outlays provided therein);

(2) shall be exempt from any general budget limitation imposed by statute on expenditures and net lending (budget outlays) of the United States Government; and

(3) shall be exempt from any order issued under part C of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and shall not be counted for purposes of calculating the deficit under section 3(6) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 for purposes of comparison with the maximum deficit amount under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 nor counted in calculating the excess deficit for purposes of sections 251 and 252¹ of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, for any fiscal year.

(Added Pub. L. 101-239, title IV, §4001(a)(1), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2133.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, referred to in par. (3), is title II of Pub. L. 99-177, Dec. 12, 1985, 99 Stat. 1038, as amended. Part C of the Act is classified generally to subchapter I (§900 et seq.) of chapter 20 of Title 2, The Congress. Sections 251 and 252 of the Act are classified to sections 901 and 902, respectively, of Title 2, and were amended generally by Pub. L. 101-508, title XIII, §13101(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-577, 1388-581. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 900 of Title 2 and Tables.

Section 3(6) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, referred to in par. (3), is classified to section 622(6) of Title 2.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 4001(c) of Pub. L. 101-239 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [enacting this section] shall apply with respect to budgets for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1989.”

CONSTRUCTION

Section 4001(b) of Pub. L. 101-239 provided that: “Nothing in any amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall be considered to diminish the oversight responsibilities or authority of the Congress under law, rule, or regulation with respect to the budget and operations of the United States Postal Service.”

§ 2010. Restrictions on agreements

The Postal Service shall promote modern and efficient operations and should refrain from expending any funds, engaging in any practice, or entering into any agreement or contract, other than an agreement or contract under chapter 12

¹ See References in Text note below.

of this title, which restricts the use of new equipment or devices which may reduce the cost or improve the quality of postal services, except where such restriction is necessary to insure safe and healthful employment conditions.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 742.)

CHAPTER 22—CONVICT LABOR

Sec.

2201. No postal equipment or supplies manufactured by convict labor.

§ 2201. No postal equipment or supplies manufactured by convict labor

Except as provided in chapter 307 of title 18, the Postal Service may not make a contract for the purchase of equipment or supplies to be manufactured by convict labor.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 742.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

CHAPTER 24—APPROPRIATIONS AND ANNUAL REPORT

Sec.

2401. Appropriations.
2402. Annual report.

§ 2401. Appropriations

(a) There are appropriated to the Postal Service all revenues received by the Postal Service.

(b)(1) As reimbursement to the Postal Service for public service costs incurred by it in providing a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service nationwide, in communities where post offices may not be deemed self-sustaining, as elsewhere, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Postal Service the following amounts:

(A) for each of the fiscal years 1972 through 1979, an amount equal to 10 percent of the sum appropriated to the former Post Office Department by Act of Congress for its use in fiscal year 1971;

(B) for fiscal year 1980, an amount equal to 9 percent of such sum for fiscal year 1971;

(C) for fiscal year 1981, \$486,000,000;

(D) for fiscal year 1982, \$250,000,000;

(E) for fiscal year 1983, \$100,000,000;

(F) for fiscal year 1984, no funds are authorized to be appropriated; and

(G) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, for each fiscal year thereafter an amount equal to 5 percent of such sum for fiscal year 1971.

(2) After fiscal year 1984, the Postal Service may reduce the percentage figure in paragraph (1)(G) of this subsection, including a reduction to 0, if the Postal Service finds that the amounts determined under such paragraph are no longer required to operate the Postal Service in accordance with the policies of this title.

(c) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Postal Service each year a sum determined by the Postal Service to be equal to the dif-

ference between the revenues the Postal Service would have received if sections 3217 and 3403 through 3406 had not been enacted and the estimated revenues to be received on mail carried under such sections. In requesting an appropriation under this subsection for a fiscal year, the Postal Service shall include an amount to reconcile sums authorized to be appropriated for prior fiscal years on the basis of estimated mail volume.

(d) As reimbursement to the Postal Service for losses which it incurred as a result of insufficient amounts appropriated under section 2401(c) for fiscal years 1991 through 1993, and to compensate for the additional revenues it is estimated the Postal Service would have received under the provisions of section 3626(a), for the period beginning on October 1, 1993, and ending on September 30, 1998, if the fraction specified in subclause (VI) of section 3626(a)(3)(B)(ii) were applied with respect to such period (instead of the respective fractions specified in subclauses (I) through (V) thereof), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Postal Service \$29,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1994 through 2035.

(e) The Postal Service shall present to the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the same time it submits its annual budget under section 2009 of this title, sufficient copies of the budget of the Postal Service for the fiscal year for which funds are requested to be appropriated, and a comprehensive statement relating to the following matters:

(1) the plans, policies, and procedures of the Postal Service designed to comply with all of the provisions of section 101 of this title;

(2) postal operations generally, including data on the speed and reliability of service provided for the various classes of mail and types of mail service, mail volume, productivity, trends in postal operations, and analyses of the impact of internal and external factors upon the Postal Service;

(3) a listing of the total expenditures and obligations incurred by the Postal Service for the most recent fiscal year for which information is available, an estimate of the total expenditures and obligations to be incurred by the Postal Service during the fiscal year for which funds are requested to be appropriated, and the means by which these estimated expenses will be financed; and

(4) such other matters as the committees may determine necessary to ensure that the Congress is fully and currently consulted and informed on postal operations, plans, and policies.

Not later than March 15 of each year, the Postal Service shall appear before the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service of the House of Representatives to submit information which any such committee considers necessary to determine the amount of funds to be appropriated for the operation of the Postal Service, and to present testimony and respond to questions with respect to such budget and

statement. Each such committee shall take such action as it considers appropriate and shall advise the Postal Service of such action.

(f) The failure of the President to request the appropriation of any part of the funds authorized by this section may not be deemed a failure of appropriations.

(g) The rates established under chapter 36 of this title for zone-rated parcels formerly entered under former chapter 67 of this title shall not be more than 10 percent less than the rates for such mail would be if the funds authorized under subsection (b) were not appropriated.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 743; Pub. L. 94-421, §2(a), (b), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1303; Pub. L. 95-593, §11(a), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2538; Pub. L. 96-499, title IV, §§411, 414(a), Dec. 5, 1980, 94 Stat. 2607; Pub. L. 97-35, title XVII, §1721, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 759; Pub. L. 99-410, title II, §201(b)(2), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 928; Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, §6003(b), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1933; Pub. L. 101-509, title II, §1(b), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1398; Pub. L. 102-141, title II, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 842; Pub. L. 103-31, §8(h)(2), May 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 86; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §§703(a), 704(b)(1), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1267, 1270; Pub. L. 103-437, §13, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4590.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Former chapter 67 of title 39, referred to in subsec. (g), means chapter 67 (§451 et seq.) of former Title 39, The Postal Service, prior to the general revision and reenactment of Title 39 by Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-437, in introductory provisions, substituted “Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service of the House of Representatives” for “Committees on Post Office and Civil Service”, and, in concluding provisions, substituted “Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service of the House of Representatives” for “Committees on Post Office and Civil Service of the Senate and the House of Representatives”.

1993—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-123, §703(a), in first sentence substituted “if sections 3217 and 3403 through 3406 had not been enacted” for “if sections 3217, 3403-3406, 3626(a)-(h), 3626(j)-(k), and 3629 of this title, had not been enacted” and “such sections.” for “such sections and Acts.” and in second sentence struck out “(i)” after “Postal Service shall” and substituted “volume.” for “volume; and (ii) calculate the sums requested in respect of mail under former sections 4452(b) and 4452(c) of this title as though all such mail consisted of letter shaped pieces, as such pieces are defined in the then effective classification and rate schedules.”

Pub. L. 103-31 substituted “3626(a)-(h), 3626(j)-(k), and 3629 of this title” for “and 3626(a)-(h) and (j)-(k) of this title,” in first sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(b)(1)(A), (E), added subsec. (d) and struck out former subsec. (d) which read as follows:

“(d)(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Postal Service for fiscal year 1976 and for the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1976, the amount of \$500,000,000 to be applied against the accumulated operating indebtedness of the Postal Service as of September 30, 1976.

“(2) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Postal Service for fiscal year 1977 the amount of \$500,000,000 to be applied against the accumulated operating indebtedness of the Postal Service as of September 30, 1977.”

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(b)(1)(A), (B), redesignated subsec. (g) as (e) and struck out former subsec. (e) which restricted Postal Service from effectuating any rate of postage exceeding rates in effect on Sept. 24, 1976, diminishing services below July 1, 1976, levels, closing post offices where 35 or more families regularly receive their mail and which was providing service on July 1, 1976, or closing post offices where fewer than 35 families receive their mail and which was providing service on July 1, 1976, unless 60 percent of patrons consent to such closing in writing.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(b)(1)(A)-(C), redesignated subsec. (h) as (f), struck out at end “The failure of the President to request the appropriation of any part of the funds authorized by this section shall not relieve the Postal Service from the responsibility to comply with the provisions of subsections (e) and (f) of this section.”, and struck out former subsec. (f) which read as follows: “During the period beginning on the date of the appropriation of the funds under subsection (d)(1) and ending on the date on which the Commission on Postal Service is required to transmit the final report required under section 7(f)(1) of the Postal Reorganization Act Amendments of 1976 to the President and each House of Congress, the Postal Service shall provide door delivery or curbside delivery to all permanent residential addresses (other than apartment building addresses) to which service is begun on or after the date of enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act Amendments of 1976.”

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(b)(1)(B), (D), redesignated (i) as (g) and substituted “subsection (b)” for “subsections (b) and (d) of this section”. Former subsec. (g) redesignated (e).

Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(b)(1)(B), redesignated subsecs. (h) and (i) as (f) and (g), respectively.

1991—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-141 amended last sentence generally. Prior to amendment, last sentence read as follows: “In requesting an appropriation under this subsection for a fiscal year, the Postal Service shall include an amount to reconcile sums authorized to be appropriated for prior fiscal years on the basis of estimated mail volume with sums which would have been authorized to be appropriated if based on the final audited mail volume.”

1990—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-509 substituted “3626(a)-(h) and (j)-(k)” for “3626(a)-(h)”.

1986—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-509 substituted “3626(a)-(h)” for “3626”.

Pub. L. 99-410 substituted “3406” for “3405” and struck out “the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975, and the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955” after “3626 of this title.”

1981—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 97-35 substituted “\$250,000,000” for “an amount equal to 7 percent of such sum for fiscal year 1971” in subpar. (D), substituted “\$100,000,000” for “an amount equal to 6 percent of such sum for fiscal year 1971” in subpar. (E), and substituted “no funds are authorized to be appropriated” for “an amount equal to 5 percent of such sum for fiscal year 1971” in subpar. (F).

1980—Subsec. (b)(1)(C). Pub. L. 96-499, §411, substituted “\$486,000,000” for “an amount equal to 8 percent of such sum for fiscal year 1971”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-499, §414(a), inserted provision requiring Postal Service when requesting an appropriation under subsec. (c) to reconcile sums authorized to be appropriated for prior fiscal years on the basis of estimated mail volume with sums which would have been authorized if based on the final audited mail volume.

1978—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 95-593 inserted provisions relating to applicability of Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975.

1976—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 94-421, §2(a), struck out par. (3) which required Postal Service, when requesting appropriations, to present to the appropriate committees in Congress, a statement of its compliance with the cost policy established under section 101(b) of this title.

Subsecs. (d) to (i). Pub. L. 94-421, §2(b), added subsecs. (d) to (i).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENTS

Section 703(b) of Pub. L. 103-123 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to appropriations for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1993."

Section 704(c)(2) of Pub. L. 103-123 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (b) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to appropriations for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1993."

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-31 effective (1) with respect to a State that, on May 20, 1993, has a provision in the constitution of the State that would preclude compliance with section 1973gg et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, unless the State maintained separate Federal and State official lists of eligible voters, on the later of Jan. 1, 1996, or the date that is 120 days after the date by which, under the constitution of the State as in effect on May 20, 1993, it would be legally possible to adopt and place into effect any amendments to the constitution of the State that are necessary to permit compliance with section 1973gg et seq. of Title 42 without requiring a special election, and (2) with respect to a State not described in cl. (1) on Jan. 1, 1995, see section 13 of Pub. L. 103-31, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1973gg of Title 42.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Section 1(c) of Pub. L. 101-509 provided that: "The amendment enacted by this section [amending this section and section 3626 of this title] shall become effective ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 5, 1990]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-509 effective Jan. 1, 1989, or effective date of next general change in rates and fees under sections 3622 and 3625 of this title [Apr. 3, 1988], whichever is sooner, see section 6003(c) of Pub. L. 99-509 set out as a note under section 3626 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-410 applicable with respect to elections taking place after Dec. 31, 1987, see section 204 of Pub. L. 99-410, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1973ff of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-35 effective Oct. 1, 1981, see section 1727 of Pub. L. 97-35, set out as a note under section 2003 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 415 of Pub. L. 96-499 provided that: "The provisions of this subtitle, including the amendments made by this subtitle [subtitle B (§§411-415) of title IV of Pub. L. 96-499, amending this section and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 403 of this title], shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 5, 1980]."

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subsec. (a) of this section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9, of the Board of Governors, and subsecs. (b) and (c) effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

ABOLITION OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Committee on Post Office and Civil Service of House of Representatives abolished by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Fourth Congress, Jan. 4, 1995. References to Committee on Post Office and Civil Service treated as referring to Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of House of Representatives, see section 1(b) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress.

REDUCTION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR REVENUE FOREGONE

Pub. L. 99-272, title XV, §15101, Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 330, provided that: "Notwithstanding subsection (c) of

section 2401 of title 39, United States Code, the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to such subsection for fiscal year 1986 shall be \$749,000,000."

Section 1723 of Pub. L. 97-35, as amended effective Oct. 1, 1982, by Pub. L. 97-216, title I, §101, July 18, 1982, 96 Stat. 189, provided that: "Notwithstanding section 2401(c) of title 39, United States Code, the amount authorized to be appropriated under such section shall not exceed—

- "(1) \$696,000,000 for fiscal year 1982;
- "(2) \$708,000,000 for fiscal year 1983; or
- "(3) \$760,000,000 for fiscal year 1984."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2003, 2009, 2803, 2804, 3626, 3627 of this title.

§ 2402. Annual report

The Postmaster General shall render an annual report to the Board concerning the operations of the Postal Service under this title. Upon approval thereof, or after making such changes as it considers appropriate, the Board shall transmit such reports to the President and the Congress.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 743.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

CHAPTER 26—DEBTS AND COLLECTION

Sec.	
2601.	Collection and adjustment of debts.
2602.	Transportation of international mail by air carriers of the United States.
2603.	Settlement of claims for damages caused by the Postal Service.
2604.	Delivery of stolen money to owner.
2605.	Suits to recover wrongful or fraudulent payments.

§ 2601. Collection and adjustment of debts

(a) The Postal Service—

(1) shall collect debts due the Postal Service;

(2) shall collect and remit fines, penalties, and forfeitures arising out of matters affecting the Postal Service;

(3) may adjust, pay, or credit the account of a postmaster or of an enlisted person of an Armed Force performing postal duties, for any loss of Postal Service funds, papers, postage, or other stamped stock or accountable paper; and

(4) may prescribe penalties for failure to render accounts.

The Postal Service may refer any matter, which is uncollectable through administrative action, to the General Accounting Office for collection. This subsection does not affect the authority of the Attorney General in cases in which judicial proceedings are instituted.

(b) In all cases of disability or alleged liability for any sum of money by way of damages or otherwise, under any provision of law in relation to the officers, employees, operations, or business of the Postal Service, the Postal Service shall determine whether the interests of the Postal Service probably require the exercise of its powers over the same. Upon the determina-

tion, the Postal Service on such terms as it deems just and expedient, may—

- (1) remove the disability; or
- (2) compromise, release, or discharge the claim for such sum of money and damages.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 744.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 42 section 10601.

§ 2602. Transportation of international mail by air carriers of the United States

(a) The Postal Service may offset against any balances due another country resulting from the transaction of international money order business, or otherwise, amounts due from that country to the United States, or to the United States for the account of air carriers of the United States transporting mail of that country, when—

- (1) the Postal Service puts into effect rates of compensation to be charged another country for transportation; and
- (2) the United States is required to collect from another country the amounts owed for transportation for the account of the air carriers.

(b) When the Postal Service has proceeded under authority of subsection (a) of this section, it shall—

- (1) give appropriate credit to the country involved;
- (2) pay to the air carrier the portion of the amount so credited which is owed to the air carrier for its services in transporting the mail of the other country; and
- (3) deposit in the Postal Service Fund that portion of the amount so credited which is due the United States on its own account.

(c) The Postal Service may advance to an air carrier, out of funds available for payment of balances due other countries, the amounts determined by the Postal Service to be due from another country to an air carrier for the transportation of its mails when—

- (1) collections are to be made by the United States for the account of air carriers; and
- (2) the Postal Service determines that the balance of funds available is such that the advances may be made therefrom.

Collection from another country of the amount so advanced shall be made by offset, or otherwise, and the appropriation from which the advance is made shall be reimbursed by the collections made by the United States.

(d) If the United States is unable to collect from the debtor country an amount paid or advanced to an air carrier within 12 months after payment or advance has been made, the United States may deduct the uncollected amount from any sums owed by it to the air carrier.

(e) The Postal Service shall adopt such accounting procedures as may be necessary to con-

form to and carry out the purposes of this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 744.)

§ 2603. Settlement of claims for damages caused by the Postal Service

When the Postal Service finds a claim for damage to persons or property resulting from the operation of the Postal Service to be a proper charge against the United States, and it is not cognizable under section 2672 of title 28, it may adjust and settle the claim.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 745.)

CHARGE AGAINST POSTAL REVENUES FOR SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES AND FOR LOSSES RESULTING FROM UNAVOIDABLE CASUALTY

Pub. L. 89-57, title II, §201, June 30, 1965, 79 Stat. 200, provided in part: "That hereafter settlement of claims, pursuant to law, current and prior fiscal years, for damages, and for losses resulting from unavoidable casualty shall be paid from postal revenues."

§ 2604. Delivery of stolen money to owner

When the Postal Service is satisfied that money or property in the possession of the Postal Service represents money or property stolen from the mails, or the proceeds thereof, it may deliver it to the person it finds to be the rightful owner.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 745.)

§ 2605. Suits to recover wrongful or fraudulent payments

The Postal Service shall request the Attorney General to bring a suit to recover with interest any payment made from moneys of, or credit granted by, the Postal Service as a result of—

- (1) mistake;
- (2) fraudulent representations;
- (3) collusion; or
- (4) misconduct of an officer or employee of the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 745.)

CHAPTER 28—STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Sec.	
2801.	Definitions.
2802.	Strategic plans.
2803.	Performance plans.
2804.	Program performance reports.
2805.	Inherently Governmental functions.

§ 2801. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter the term—

- (1) "outcome measure" refers to an assessment of the results of a program activity compared to its intended purpose;
- (2) "output measure" refers to the tabulation, calculation, or recording of activity or effort and can be expressed in a quantitative or qualitative manner;
- (3) "performance goal" means a target level of performance expressed as a tangible, measurable objective, against which actual achievement shall be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate;

(4) “performance indicator” refers to a particular value or characteristic used to measure output or outcome;

(5) “program activity” means a specific activity related to the mission of the Postal Service; and

(6) “program evaluation” means an assessment, through objective measurement and systematic analysis, of the manner and extent to which Postal Service programs achieve intended objectives.

(Added Pub. L. 103–62, §7, Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 292.)

CONSTRUCTION

No provision or amendment made by Pub. L. 103–62 to be construed as creating any right, privilege, benefit, or entitlement for any person who is not an officer or employee of the United States acting in such capacity, and no person not an officer or employee of the United States acting in such capacity to have standing to file any civil action in any court of the United States to enforce any provision or amendment made by Pub. L. 103–62, or to be construed as superseding any statutory requirement, see section 10 of Pub. L. 103–62, set out as a note under section 1115 of Title 31, Money and Finance.

§ 2802. Strategic plans

(a) No later than September 30, 1997, the Postal Service shall submit to the President and the Congress a strategic plan for its program activities. Such plan shall contain—

(1) a comprehensive mission statement covering the major functions and operations of the Postal Service;

(2) general goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for the major functions and operations of the Postal Service;

(3) a description of how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, including a description of the operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to meet those goals and objectives;

(4) a description of how the performance goals included in the plan required under section 2803 shall be related to the general goals and objectives in the strategic plan;

(5) an identification of those key factors external to the Postal Service and beyond its control that could significantly affect the achievement of the general goals and objectives; and

(6) a description of the program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives, with a schedule for future program evaluations.

(b) The strategic plan shall cover a period of not less than five years forward from the fiscal year in which it is submitted, and shall be updated and revised at least every three years.

(c) The performance plan required under section 2803 shall be consistent with the Postal Service’s strategic plan. A performance plan may not be submitted for a fiscal year not covered by a current strategic plan under this section.

(d) When developing a strategic plan, the Postal Service shall solicit and consider the views

and suggestions of those entities potentially affected by or interested in such a plan, and shall advise the Congress of the contents of the plan.

(Added Pub. L. 103–62, §7, Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 292.)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Pub. L. 104–208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §662(d)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–314, 3009–381, provided that:

“(1) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Strategic plans shall be prepared under this paragraph addressing staffing requirements, general goals and objectives for major functions and operations of the Office of Inspector General of the United States Postal Service, and how goals and objectives of the Office are to be achieved, including a description of operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to meet those goals and objectives.

“(B) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—Plans under this paragraph—

“(i) shall be prepared by the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service;

“(ii) shall each cover a 5-year period (the beginning and ending dates of which shall be specified in each such plan); and

“(iii) shall be included, as part of the annual budget required under section 2009 of title 39, United States Code, at least every 3 years.

“(C) FIRST SUBMISSION.—The first plan under this paragraph shall be prepared in time to be included with the annual budget under section 2009 of title 39, United States Code, next due to be submitted after the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the appointment of the first Inspector General to be appointed pursuant to the amendments made by this section [amending sections 102, 202, 204, 410, and 1003 of this title, section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95–452, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, and renumbering another section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 as 8H].

“(2) POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE.—The Chief Postal Inspector shall, with respect to the Postal Inspection Service, prepare a strategic plan similar in content to that required under paragraph (1)(A) with respect to the Office of Inspector General of the United States Postal Service. Such plan shall be prepared in time to be included with the annual budget under section 2009 of such title 39 next due to be submitted after the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996].”

§ 2803. Performance plans

(a) The Postal Service shall prepare an annual performance plan covering each program activity set forth in the Postal Service budget, which shall be included in the comprehensive statement presented under section 2401(g) of this title. Such plan shall—

(1) establish performance goals to define the level of performance to be achieved by a program activity;

(2) express such goals in an objective, quantifiable, and measurable form unless an alternative form is used under subsection (b);

(3) briefly describe the operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, or other resources required to meet the performance goals;

(4) establish performance indicators to be used in measuring or assessing the relevant outputs, service levels, and outcomes of each program activity;

(5) provide a basis for comparing actual program results with the established performance goals; and

(6) describe the means to be used to verify and validate measured values.

(b) If the Postal Service determines that it is not feasible to express the performance goals for a particular program activity in an objective, quantifiable, and measurable form, the Postal Service may use an alternative form. Such alternative form shall—

(1) include separate descriptive statements of—

- (A) a minimally effective program, and
- (B) a successful program,

with sufficient precision and in such terms that would allow for an accurate, independent determination of whether the program activity's performance meets the criteria of either description; or

(2) state why it is infeasible or impractical to express a performance goal in any form for the program activity.

(c) In preparing a comprehensive and informative plan under this section, the Postal Service may aggregate, disaggregate, or consolidate program activities, except that any aggregation or consolidation may not omit or minimize the significance of any program activity constituting a major function or operation.

(d) The Postal Service may prepare a non-public annex to its plan covering program activities or parts of program activities relating to—

- (1) the avoidance of interference with criminal prosecution; or
- (2) matters otherwise exempt from public disclosure under section 410(c) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 103-62, § 7, Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 293.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2802, 2804 of this title.

§ 2804. Program performance reports

(a) The Postal Service shall prepare a report on program performance for each fiscal year, which shall be included in the annual comprehensive statement presented under section 2401(g) of this title.

(b)(1) The program performance report shall set forth the performance indicators established in the Postal Service performance plan, along with the actual program performance achieved compared with the performance goals expressed in the plan for that fiscal year.

(2) If performance goals are specified by descriptive statements of a minimally effective program activity and a successful program activity, the results of such program shall be described in relationship to those categories, including whether the performance failed to meet the criteria of either category.

(c) The report for fiscal year 2000 shall include actual results for the preceding fiscal year, the report for fiscal year 2001 shall include actual results for the two preceding fiscal years, and the report for fiscal year 2002 and all subsequent reports shall include actual results for the three preceding fiscal years.

(d) Each report shall—

(1) review the success of achieving the performance goals of the fiscal year;

(2) evaluate the performance plan for the current fiscal year relative to the performance achieved towards the performance goals in the fiscal year covered by the report;

(3) explain and describe, where a performance goal has not been met (including when a program activity's performance is determined not to have met the criteria of a successful program activity under section 2803(b)(2))—

- (A) why the goal was not met;
- (B) those plans and schedules for achieving the established performance goal; and
- (C) if the performance goal is impractical or infeasible, why that is the case and what action is recommended; and

(4) include the summary findings of those program evaluations completed during the fiscal year covered by the report.

(Added Pub. L. 103-62, § 7, Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 294.)

§ 2805. Inherently Governmental functions

The functions and activities of this chapter shall be considered to be inherently Governmental functions. The drafting of strategic plans, performance plans, and program performance reports under this section shall be performed only by employees of the Postal Service.

(Added Pub. L. 103-62, § 7, Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 294.)

PART IV—MAIL MATTER

Chap.		Sec.
30.	Nonmailable Matter	3001
32.	Penalty and Franked Mail	3201
34.	Armed Forces and Free Postage	3401
36.	Postal Rates, Classes, and Services	3601

CHAPTER 30—NONMAILABLE MATTER

Sec.	
3001.	Nonmailable matter.
3002.	Nonmailable motor vehicle master keys.
3002a.	Nonmailability of locksmithing devices.
3003.	Mail bearing a fictitious name or address.
3004.	Delivery of mail to persons not residents of the place of address.
3005.	False representations; lotteries.
3006.	Unlawful matter.
3007.	Detention of mail for temporary periods.
3008.	Prohibition of pandering advertisements.
3009.	Mailing of unordered merchandise.
3010.	Mailing of sexually oriented advertisements.
3011.	Judicial enforcement.
3012.	Civil penalties.
3013.	Semiannual reports on investigative activities of the Postal Service.
3014.	Nonmailable plants.
3015.	Nonmailable plant pests and injurious animals.

AMENDMENTS

- 1992—Pub. L. 102-393, title VI, § 631(d)(2), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1776, added item 3015.
- 1988—Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, § 7090(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4410, added item 3002a.
- Pub. L. 100-574, § 1(a)(2), Oct. 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2893, added item 3014.
- 1983—Pub. L. 98-186, § 3(c), Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1317, added items 3012 and 3013.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 3684 of this title.

§ 3001. Nonmailable matter

(a) Matter the deposit of which in the mails is punishable under section 1302, 1341, 1342, 1461, 1463, 1714,¹ 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718,¹ or 1738 of title 18, or section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act is nonmailable.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, nonmailable matter which reaches the office of delivery, or which may be seized or detained for violation of law, shall be disposed of as the Postal Service shall direct.

(c)(1) Matter which—

(A) exceeds the size and weight limits prescribed for the particular class of mail; or

(B) is of a character perishable within the period required for transportation and delivery;

is nonmailable.

(2) Matter made nonmailable by this subsection which reaches the office of destination may be delivered in accordance with its address, if the party addressed furnishes the name and address of the sender.

(d) Matter otherwise legally acceptable in the mails which—

(1) is in the form of, and reasonably could be interpreted or construed as, a bill, invoice, or statement of account due; but

(2) constitutes, in fact, a solicitation for the order by the addressee of goods or services, or both;

is nonmailable matter, shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs, unless such matter bears on its face, in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color with other printing on its face, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe—

(A) the following notice: “This is a solicitation for the order of goods or services, or both, and not a bill, invoice, or statement of account due. You are under no obligation to make any payments on account of this offer unless you accept this offer.”; or

(B) in lieu thereof, a notice to the same effect in words which the Postal Service may prescribe.

(e)(1) Any matter which is unsolicited by the addressee and which is designed, adapted, or intended for preventing conception (except unsolicited samples thereof mailed to a manufacturer thereof, a dealer therein, a licensed physician or surgeon, or a nurse, pharmacist, druggist, hospital, or clinic) is nonmailable matter, shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs.

(2) Any unsolicited advertisement of matter which is designed, adapted, or intended for preventing conception is nonmailable matter, shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs unless the advertisement—

(A) is mailed to a manufacturer of such matter, a dealer therein, a licensed physician or surgeon, or a nurse, pharmacist, druggist, hospital, or clinic; or

(B) accompanies in the same parcel any unsolicited sample excepted by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

An advertisement shall not be deemed to be unsolicited for the purposes of this paragraph if it is contained in a publication for which the addressee has paid or promised to pay a consideration or which he has otherwise indicated he desires to receive.

(f) Any matter which is unsolicited by the addressee, which contains a “household substance” (as defined by section 2 of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970), and which does not comply with the requirements for special child-resistant packaging established for that substance by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is nonmailable matter, shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs.

(g)(1) Matter otherwise legally acceptable in the mails which contains or includes a fragrance advertising sample is nonmailable matter, shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs, unless the sample is sealed, wrapped, treated, or otherwise prepared in a manner reasonably designed to prevent individuals from being unknowingly or involuntarily exposed to the sample.

(2) The Postal Service shall by regulation establish the standards or requirements which a fragrance advertising sample must satisfy in order for the mail matter involved not to be considered nonmailable under this subsection.

(h) Matter otherwise legally acceptable in the mails which constitutes a solicitation by a nongovernmental entity for the purchase of or payment for a product or service; and contains a seal, insignia, trade or brand name, or any other term or symbol that reasonably could be interpreted or construed as implying any Federal Government connection, approval or endorsement is nonmailable matter and shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs, unless—

(1) such nongovernmental entity has such expressed connection, approval or endorsement;

(2)(A) such matter bears on its face, in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color with other printing on its face, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe, the following notice: **“THIS PRODUCT OR SERVICE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED OR ENDORSED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND THIS OFFER IS NOT BEING MADE BY AN AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.”**, or a notice to the same effect in words which the Postal Service may prescribe; and

(B) the envelope or outside cover or wrapper in which such matter is mailed bears on its face in capital letters and in conspicuous and legible type, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe, the following notice: **“THIS IS NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT.”**, or a notice to the same effect in words which the Postal Service may prescribe; or

¹ See References in Text note below.

(3) such matter is contained in a publication for which the addressee has paid or promised to pay a consideration or which he has otherwise indicated he desires to receive, except that this paragraph shall not apply if the solicitation is on behalf of the publisher of the publication.

(i) Matter otherwise legally acceptable in the mails which constitutes a solicitation by a non-governmental entity for information or the contribution of funds or membership fees and contains a seal, insignia, trade or brand name, or any other term or symbol that reasonably could be interpreted or construed as implying any Federal Government connection, approval or endorsement is nonmailable matter and shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs, unless—

(1) such nongovernmental entity has such expressed connection, approval or endorsement;

(2)(A) such matter bears on its face, in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color with other printing on its face, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe, the following notice: **“THIS ORGANIZATION HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED OR ENDORSED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND THIS OFFER IS NOT BEING MADE BY AN AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.”**, or a notice to the same effect in words which the Postal Service may prescribe; and

(B) the envelope or outside cover or wrapper in which such matter is mailed bears on its face in capital letters and in conspicuous and legible type, in accordance with regulations which the Postal Service shall prescribe, the following notice: **“THIS IS NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT.”**, or a notice to the same effect in words which the Postal Service may prescribe; or

(3) such matter is contained in a publication for which the addressee has paid or promised to pay a consideration or which he has otherwise indicated he desires to receive, except that this paragraph shall not apply if the solicitation is on behalf of the publisher of the publication.

(j) Except as otherwise provided by law, proceedings concerning the mailability of matter under this chapter and chapters 71 and 83 of title 18 shall be conducted in accordance with chapters 5 and 7 of title 5.

(k) The district courts, together with the District Court of the Virgin Islands and the District Court of Guam, shall have jurisdiction, upon cause shown, to enjoin violations of section 1716 of title 18.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 745; Pub. L. 91-662, §6(1), Jan. 8, 1971, 84 Stat. 1974; Pub. L. 92-191, §2, Dec. 15, 1971, 85 Stat. 647; Pub. L. 89-544, §26(h)(2), as added Pub. L. 94-279, §17, Apr. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 423; Pub. L. 97-398, §5, Dec. 31, 1982, 96 Stat. 2011; Pub. L. 101-493, §2, Oct. 31, 1990, 104 Stat. 1184; Pub. L. 101-524, §2(a), Nov. 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 2301; Pub. L. 102-71, §2(1), July 10, 1991, 105 Stat. 330.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 1714 and 1718 of title 18, referred to in subsec. (a), were repealed by Pub. L. 101-647, title XII, §1210(b), (c), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4832.

Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is section 26(a)-(h)(1) of Pub. L. 89-544 as added by Pub. L. 94-279, §17, Apr. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 421, which is classified to section 2156 of Title 7, Agriculture.

Section 2 of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, referred to in subsec. (f), is classified to section 1471 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsecs. (i) to (k). Pub. L. 102-71 redesignated subsec. (i), relating to conduct of proceedings concerning mailability of certain matter, as (j), and former subsec. (j), relating to jurisdiction of district courts, as (k).

1990—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-524 added subsec. (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (i).

Pub. L. 101-493 added subsec. (f). Former subsec. (f), as added by Pub. L. 101-524, redesignated (h).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-524 added subsec. (g). Former subsec. (g) redesignated (j).

Pub. L. 101-493 added subsec. (g). Former subsec. (g), as added by Pub. L. 101-524, redesignated (i).

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 101-493 redesignated subsec. (f), as added by Pub. L. 101-524, as (h).

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 101-524 redesignated subsec. (f) as (i).

Pub. L. 101-493 redesignated subsec. (g), as added by Pub. L. 101-524, as (i).

Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 101-524 redesignated subsec. (g) as (j).

1982—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-398 substituted “, 1718, or 1738” for “or 1718”.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-279 inserted “, or section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act” after “title 18”.

1971—Subsecs. (e), (f). Pub. L. 91-662, §6(1)(A), (B), added subsec. (e) and redesignated former subsec. (e) as (f). Section 5(a) of Pub. L. 91-662 inserted a similar provision to section 4001 of former Title 39, The Postal Service, pending the effective date of this section. Said amendment to section 4001 has not been executed in view of the passage of Title 39, Postal Service, as enacted by the Postal Reorganization Act.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 92-191 added subsec. (g).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENTS

Section 6 of Pub. L. 101-524 provided that: “The provisions of this Act [enacting section 413 of this title, amending this section and section 3005 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes below] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 6, 1990], except the amendments made by section 2 [amending this section and section 3005 of this title] shall apply to matter deposited for mailing and delivery on or after 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.”

Section 3 of Pub. L. 101-493 provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [amending this section] shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 31, 1990], and shall apply with respect to any matter mailed on or after that effective date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-191 effective at beginning of third calendar month following Dec. 15, 1971, or on the date that this section becomes effective pursuant to section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, which is set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title, whichever is later, see section 3 of Pub. L. 92-191, set out as a note under section 1716 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

Section 6 of Pub. L. 91-662 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective on the date that the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service establishes as the effective date for section 3001

of title 39 of the United States Code, as enacted by the Postal Reorganization Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENTS

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101-524 provided that: "This Act [enacting section 413 of this title, amending this section and section 3005 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the 'Deceptive Mailings Prevention Act of 1990'."

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101-493 provided that: "This Act [amending this section and enacting provisions set out above] may be cited as the 'Drug and Household Substance Mailing Act of 1990'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-186, §1, Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1315, provided: "That this Act [enacting sections 3012 and 3013 of this title, amending section 3005 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 3005 and 3012 of this title] may be cited as the 'Mail Order Consumer Protection Amendments of 1983'."

COORDINATION OF FUNCTIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Section 4 of Pub. L. 101-524 provided that: "The United States Postal Service shall consult and coordinate the functions and administration of the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act [see Short Title of 1990 Amendments note above] with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the functions of the Secretary in the administration of section 428 of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1320b-10) [Pub. L. 100-360, which enacted section 1320b-10 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, amended section 1395ss of Title 42, and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 1320b-10 of Title 42]."

NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO OBSCENE MATTER DISTRIBUTED BY MAIL AND DETENTION THEREOF

Pub. L. 87-793, §307, Oct. 11, 1962, 76 Stat. 841, provided that: "In order to alert the recipients of mail and the general public to the fact that large quantities of obscene, lewd, lascivious, and indecent matter are being introduced into this country from abroad and disseminated in the United States by means of the United States mails, the Postmaster General shall publicize such fact (1) by appropriate notices posted in post offices, and (2) by notifying recipients of mail, whenever he deems it appropriate in order to carry out the purposes of this section, that the United States mails may contain such obscene, lewd, lascivious, or indecent matter. Any person may file a written request with his local post office to detain obscene, lewd, lascivious, or indecent matter addressed to him, and the Postmaster General shall detain and dispose of such matter for such period as the request is in effect. The Postmaster General shall permit the return of mail containing obscene, lewd, lascivious, or indecent matter, to local post offices, without cost to the recipient thereof. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to authorize the Postmaster General to open, inspect, or censor any mail except on specific request by the addressee thereof. The Postmaster General is authorized to prescribe such regulations as he may deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3005 of this title.

§ 3002. Nonmailable motor vehicle master keys

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any motor vehicle master key, any pat-

tern, impression, or mold from which a motor vehicle master key may be made, or any advertisement for the sale of any such key, pattern, impression, or mold, is nonmailable matter and shall not be carried or delivered by mail.

(b) The Postal Service is authorized to make such exemptions from the provisions of subsection (a) of this section as it deems necessary.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle master key" means any key (other than the key furnished by the manufacturer with the motor vehicle, or the key furnished with a replacement lock, or any exact duplicate of such keys) designed to operate 2 or more motor vehicle ignition, door, or trunk locks of different combinations.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 746.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 18 section 1716A.

§ 3002a. Nonmailability of locksmithing devices

(a) Any locksmithing device is nonmailable mail, shall not be carried or delivered by mail, and shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs, unless such device is mailed to—

- (1) a lock manufacturer or distributor;
- (2) a bona fide locksmith;
- (3) a bona fide repossessor; or
- (4) a motor vehicle manufacturer or dealer.

(b) For the purpose of this section, "locksmithing device" means—

- (1) a device or tool (other than a key) designed to manipulate the tumblers in a lock into the unlocked position through the keyway of such lock;
- (2) a device or tool (other than a key or a device or tool under paragraph (1)) designed for the unauthorized opening or bypassing of a lock or similar security device; and
- (3) a device or tool designed for making an impression of a key or similar security device to duplicate such key or device.

(Added Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7090(a), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4409.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 18 section 1716A.

§ 3003. Mail bearing a fictitious name or address

(a) Upon evidence satisfactory to the Postal Service that any person is using a fictitious, false, or assumed name, title, or address in conducting, promoting, or carrying on or assisting therein, by means of the postal services of the United States, an activity in violation of sections 1302, 1341, and 1342 of title 18, it may—

- (1) withhold mail so addressed from delivery; and
- (2) require the party claiming the mail to furnish proof to it of the claimant's identity and right to receive the mail.

(b) The Postal Service may issue an order directing that mail, covered by subsection (a) of this section, be forwarded to a dead letter office as fictitious matter, or be returned to the sender when—

- (1) the party claiming the mail fails to furnish proof of his identity and right to receive the mail; or

(2) the Postal Service determines that the mail is addressed to a fictitious, false, or assumed name, title, or address.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 746.)

§ 3004. Delivery of mail to persons not residents of the place of address

Whenever the Postal Service determines that letters or parcels sent in the mail are addressed to places not the residence or regular business address of the person for whom they are intended, to enable the person to escape identification, the Postal Service may deliver the mail only upon identification of the person so addressed.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 747.)

§ 3005. False representations; lotteries

(a) Upon evidence satisfactory to the Postal Service that any person is engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money or property through the mail by means of false representations, including the mailing of matter which is nonmailable under¹ 3001(d), (h), or (i) of this title, or is engaged in conducting a lottery, gift enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money or of real or personal property, by lottery, chance, or drawing of any kind, the Postal Service may issue an order which—

(1) directs the postmaster of the post office at which mail arrives, addressed to such a person or to his representative, to return such mail to the sender appropriately marked as in violation of this section, if the person, or his representative, is first notified and given reasonable opportunity to be present at the receiving post office to survey the mail before the postmaster returns the mail to the sender;

(2) forbids the payment by a postmaster to the person or his representative of any money order or postal note drawn to the order of either and provides for the return to the remitter of the sum named in the money order or postal note; and

(3) requires the person or his representative to cease and desist from engaging in any such scheme, device, lottery, or gift enterprise.

For purposes of the preceding sentence, the mailing of matter which is nonmailable under such¹ 3001(d), (h), or (i) by any person shall constitute prima facie evidence that such person is engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money or property through the mail by false representations.

(b) The public advertisement by a person engaged in activities covered by subsection (a) of this section, that remittances may be made by mail to a person named in the advertisement, is prima facie evidence that the latter is the agent or representative of the advertiser for the receipt of remittances on behalf of the advertiser. The Postal Service may ascertain the existence of the agency in any other legal way satisfactory to it.

(c) As used in this section and section 3006 of this title, the term “representative” includes an agent or representative acting as an individual

or as a firm, bank, corporation, or association of any kind.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the mailing of (1) publications containing advertisements, lists of prizes, or information concerning a lottery, which are exempt, pursuant to section 1307 of title 18 of the United States Code, from the provisions of sections 1301, 1302, 1303, and 1304 of title 18 of the United States Code, (2) tickets or other materials concerning such a lottery within that State to addresses within that State, or (3) an advertisement promoting the sale of a book or other publication, or a solicitation to purchase, or a purchase order for any such publication, if (A) such advertisement, solicitation, or purchase order is not materially false or misleading in its description of the publication; (B) such advertisement, solicitation, or purchase order contains no material misrepresentation of fact: *Provided, however,* That no statement quoted or derived from the publication shall constitute a misrepresentation of fact as long as such statement complies with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (C); and (C) the advertisement, solicitation, or purchase order accurately discloses the source of any statements quoted or derived from the publication. Paragraph (3) shall not be applicable to any publication, advertisement, solicitation, or purchase order which is used to sell some other product in which the publisher or author has a financial interest as part of a commercial scheme. For the purposes of this subsection, “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(e)(1) In conducting an investigation to determine if a person is engaged in any of the activities covered by subsection (a) of this section, the Postmaster General (or any duly authorized agent of the Postmaster General) may tender, at any reasonable time and by any reasonable means, the price advertised or otherwise requested for any article or service that such person has offered to provide through the mails.

(2) A failure to provide the article or service offered after the Postmaster General or his agent has tendered the price advertised or otherwise requested in the manner described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, and any reasons for such failure, may be considered in a proceeding held under section 3007 of this title to determine if there is probable cause to believe that a violation of this section has occurred.

(3) The Postmaster General shall prescribe regulations under which any individual seeking to make a purchase on behalf of the Postal Service under this subsection from any person shall—

(A) identify himself as an employee or authorized agent of the Postal Service, as the case may be;

(B) state the nature of the conduct under investigation; and

(C) inform such person that the failure to complete the transaction may be considered in a proceeding under section 3007 of this title to determine probable cause, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 747; Pub. L. 93-583, § 4, Jan. 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1916; Pub. L.

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by “section”.

94-525, §2, Oct. 17, 1976, 90 Stat. 2478; Pub. L. 95-360, Sept. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 594; Pub. L. 98-186, §2, Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1315; Pub. L. 100-625, §2(c), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3205; Pub. L. 101-524, §2(b), Nov. 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 2302; Pub. L. 102-71, §2(2), July 10, 1991, 105 Stat. 330.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-71 substituted “3001(d), (h), or (i)” for “section 3001(d), (f), or (g)” in two places.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-524 substituted “section 3001(d), (f), or (g)” for “section 3001(d)” in two places.

1988—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 100-625 amended cl. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, cl. (1) read as follows: “a newspaper of general circulation containing advertisements, lists of prizes, or information concerning a lottery conducted by a State acting under authority of State law, published in that State, or in an adjacent State which conducts such a lottery.”

1983—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 98-186, §2(a), added par. (3).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98-186, §2(b), struck out “or” before “(2)”, inserted “or” before “(3)”, and inserted cl. (3) and provision relating to applicability of cl. (3).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 98-186, §2(c), added subsec. (e).

1978—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95-360 inserted provisions relating to nonmailable matter under section 3001(d) of this title.

1976—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-525 substituted “a newspaper of general circulation containing advertisements, lists of prizes, or information concerning a lottery conducted by a State acting under authority of State law, published in that State, or in an adjacent State which conducts such a lottery,” for “a newspaper of general circulation published in a State containing advertisements, lists of prizes, or information concerning a lottery conducted by that State acting under authority of State law.”

1975—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 93-583 added subsec. (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-524 effective Nov. 6, 1990, and applicable to matter deposited for mailing and delivery on or after 180 days after Nov. 6, 1990, see section 6 of Pub. L. 101-524, set out as a note under section 3001 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-625 effective 18 months after Nov. 7, 1988, see section 5 of Pub. L. 100-625, set out as a note under section 1304 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

CONSUMER EDUCATION PROGRAM ON SCHEMES INVOLVING FALSE REPRESENTATIONS

Section 4 of Pub. L. 98-186, as amended by Pub. L. 104-66, title II, §2211(a), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 732, provided that:

“(a) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1983], the Postmaster General or his designee, following consultation with representatives of the mail order industry, shall develop and carry out a program designed to provide consumer education to the public on schemes involving false representations through use of the mails, including the dissemination of information on recognizing practices commonly associated with such schemes, as well as appropriate measures which an individual may take upon receiving mail matter which the individual believes may be part of such a scheme.

“(b) A summary of the activities carried out under subsection (a) shall be included in the first semiannual report submitted each year as required under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3007, 3012, 3013 of this title.

§ 3006. Unlawful matter

Upon evidence satisfactory to the Postal Service that a person is obtaining or attempting to obtain remittances of money or property of any kind through the mail for an obscene, lewd, lascivious, indecent, filthy, or vile thing or is depositing or causing to be deposited in the United States mail information as to where, how, or from whom such a thing may be obtained, the Postal Service may—

(1) direct any postmaster at an office at which mail arrives, addressed to such a person or to his representative, to return the mail to the sender marked “Unlawful”; and

(2) forbid the payment by a postmaster to such a person or his representative of any money order or postal note drawn to the order of either and provide for the return to the remitter of the sum named in the money order. (Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 747.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3005, 3007, 3011 of this title.

§ 3007. Detention of mail for temporary periods

(a) In preparation for or during the pendency of proceedings under sections 3005 and 3006 of this title, the United States district court in the district in which the defendant receives his mail shall, upon application therefor by the Postal Service and upon a showing of probable cause to believe either section is being violated, enter a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction pursuant to rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure directing the detention of the defendant’s incoming mail by the postmaster pending the conclusion of the statutory proceedings and any appeal therefrom. The district court may provide in the order that the detained mail be open to examination by the defendant and such mail be delivered as is clearly not connected with the alleged unlawful activity. An action taken by a court hereunder does not affect or determine any fact at issue in the statutory proceedings.

(b) This section does not apply to mail addressed to publishers of newspapers and other periodical publications entitled to a periodical publication rate or to mail addressed to the agents of those publishers.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 747.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, referred to in subsec. (a), is set out in the Appendix to Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3005, 3011, 3012, 3013 of this title.

§ 3008. Prohibition of pandering advertisements

(a) Whoever for himself, or by his agents or assigns, mails or causes to be mailed any pandering advertisement which offers for sale matter which the addressee in his sole discretion believes to be erotically arousing or sexually provocative shall be subject to an order of the Postal Service to refrain from further mailings of such materials to designated addresses thereof.

(b) Upon receipt of notice from an addressee that he has received such mail matter, determined by the addressee in his sole discretion to be of the character described in subsection (a) of this section, the Postal Service shall issue an order, if requested by the addressee, to the sender thereof, directing the sender and his agents or assigns to refrain from further mailings to the named addressees.

(c) The order of the Postal Service shall expressly prohibit the sender and his agents or assigns from making any further mailings to the designated addresses, effective on the thirtieth calendar day after receipt of the order. The order shall also direct the sender and his agents or assigns to delete immediately the names of the designated addressees from all mailing lists owned or controlled by the sender or his agents or assigns and, further, shall prohibit the sender and his agents or assigns from the sale, rental, exchange, or other transaction involving mailing lists bearing the names of the designated addressees.

(d) Whenever the Postal Service believes that the sender or anyone acting on his behalf has violated or is violating the order given under this section, it shall serve upon the sender, by registered or certified mail, a complaint stating the reasons for its belief and request that any response thereto be filed in writing with the Postal Service within 15 days after the date of such service. If the Postal Service, after appropriate hearing if requested by the sender, and without a hearing if such a hearing is not requested, thereafter determines that the order given has been or is being violated, it is authorized to request the Attorney General to make application, and the Attorney General is authorized to make application, to a district court of the United States for an order directing compliance with such notice.

(e) Any district court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which any mail matter shall have been sent or received in violation of the order provided for by this section shall have jurisdiction, upon application by the Attorney General, to issue an order commanding compliance with such notice. Failure to observe such order may be punishable by the court as contempt thereof.

(f) Receipt of mail matter 30 days or more after the effective date of the order provided for by this section shall create a rebuttable presumption that such mail was sent after such effective date.

(g) Upon request of any addressee, the order of the Postal Service shall include the names of any of his minor children who have not attained their nineteenth birthday, and who reside with the addressee.

(h) The provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5, relating to administrative procedure, and chapter 7, relating to judicial review, of title 5, shall not apply to any provisions of this section.

(i) For purposes of this section—

(1) mail matter, directed to a specific address covered in the order of the Postal Service, without designation of a specific addressee thereon, shall be considered as addressed to the person named in the Postal Service's order; and

(2) the term "children" includes natural children, stepchildren, adopted children, and children who are wards of or in custody of the addressee or who are living with such addressee in a regular parent-child relationship.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 748.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3011 of this title; title 18 section 1737.

§ 3009. Mailing of unordered merchandise

(a) Except for (1) free samples clearly and conspicuously marked as such, and (2) merchandise mailed by a charitable organization soliciting contributions, the mailing of unordered merchandise or of communications prohibited by subsection (c) of this section constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair trade practice in violation of section 45(a)(1) of title 15.

(b) Any merchandise mailed in violation of subsection (a) of this section, or within the exceptions contained therein, may be treated as a gift by the recipient, who shall have the right to retain, use, discard, or dispose of it in any manner he sees fit without any obligation whatsoever to the sender. All such merchandise shall have attached to it a clear and conspicuous statement informing the recipient that he may treat the merchandise as a gift to him and has the right to retain, use, discard, or dispose of it in any manner he sees fit without any obligation whatsoever to the sender.

(c) No mailer of any merchandise mailed in violation of subsection (a) of this section, or within the exceptions contained therein, shall mail to any recipient of such merchandise a bill for such merchandise or any dunning communications.

(d) For the purposes of this section, "unordered merchandise" means merchandise mailed without the prior expressed request or consent of the recipient.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 749.)

§ 3010. Mailing of sexually oriented advertisements

(a) Any person who mails or causes to be mailed any sexually oriented advertisement shall place on the envelope or cover thereof his name and address as the sender thereof and such mark or notice as the Postal Service may prescribe.

(b) Any person, on his own behalf or on the behalf of any of his children who has not attained the age of 19 years and who resides with him or is under his care, custody, or supervision, may file with the Postal Service a statement, in such form and manner as the Postal Service may prescribe, that he desires to receive no sexually oriented advertisements through the mails. The Postal Service shall maintain and keep current, insofar as practicable, a list of the names and addresses of such persons and shall make the list (including portions thereof or changes therein) available to any person, upon such reasonable terms and conditions as it may prescribe, including the payment of such service charge as it determines to be necessary to defray the cost

of compiling and maintaining the list and making it available as provided in this sentence. No person shall mail or cause to be mailed any sexually oriented advertisement to any individual whose name and address has been on the list for more than 30 days.

(c) No person shall sell, lease, lend, exchange, or license the use of, or, except for the purpose expressly authorized by this section, use any mailing list compiled in whole or in part from the list maintained by the Postal Service pursuant to this section.

(d) "Sexually oriented advertisement" means any advertisement that depicts, in actual or simulated form, or explicitly describes, in a predominantly sexual context, human genitalia, any act of natural or unnatural sexual intercourse, any act of sadism or masochism, or any other erotic subject directly related to the foregoing. Material otherwise within the definition of this subsection shall be deemed not to constitute a sexually oriented advertisement if it constitutes only a small and insignificant part of the whole of a single catalog, book, periodical, or other work the remainder of which is not primarily devoted to sexual matters.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 749.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective first day of sixth month which begins after Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(b) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

INVASION OF PRIVACY BY MAILING OF SEXUALLY ORIENTED ADVERTISEMENTS

Section 14 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that:

"(a) [*Congressional findings*] The Congress finds—

"(1) that the United States mails are being used for the indiscriminate dissemination of advertising matter so designed and so presented as to exploit sexual sensationalism for commercial gain;

"(2) that such matter is profoundly shocking and offensive to many persons who receive it, unsolicited, through the mails;

"(3) that such use of the mails constitutes a serious threat to the dignity and sanctity of the American home and subjects many persons to an unconscionable and unwarranted intrusion upon their fundamental personal right to privacy;

"(4) that such use of the mail reduces the ability of responsible parents to protect their minor children from exposure to material which they as parents believe to be harmful to the normal and healthy ethical, mental, and social development of their children; and

"(5) that the traffic in such offensive advertisements is so large that individual citizens will be helpless to protect their privacy or their families without stronger and more effective Federal controls over the mailing of such matter.

"(b) [*Congressional Determination of Public Policy*] On the basis of such findings, the Congress determines that it is contrary to the public policy of the United States for the facilities and services of the United States Postal Service to be used for the distribution of such materials to persons who do not want their privacy invaded in this manner or to persons who wish to protect their minor children from exposure to such material."

Provisions of section 14 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date not preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3011 of this title; title 18 sections 1735, 1736, 1737.

§ 3011. Judicial enforcement

(a) Whenever the Postal Service believes that any person is mailing or causing to be mailed any sexually oriented advertisement in violation of section 3010 of this title, it may request the Attorney General to commence a civil action against such person in a district court of the United States. Upon a finding by the court of a violation of that section, the court may issue an order including one or more of the following provisions as the court deems just under the circumstances:

(1) a direction to the defendant to refrain from mailing any sexually oriented advertisement to a specific addressee, to any group of addressees, or to all persons;

(2) a direction to any postmaster to whom sexually oriented advertisements originating with such defendant are tendered for transmission through the mails to refuse to accept such advertisements for mailing; or

(3) a direction to any postmaster at the office at which registered or certified letters or other letters or mail arrive, addressed to the defendant or his representative, to return the registered or certified letters or other letters or mail to the sender appropriately marked as being in response to mail in violation of section 3010 of this title, after the defendant, or his representative, has been notified and given reasonable opportunity to examine such letters or mail and to obtain delivery of mail which is clearly not connected with activity alleged to be in violation of section 3010 of this title.

(b) The statement that remittances may be made to a person named in a sexually oriented advertisement is prima facie evidence that such named person is the principal, agent, or representative of the mailer for the receipt of remittances on his behalf. The court is not precluded from ascertaining the existence of the agency on the basis of any other evidence.

(c) In preparation for, or during the pendency of, a civil action under subsection (a) of this section, a district court of the United States, upon application therefor by the Attorney General and upon a showing of probable cause to believe the statute is being violated, may enter a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction containing such terms as the court deems just, including, but not limited to, provisions enjoining the defendant from mailing any sexually oriented advertisement to any person or class of persons, directing any postmaster to refuse to accept such defendant's sexually oriented advertisements for mailing, and directing the detention of the defendant's incoming mail by any postmaster pending the conclusion of the judicial proceedings. Any action taken by a court under this subsection does not affect or determine any fact at issue in any other proceeding under this section.

(d) A civil action under this section may be brought in the judicial district in which the defendant resides, or has his principal place of

business, or in any judicial district in which any sexually oriented advertisement mailed in violation of section 3010 has been delivered by mail according to the direction thereon.

(e) Nothing in this section or in section 3010 shall be construed as amending, preempting, limiting, modifying, or otherwise in any way affecting section 1461 or 1463 of title 18 or section 3006, 3007, or 3008 of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 750.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective first day of sixth month which begins after Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(b) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 3012. Civil penalties

(a) Any person—

(1) who, through the use of the mail, evades or attempts to evade the effect of an order issued under section 3005(a)(1) or 3005(a)(2) of this title;

(2) who fails to comply with an order issued under section 3005(a)(3) of this title; or

(3) who (other than a publisher described by section 3007(b) of this title) has actual knowledge of any such order, is in privity with any person described by paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection, and engages in conduct to assist any such person to evade, attempt to evade, or fail to comply with any such order, as the case may be, through the use of the mail;

shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each day that such person engages in conduct described by paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection. A separate penalty may be assessed under this subsection with respect to the conduct described in each such paragraph.

(b)(1) Whenever, on the basis of any information available to it, the Postal Service finds that any person has engaged, or is engaging, in conduct described by paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a), the Postal Service may, under the provisions of section 409(d) of this title, commence a civil action to enforce the civil penalties established by such subsection. Any such action shall be brought in the district court of the United States for the district in which the defendant resides or receives mail.

(2) If the district court determines that a person has engaged, or is engaging, in conduct described by paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a), the court shall determine the civil penalty, if any under this section, taking into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation or violations of such subsection, and, with respect to the violator, the ability to pay the penalty, the effect of the penalty on the ability of the violator to conduct lawful business, any history of prior violations of such subsection, the degree of culpability, and such other matters as justice may require.

(c) All penalties collected under authority of this section shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States.

(d) In any proceeding at any time under this section, the defendant shall be entitled as a defense or counterclaim to seek judicial review, if

not already had, pursuant to chapter 7 of title 5, of the order issued under section 3005 of this title. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude independent judicial review otherwise available pursuant to chapter 7 of title 5 of an order issued under section 3005 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 98-186, §3(a), Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1316.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 3(b) of Pub. L. 98-186 provided that: "Section 3012 of title 39, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section) shall apply with respect to conduct which occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1983]."

§ 3013. Semiannual reports on investigative activities of the Postal Service

The Postmaster General shall submit semiannual reports to the Board summarizing the investigative activities of the Postal Service. One semiannual report shall be submitted for the reporting period beginning on October 1 and ending on March 31, and the other semiannual report shall be submitted for the reporting period beginning on April 1 and ending on September 30. Each such report shall be submitted within sixty days after the close of the reporting period involved and shall include with respect to such reporting period—

(1) a summary of any proceedings instituted under section 3005 of this title, and the results of those and of any other such proceedings decided, settled, or otherwise concluded during such period;

(2) the number of cases in which the authority described in section 3005(e) of this title was used;

(3) the number of applications for temporary restraining orders or preliminary injunctions submitted under section 3007 of this title and, of those applications, the number granted;

(4) the total amount of expenditures and obligations incurred in carrying out the investigative activities of the Postal Service; and

(5) such other information relating to the investigative activities of the Postal Service as the Board may require.

Upon approval of a report submitted under the first sentence of this section, the information in such report shall be included in the next semiannual report required under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(Added Pub. L. 98-186, §3(a), Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1317; amended Pub. L. 104-66, title II, §2211(b), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 733.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in text, is section 5 of Pub. L. 95-452, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-66 substituted at end "the information in such report shall be included in the next semiannual report required under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)" for "the Board shall transmit such report to the Congress".

§ 3014. Nonmailable plants

(a)(1) Whenever the Secretary of Agriculture establishes a quarantine under section 8 of the Plant Quarantine Act, prohibiting the transportation by common carrier of any plant from any State or other geographic area, the Secretary shall give notice of the establishment of such quarantine to the Postal Service in writing.

(2) Upon receiving any such notice under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall ensure that copies of such notice are prominently displayed at post offices located within each State or area covered by the quarantine, and shall take any other measures which the Postal Service considers necessary in order to inform the public both of the establishment of such quarantine and of relevant provisions of this section and sections 1716B and 1716C of title 18 in connection therewith.

(b) Any plant, the transportation of which by common carrier from any State or other area is prohibited or restricted under any quarantine referred to in subsection (a), is nonmailable matter, and may not be accepted by the Postal Service or conveyed in the mails, if the matter involved is tendered for transmission through the mails from such State or area or if such matter first enters the mails within such State or area.

(c) The Postal Service shall, after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, prescribe rules and regulations permitting the mailing of a plant, and otherwise making subsection (b) of this section inapplicable with respect to such plant, if the method or manner of mailing such plant would be consistent with the procedures set forth in the rules and regulations prescribed under the fourth sentence of section 8 of the Plant Quarantine Act (relating to the inspection, disinfection, and certification of, and other conditions for, the delivery and shipment of plants otherwise subject to quarantine).

(d) For the purposes of this section—

(1) “Plant Quarantine Act” means the Act entitled “An Act to regulate the importation of nursery stock and other plants and plant products; to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and maintain quarantine districts for plant diseases and insect pests; to permit and regulate the movement of fruits, plants, and vegetables therefrom, and for other purposes”, enacted August 20, 1912 (37 Stat. 315 et seq.); and

(2) “plant” means any class of plants, fruits, vegetables, roots, bulbs, seeds, or other plant products, any class of nursery stock (as defined by section 6 of the Plant Quarantine Act), and any other article or matter which is capable of carrying any dangerous plant disease or pest.

(Added Pub. L. 100-574, §1(a)(1), Oct. 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2892.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Plant Quarantine Act, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1), (c), and (d), is act Aug. 20, 1912, ch. 308, 37 Stat. 315, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 8 (§151 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. Sections 6 and 8 of the Plant Quarantine Act are classified to sections 152 and 161, respectively, of Title 7. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 151 of Title 7 and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 4 of Pub. L. 100-574 provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act [enacting this section and sections 1716B and 1716C of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure] shall become effective on the earlier of—

“(1) the 366th day after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 31, 1988]; or

“(2) the first date as of which all rules and regulations required to be prescribed under the amendments made by this Act have first been published in the Federal Register. [For publication of regulations, see 54 F.R. 49978, Dec. 4, 1989.]

“(b) REGULATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall prevent the United States Postal Service from taking any action which may be necessary to prepare and issue, as soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act, any rules and regulations which the Postal Service is required to prescribe under any of the amendments made by this Act.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 18 sections 1716B, 1716C.

§ 3015. Nonmailable plant pests and injurious animals

(a) INJURIOUS ANIMALS.—Any injurious animal, the importation or interstate shipment of which is prohibited pursuant to section 42 of title 18, constitutes nonmailable matter.

(b) PLANT PESTS.—Any plant pest, the movement of which is prohibited pursuant to section 103 or 104 of the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150bb or 150cc), constitutes nonmailable matter.

(c) PLANTS.—Any plant, article, or matter, the importation or interstate shipment of which is prohibited pursuant to the Act of August 20, 1912 (37 Stat. 315, chapter 308; 7 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Plant Quarantine Act”), constitutes nonmailable matter.

(d) ILLEGALLY TAKEN FISH, WILDLIFE, OR PLANTS.—Any fish, wildlife, or plant, the conveyance of which is prohibited pursuant to section 3 of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372), constitutes nonmailable matter.

(Added Pub. L. 102-393, title VI, §631(d)(1), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1776.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Plant Quarantine Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is act Aug. 20, 1912, ch. 308, 37 Stat. 315, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 8 (§151 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 151 of Title 7 and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Section 631(e) of Pub. L. 102-393 provided that: “This section [enacting this section and provisions set out below] may be cited as the ‘Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1992.’”

ALIEN SPECIES PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT IN HAWAII

Section 631(a)-(c) of Pub. L. 102-393 provided that:

“(a) PESTS IN THE MAILS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall hereafter operate a program, under terms and conditions acceptable to the Postal Service, to protect Hawaii from the introduction of prohibited plants, plant pests, and injurious animals that may be contained in mail received in Hawaii, except that this subsection shall not apply to

mail that originates and is intended for delivery outside the United States.

“(2) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—For the purpose of carrying out the program operated under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with the Secretary of the Interior relating to prohibited plants, plant pests, or injurious animals under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

“(3) REMEDIAL ACTION.—If, pursuant to the program, mail is found to contain a prohibited plant, plant pest, or injurious animal, the Secretary shall—

“(A) make a record of the prohibited plant, plant pest, or injurious animal found in the mail;

“(B) take appropriate action to prevent the introduction of the prohibited material into Hawaii; and

“(C) determine whether the facts and circumstances warrant seeking prosecution under a law prohibiting the conveyance of a plant, plant pest, or injurious animal.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection:

“(A) INJURIOUS ANIMAL.—The term ‘injurious animal’ means an animal the importation or interstate shipment of which is prohibited by section 42 of title 18, United States Code.

“(B) PLANT.—The term ‘plant’ means a plant from any class of plants, or any other article or matter, the importation or interstate shipment of which is prohibited under the Act of August 20, 1912 (37 Stat. 315, chapter 308; 7 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) (commonly known as the ‘Plant Quarantine Act’).

“(C) PLANT PEST.—The term ‘plant pest’ means any organism or substance the importation or interstate shipment of which is prohibited under the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150aa et seq.).

“(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH HAWAII TO ENFORCE CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE LAWS.—

“(1) AGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND HAWAII.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 6, 1992], the Secretary of Agriculture shall offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Hawaii for a 2-year period to enforce in the State—

“(i) the Act of August 20, 1912 (37 Stat. 315, chapter 308; 7 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) (commonly known as the ‘Plant Quarantine Act’);

“(ii) the Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150aa et seq.); and

“(iii) the matter under the heading ‘ENFORCEMENT OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE ACT:’ of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1113; 7 U.S.C. 166) (commonly known as the ‘Terminal Inspection Act’).

“(B) INSPECTION OF PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS.—The cooperative agreement shall establish a specific procedure for the submission and approval of the names of plants and plant products that the State of Hawaii elects to inspect under the provision of law referred to in subparagraph (A)(iii).

“(C) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall carry out this paragraph under the authority provided by—

“(i) section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 147a);

“(ii) section 3 of the Act of May 29, 1884 (23 Stat. 32, chapter 60; 21 U.S.C. 114); and

“(iii) section 11 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1956 (7 U.S.C. 114a) [probably means section 11 of act May 29, 1884, as added by the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944, which is classified to 21 U.S.C. 114a].

“(2) AGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND HAWAII.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 6, 1992], the Secretary of the Interior shall offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Hawaii for a 2-year period to enforce in the State the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.).

“(B) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall use to carry out this paragraph the authority provided

under section 3 of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 7427).

“(3) AGREEMENT BETWEEN POSTAL SERVICE AND HAWAII.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Postal Service shall offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Hawaii for a 2-year period to enforce in the State, under terms and conditions acceptable to the Postal Service and in compliance with postal regulations, Public Law 100-574 [enacting section 3014 of this title, sections 1716B and 1716C of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and provisions set out as a note under section 3014 of this title] and the amendments made by such Public Law.

“(B) AUTHORITY.—The Postal Service shall use to carry out this paragraph the authority provided under section 3014 of title 39, United States Code.

“(4) COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.—Any program conducted jointly by the State of Hawaii and any Federal agency under this subsection that in any way affects the mail or the postal system of the United States shall comply with postal regulations and shall be conducted under terms and conditions acceptable to the Postal Service.

“(5) EXTENSION OF AGREEMENTS.—A cooperative agreement entered into under this subsection may be extended by mutual consent of the parties to the agreement.

“(c) PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM ON PROHIBITIONS AGAINST SHIPMENT OR TRANSPORTATION OF PLANT PESTS AND INJURIOUS ANIMALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly establish a public information program to inform the public on—

“(A) the prohibitions against the shipment or transportation of plants, plants [sic] pests, and injurious animals; and

“(B) the consequences of violating Federal laws designed to prevent the introduction of alien species into the State of Hawaii and other areas of the United States.

“(2) METHODS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Postal Service and Secretaries may—

“(A) use public service announcements, mail, and other forms of distributing information, dial-up information services, and such other methods as will effectively communicate the information described in paragraph (1); and

“(B) cooperate with State and private organizations to carry out the program established under this subsection.

“(3) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the program established under subsection (a) commences, the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Postal Service, and the State of Hawaii, shall—

“(A) conduct a study to determine the proportion of plant pests and injurious animals that are introduced into Hawaii by various modes of commerce; and

“(B) report the results of the study to Congress.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 18 section 1716D.

CHAPTER 32—PENALTY AND FRANKED MAIL

Sec. 3201.	Definitions.
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3203.	Endorsements on penalty covers.
3204.	Restrictions on use of penalty mail.
3205.	Accounting for penalty covers.
3206.	Reimbursement for penalty mail service.
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3208.	Shipment by most economical means.

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3209.	Executive departments to supply information.
3210.	Franked mail transmitted by the Vice President, Members of Congress, and congressional officials.
3211.	Public documents.
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3213.	Seeds and reports from Department of Agriculture.
3214.	Mailing privilege of former President; surviving spouse of former President.
3215.	Lending or permitting use of frank unlawful.
3216.	Reimbursement for franked mailings.
3217.	Correspondence of members of diplomatic corps and consuls of countries of Postal Union of Americas and Spain.
3218.	Franked mail for survivors of Members of Congress.
3219.	Mailgrams.
3220.	Use of official mail in the location and recovery of missing children.

AMENDMENTS

1985—Pub. L. 99-87, §1(a)(2), Aug. 9, 1985, 99 Stat. 290, added item 3220.

1981—Pub. L. 97-69, §6(c)(2), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043, substituted “survivors” for “surviving spouses” in item 3218.

1973—Pub. L. 93-191, §§1(b), 4(b), 12(b), Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 741, 742, 746, substituted “Franked mail transmitted by the Vice President, Members of Congress, and congressional officials” for “Official correspondence of Vice President and Members of Congress” in item 3210, substituted “President, surviving spouse of former President” for “Presidents” in item 3214, and added item 3219.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 3684 of this title.

§ 3201. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) “penalty mail” means official mail, other than franked mail, which is authorized by law to be transmitted in the mail without prepayment of postage;

(2) “penalty cover” means envelopes, wrappers, labels, or cards used to transmit penalty mail;

(3) “frank” means the autographic or facsimile signature of persons authorized by sections 3210-3216 and 3218 of this title to transmit matter through the mail without prepayment of postage or other indicia contemplated by sections 733 and 907 of title 44;

(4) “franked mail” means mail which is transmitted in the mail under a frank;

(5) “Members of Congress” includes Senators, Representatives, Delegates, and Resident Commissioners; and

(6) “missing child” has the meaning provided by section 403(1) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 751; Pub. L. 99-87, §1(b), Aug. 9, 1985, 99 Stat. 291.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

For termination of amendment by section 5 of Pub. L. 99-87, see Termination Date of 1985 Amendment note below.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 403(1) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, referred to in par. (6), is

classified to section 5772(1) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

AMENDMENTS

1985—Par. (6). Pub. L. 99-87 temporarily added par. (6). See Termination Date of 1985 Amendment note below.

TERMINATION DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-87 not effective after Dec. 31, 1997, see section 5 of Pub. L. 99-87, as amended, set out as a Termination Date note under section 3220 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3216 of this title.

§ 3202. Penalty mail

(a) Subject to the limitations imposed by sections 3204 and 3207 of this title, there may be transmitted as penalty mail—

(1) official mail of—

(A) officers of the Government of the United States other than Members of Congress;

(B) the Smithsonian Institution;

(C) the Pan American Union;

(D) the Pan American Sanitary Bureau;

(E) the United States Employment Service and the system of employment offices operated by it in conformity with the provisions of sections 49-49c, 49d, 49e-49k of title 29, and all State employment systems which receive funds appropriated under authority of those sections; and

(F) any college officer or other person connected with the extension department of the college as the Secretary of Agriculture may designate to the Postal Service to the extent that the official mail consists of correspondence, bulletins, and reports for the furtherance of the purpose of sections 341-343 and 344-348 of title 7;

(2) mail relating to naturalization to be sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service by clerks of courts addressed to the Department of Justice or the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or any official thereof;

(3) mail relating to a collection of statistics, survey, or census authorized by title 13 and addressed to the Department of Commerce or a bureau or agency thereof; and

(4) mail of State agriculture experiment stations pursuant to sections 325 and 361f of title 7.

(b) A department or officer authorized to use penalty covers may enclose them with return address to any person from or through whom official information is desired. The penalty cover may be used only to transmit the official information and endorsements relating thereto.

(c) This section does not apply to officers who receive a fixed allowance as compensation for their services including expenses of postage.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 751; Pub. L. 94-553, §105(e), Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2599; Pub. L.

103-123, title VII, § 708(b), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1272.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (a)(3), (4), Pub. L. 103-123 inserted “and” at end of par. (3) and substituted period for “; and” at end of par. (4).

1976—Subsec. (a)(5), Pub. L. 94-553 struck out par. (5) which related to articles for copyright deposited with postmasters and addressed to the Register of Copyrights pursuant to section 15 of title 17.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-553 effective Jan. 1, 1978, see section 102 of Pub. L. 94-553, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 17, Copyrights.

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE FOR STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SYSTEMS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Pub. L. 92-80, title I, Aug. 10, 1971, 85 Stat. 287, which required Department of Labor and Post Office Department to use such amounts as may be agreed upon for the payment of postage for the transmission of official mail matter in connection with the administration of unemployment compensation systems and employment services by States receiving grants, was from the Department of Labor Appropriation Act, 1972, and was not repeated in subsequent appropriation acts. See section 3202(a)(1)(E) of this title.

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Jan. 11, 1971, Pub. L. 91-667, title I, 84 Stat. 2002.
 Mar. 5, 1970, Pub. L. 91-204, title I, 84 Stat. 24.
 Oct. 11, 1968, Pub. L. 90-557, title I, 82 Stat. 971.
 Nov. 8, 1967, Pub. L. 90-132, title I, 81 Stat. 387.
 Nov. 7, 1966, Pub. L. 89-787, title I, 80 Stat. 1379.
 Aug. 31, 1965, Pub. L. 89-156, title I, 79 Stat. 590.
 Sept. 19, 1964, Pub. L. 88-605, title I, 78 Stat. 960.
 Oct. 11, 1963, Pub. L. 88-136, title I, 77 Stat. 226.
 Aug. 14, 1962, Pub. L. 87-582, title I, 76 Stat. 363.
 Sept. 22, 1961, Pub. L. 87-290, title I, 75 Stat. 591.
 Sept. 2, 1960, Pub. L. 86-703, title I, 74 Stat. 757.
 Aug. 14, 1959, Pub. L. 86-158, title I, 73 Stat. 341.
 Aug. 1, 1958, Pub. L. 85-580, title I, 72 Stat. 459.
 June 29, 1957, Pub. L. 85-67, title I, 71 Stat. 212.
 June 29, 1956, ch. 477, title I, 70 Stat. 424.
 Aug. 1, 1955, ch. 437, title I, 69 Stat. 398.
 July 2, 1954, ch. 457, title I, 68 Stat. 435.
 July 31, 1953, ch. 296, title I, 67 Stat. 246.
 July 5, 1952, ch. 575, title I, 66 Stat. 360.
 Aug. 31, 1951, ch. 373, title I, 65 Stat. 210.
 Sept. 6, 1950, ch. 896, ch. V, title I, 64 Stat. 644.
 June 29, 1949, ch. 275, title II, 63 Stat. 293.
 June 16, 1948, ch. 472, title I, 62 Stat. 445.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3203, 3206 of this title; title 22 section 2905.

§ 3203. Endorsements on penalty covers

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, penalty covers shall bear, over the words “Official Business” an endorsement showing the name of the department, bureau, or office from which, or officer from whom, it is transmitted. The penalty for the unlawful use of all penalty covers shall be printed thereon.

(b) The Postal Service shall prescribe the endorsement to be placed on covers mailed under clauses (1)(E), (2), and (3) of section 3202(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 752.)

§ 3204. Restrictions on use of penalty mail

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section or section 3220 of this title, an officer, execu-

tive department, or independent establishment of the Government of the United States may not mail, as penalty mail, any article or document unless—

- (1) a request therefor has been previously received by the department or establishment; or
- (2) its mailings is required by law.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not prohibit the mailing, as penalty mail, by an officer, executive department, or independent agency of—

- (1) enclosures reasonably related to the subject matter of official correspondence;
- (2) informational releases relating to the census of the United States and authorized by title 13;
- (3) matter concerning the sale of Government securities;
- (4) forms, blanks, and copies of statutes, rules, regulations, instructions, administrative orders, and interpretations necessary in the administration of the department or establishment;
- (5) agricultural bulletins;
- (6) lists of public documents offered for sale by the Superintendent of Documents;
- (7) announcements of the publication of maps, atlases, and statistical and other reports offered for sale by the Federal Power Commission as authorized by section 825k of title 16; or
- (8) articles or documents to educational institutions or public libraries, or to Federal, State, or other public authorities.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 752; Pub. L. 99-87, §1(c)(1), Aug. 9, 1985, 99 Stat. 291.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

For termination of amendment by section 5 of Pub. L. 99-87, see Termination Date of 1985 Amendment note below.

AMENDMENTS

1985—Subsec. (a), Pub. L. 99-87 temporarily inserted reference to section 3220(a) of this title. See Termination Date of 1985 Amendment note below.

TERMINATION DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-87 not effective after Dec. 31, 1997, see section 5 of Pub. L. 99-87, as amended, set out as a Termination Date note under section 3220 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Federal Power Commission terminated and its functions, personnel, property, funds, etc., transferred to Secretary of Energy (except for certain functions transferred to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) by sections 7151(b), 7171(a), 7172(a), 7291, and 7293 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 12 section 1701z-2; title 15 section 637; title 16 section 4601-1; title 29 section 1708; title 42 section 12651d.

§ 3205. Accounting for penalty covers

Executive departments and agencies, independent establishments of the Government of the United States, and organizations and persons authorized by law to use penalty mail, shall account for all penalty covers through the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 753.)

§ 3206. Reimbursement for penalty mail service

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, executive departments and agencies, independent establishments of the Government of the United States, and Government corporations concerned, shall transfer to the Postal Service as postal revenue out of any appropriations or funds available to them, as a necessary expense of the appropriations or funds and of the activities concerned, the equivalent amount of postage due, as determined by the Postal Service, for matter sent in the mails by or to them as penalty mail under authority of section 3202 of this title.

(b) The Department of Agriculture shall transfer to the Postal Service as postal revenues out of any appropriations made to it for that purpose the equivalent amount of postage, as determined by the Postal Service, for penalty mailings under clauses (1)(F) and (4) of section 3202(a) of this title.

(c) The Department of State shall transfer to the Postal Service as postal revenues out of any appropriations made to it for that purpose the equivalent amount of postage, as determined by the Postal Service, for penalty mailings under clause (1)(C) and (D) of section 3202(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 753; Pub. L. 93-191, §9, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 745; Pub. L. 94-553, §105(e), Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2599.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-553 substituted “subsection (b)” for “subsections (b) and (c)”.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 94-553 redesignated subsec. (d) as (c). Former subsec. (c), directing the Library of Congress to transfer to the Postal Service as postal revenues out of any appropriations made to the Library for that purpose the equivalent amount of postage, as determined by the Postal Service, for penalty mailings under clause (5) of section 3202(a) of this title, was struck out.

1973—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsec. (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-553 effective Jan. 1, 1978, see section 102 of Pub. L. 94-553, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 17, Copyrights.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

§ 3207. Limit of weight of penalty mail; postage on overweight matter

(a) Penalty mail is restricted to articles not in excess of the weight and size prescribed for that class of mail receiving high priority in handling and delivery, except—

- (1) stamped paper and supplies sold or used by the Postal Service; and
- (2) books and documents published or circulated by order of Congress when mailed by the Superintendent of Documents.

(b) A penalty mail article which is—

- (1) over 4 pounds in weight;
- (2) not in excess of the weight and size prescribed for mail matter; and

(3) otherwise mailable;

is mailable at rates for that class of mail entitled to the lowest priority in handling and delivery, even though it may include written matter and may be sealed.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 753.)

§ 3208. Shipment by most economical means

Shipments of official matter other than franked mail shall be sent by the most economical means of transportation practicable. The Postal Service may refuse to accept official matter for shipment by mail when in its judgment it may be shipped by other means at less expense, or it may provide for its transportation by freight or express whenever a saving to the Government of the United States will result therefrom without detriment to the public service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 753.)

§ 3209. Executive departments to supply information

Persons and governmental organizations authorized to use penalty mail shall supply all information requested by the Postal Service necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter as soon as practicable after request therefor.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754.)

§ 3210. Franked mail transmitted by the Vice President, Members of Congress, and congressional officials

(a)(1) It is the policy of the Congress that the privilege of sending mail as franked mail shall be established under this section in order to assist and expedite the conduct of the official business, activities, and duties of the Congress of the United States.

(2) It is the intent of the Congress that such official business, activities, and duties cover all matters which directly or indirectly pertain to the legislative process or to any congressional representative functions generally, or to the functioning, working, or operating of the Congress and the performance of official duties in connection therewith, and shall include, but not be limited to, the conveying of information to the public, and the requesting of the views of the public, or the views and information of other authority of government, as a guide or a means of assistance in the performance of those functions.

(3) It is the intent of the Congress that mail matter which is frankable specifically includes, but is not limited to—

(A) mail matter to any person and to all agencies and officials of Federal, State, and local governments regarding programs, decisions, and other related matters of public concern or public service, including any matter relating to actions of a past or current Congress;

(B) the usual and customary congressional newsletter or press release which may deal with such matters as the impact of laws and decisions on State and local governments and individual citizens; reports on public and offi-

cial actions taken by Members of Congress; and discussions of proposed or pending legislation or governmental actions and the positions of the Members of Congress on, and arguments for or against, such matters;

(C) the usual and customary congressional questionnaire seeking public opinion on any law, pending or proposed legislation, public issue, or subject;

(D) mail matter dispatched by a Member of Congress between his Washington office and any congressional district offices, or between his district offices;

(E) mail matter directed by one Member of Congress to another Member of Congress or to representatives of the legislative bodies of State and local governments;

(F) mail matter expressing congratulations to a person who has achieved some public distinction;

(G) mail matter, including general mass mailings, which consists of Federal laws, Federal regulations, other Federal publications, publications purchased with Federal funds, or publications containing items of general information;

(H) mail matter which consists of voter registration or election information or assistance prepared and mailed in a nonpartisan manner;

(I) mail matter which constitutes or includes a biography or autobiography of any Member of, or Member-elect to, Congress or any biographical or autobiographical material concerning such Member or Member-elect or the spouse or other members of the family of such Member or Member-elect, and which is so mailed as a part of a Federal publication or in response to a specific request therefor and is not included for publicity purposes in a newsletter or other general mass mailing of the Member or Member-elect under the franking privilege; or

(J) mail matter which contains a picture, sketch, or other likeness of any Member or Member-elect and which is so mailed as a part of a Federal publication or in response to a specific request therefor and, when contained in a newsletter or other general mass mailing of any Member or Member-elect, is not of such size, or does not occur with such frequency in the mail matter concerned, as to lead to the conclusion that the purpose of such picture, sketch, or likeness is to advertise the Member or Member-elect rather than to illustrate accompanying text.

(4) It is the intent of the Congress that the franking privilege under this section shall not permit, and may not be used for, the transmission through the mails as franked mail, of matter which in its nature is purely personal to the sender or to any other person and is unrelated to the official business, activities, and duties of the public officials covered by subsection (b)(1) of this section.

(5) It is the intent of the Congress that a Member of or Member-elect to Congress may not mail as franked mail—

(A) mail matter which constitutes or includes any article, account, sketch, narration, or other text laudatory and complimentary of any Member of, or Member-elect to, Congress

on a purely personal or political basis rather than on the basis of performance of official duties as a Member or on the basis of activities as a Member-elect;

(B) mail matter which constitutes or includes—

(i) greetings from the spouse or other members of the family of such Member or Member-elect unless it is a brief reference in otherwise frankable mail;

(ii) reports of how or when such Member or Member-elect, or the spouse or any other member of the family of such Member or Member-elect, spends time other than in the performance of, or in connection with, the legislative, representative, and other official functions of such Member or the activities of such Member-elect as a Member-elect; or

(iii) any card expressing holiday greetings from such Member or Member-elect; or

(C) mail matter which specifically solicits political support for the sender or any other person or any political party, or a vote or financial assistance for any candidate for any public office.

The House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards and the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct of the Senate shall prescribe for their respective Houses such rules and regulations and shall take such other action, as the Commission or Committee considers necessary and proper for the Members and Members-elect to conform to the provisions of this clause and applicable rules and regulations. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions prescribing the time within which such mailings shall be mailed at or delivered to any postal facility to attain compliance with this clause and the time when such mailings shall be deemed to have been so mailed or delivered and such compliance attained.

(6)(A) It is the intent of Congress that a Member of, or Member-elect to, Congress may not mail any mass mailing as franked mail—

(i) if the mass mailing is postmarked fewer than 60 days (or, in the case of a Member of the House, fewer than 90 days) immediately before the date of any primary election or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff) in which the Member is a candidate for reelection; or

(ii) in the case of a Member of, or Member-elect to, the House who is a candidate for any other public office, if the mass mailing—

(I) is prepared for delivery within any portion of the jurisdiction of or the area covered by the public office which is outside the area constituting the congressional district from which the Member or Member-elect was elected; or

(II) is postmarked fewer than 90 days immediately before the date of any primary election or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff) in which the Member or Member-elect is a candidate for any other public office.

(B) Any mass mailing which is mailed by the chairman of any organization referred to in the last sentence of section 3215 of this title which relates to the normal and regular business of the

organization may be mailed without regard to the provisions of this paragraph.

(C) No Member of the Senate may mail any mass mailing as franked mail if such mass mailing is postmarked fewer than 60 days immediately before the date of any primary election or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff) for any national, State or local office in which such Member is a candidate for election.

(D) The Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate and the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards shall prescribe for their respective Houses rules and regulations, and shall take other action as the Committee or the Commission considers necessary and proper for Members and Members-elect to comply with the provisions of this paragraph and applicable rules and regulations. The rules and regulations shall include provisions prescribing the time within which mailings shall be mailed at or delivered to any postal facility and the time when the mailings shall be deemed to have been mailed or delivered to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

(E) As used in this section, the term "mass mailing" means, with respect to a session of Congress, any mailing of newsletters or other pieces of mail with substantially identical content (whether such mail is deposited singly or in bulk, or at the same time or different times), totaling more than 500 pieces in that session, except that such term does not include any mailing—

(i) of matter in direct response to a communication from a person to whom the matter is mailed;

(ii) from a Member of Congress to other Members of Congress, or to Federal, State, or local government officials; or

(iii) of a news release to the communications media.

(F) For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (C) if mail matter is of a type which is not customarily postmarked, the date on which such matter would have been postmarked if it were of a type customarily postmarked shall apply.

(7) A Member of the House of Representatives may not send any mass mailing outside the congressional district from which the Member was elected.

(b)(1) The Vice President, each Member of or Member-elect to Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, each of the elected officers of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House), the Legislative Counsels of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Legal Counsel, may send, as franked mail, matter relating to their official business, activities, and duties, as intended by Congress to be mailable as franked mail under subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section.

(2) If a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, an elected officer of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House), the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives or the Senate, the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives, or the Senate Legal Counsel, any authorized person

may exercise the franking privilege in the officer's name during the period of the vacancy.

(3) The Vice President, each Member of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, and each of the elected officers of the House (other than a Member of the House), during the 90-day period immediately following the date on which they leave office, may send, as franked mail, matter on official business relating to the closing of their respective offices. The House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards and the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct of the Senate shall prescribe for their respective Houses such rules and regulations, and shall take such other action as the Commission or Committee considers necessary and proper, to carry out the provisions of this paragraph.

(c) Franked mail may be in any form appropriate for mail matter, including, but not limited to, correspondence, newsletters, questionnaires, recordings, facsimiles, reprints, and reproductions. Franked mail shall not include matter which is intended by Congress to be non-mailable as franked mail under subsection (a)(4) and (5) of this section.

(d)(1) A Member of Congress may mail franked mail with a simplified form of address for delivery within that area constituting the congressional district or State from which the Member was elected.

(2) A Member-elect to the Congress may mail franked mail with a simplified form of address for delivery within that area constituting the congressional district or the State from which he was elected.

(3) A Delegate, Delegate-elect, Resident Commissioner, or Resident Commissioner-elect to the House of Representatives may mail franked mail with a simplified form of address for delivery within the area from which he was elected.

(4) Any franked mail which is mailed under this subsection shall be mailed at the equivalent rate of postage which assures that the mail will be sent by the most economical means practicable.

(5) The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards shall prescribe for their respective Houses rules and regulations governing any franked mail which is mailed under this subsection and shall by regulation limit the number of such mailings allowed under this subsection

(6)(A) Any Member of, or Member-elect to, the House of Representatives entitled to make any mailing as franked mail under this subsection shall, before making any mailing, submit a sample or description of the mail matter involved to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards for an advisory opinion as to whether the proposed mailing is in compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

(B) The Senate Select Committee on Ethics may require any Member of, or Member-elect to, the Senate entitled to make any mailings as franked mail under this subsection to submit a sample or description of the mail matter to the Committee for an advisory opinion as to whether the proposed mailing is in compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

(7) Franked mail mailed with a simplified form of address under this subsection—

(A) shall be prepared as directed by the Postal Service; and

(B) may be delivered to—

- (i) each box holder or family on a rural or star route;
- (ii) each post office box holder; and
- (iii) each stop or box on a city carrier route.

(8) For the purposes of this subsection, a congressional district includes, in the case of a Representative at Large or Representative at Large-elect, the State from which he was elected.

(e) The frankability of mail matter shall be determined under the provisions of this section by the type and content of the mail sent, or to be sent.

(f) Any mass mailing which otherwise would be permitted to be mailed as franked mail under this section shall not be so mailed unless the cost of preparing and printing the mail matter is paid exclusively from funds appropriated by Congress, except that an otherwise frankable mass mailing may contain, as an enclosure or supplement, any public service material which is purely instructional or informational in nature, and which in content is frankable under this section.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, or any regulation thereunder, the equivalent amount of postage determined under section 3216 of this title on franked mail mailed under the frank of the Vice President or a Member of Congress, and the cost of preparing or printing such frankable matter for such mailing under the frank, shall not be considered as a contribution to, or an expenditure by, the Vice President or a Member of Congress for the purpose of determining any limitation on expenditures or contributions with respect to any such official, imposed by any Federal, State, or local law or regulation, in connection with any campaign of such official for election to any Federal office.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 92-51, §101, July 9, 1971, 85 Stat. 132; Pub. L. 93-191, §1(a), Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 737; Pub. L. 94-177, Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1032; Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §714(a), Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1884; Pub. L. 97-69, §§1-3(a), 4, Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1041-1043; Pub. L. 97-263, §1(1), (2), Sept. 24, 1982, 96 Stat. 1132; Pub. L. 101-163, title III, §318, Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1067; Pub. L. 101-520, title III, §§311(h)(1), 316, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280, 2283; Pub. L. 102-392, title III, §309(a), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1722; Pub. L. 104-197, title I, §102(a), Sept. 16, 1996, 110 Stat. 2401.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(6)(A)(i). Pub. L. 104-197, §102(a)(1), inserted “(or, in the case of a Member of the House, fewer than 90 days)” after “60 days”.

Subsec. (a)(6)(A)(ii)(II). Pub. L. 104-197, §102(a)(2), substituted “90 days” for “60 days”.

1992—Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 102-392, §309(a)(1), substituted “from which the Member was elected” for “of the Member, except that—

“(A) a Member of the House of Representatives may send mass mailings to any area in a county, if any part of the county adjoins or is inside the congressional district of the Member; and

“(B) in the case of redistricting, on and after the date referred to in subsection (d)(1)(B), a Member of the House of Representatives may send mass mailings to the additional area described in that section”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 102-392, §309(a)(2), struck out subpar. (A) designation, substituted “the Member” for “he” and a period for “; and”, and struck out subpar. (B) which read as follows: “with respect to a Member of the House of Representatives on and after the date on which the proposed redistricting of congressional districts in his State by legislative or judicial proceedings is initially completed (whether or not the redistricting is actually in effect), within any additional area of each congressional district proposed or established in such redistricting and containing all or part of the area constituting the congressional district from which he was elected, unless and until the congressional district so proposed or established is changed by legislative or judicial proceedings.”

1990—Subsec. (a)(6)(E). Pub. L. 101-520, §311(h)(1), amended subpar. (E) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (E) read as follows: “For purposes of this section, the term ‘mass mailing’ means newsletters and similar mailings of more than five hundred pieces in which the content of the matter mailed is substantially identical but shall not apply to mailings—

“(i) which are in direct response to communications from persons to whom the matter is mailed;

“(ii) to colleagues in the Congress or to government officials (whether Federal, State, or local); or

“(iii) of news releases to the communications media.”

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 101-520, §316, added par. (7).

1989—Subsec. (a)(6)(A)(i), (ii)(II), (C). Pub. L. 101-163, §318(1)-(3), substituted “is postmarked fewer” for “is mailed fewer”.

Subsec. (a)(6)(F). Pub. L. 101-163, §318(4), added subpar. (F).

1982—Subsec. (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 97-263 inserted reference to Law Revision Counsel of House of Representatives.

1981—Subsec. (a)(3)(F). Pub. L. 97-69, §1, struck out provision relating to mail matter expressing condolences to a person who has suffered a loss.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 97-69, §2(a), inserted provision relating to brief references in otherwise frankable mail in subpar. (B)(i), and struck out subpar. (D) which related to mass mailing mailed at or delivered to any postal facility less than 28 days immediately before the date of any primary or general election in which the Member or Member-elect was a candidate for public office. See subsec. (a)(6) of this section.

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 97-69, §2(b), added par. (6).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 97-69, §3(a), substituted “Congress” for “the House” in provisions of par. (1) preceding subpar. (A), substituted “congressional district or State” for “congressional district” in par. (1)(A), inserted “with respect to a Member of the House of Representatives” after “(B)” in par. (1)(B), substituted “Congress” for “House of Representatives” and “congressional district or the State” for “congressional district” in par. (2), added pars. (4), (5), and (6), and redesignated former pars. (4) and (5) as (7) and (8), respectively.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 97-69, §4(a), struck out provisions under which the cost of preparing or printing mail matter which was frankable under this section could be paid from any funds, including but not limited to funds collected by a candidate or a political committee required to file reports of receipts and expenditures under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-225), or from voluntary newsletter funds, or from similar funds administered or controlled by a Member or by a committee organized to administer such funds.

Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 97-69, §4(b), added subsec. (f) and redesignated former subsec. (f) as (g).

1978—Subsec. (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 95-521 inserted reference to Senate Legal Counsel.

1975—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 94-177, §1(a), struck out “and” before “each of the elected officers”, and “until

the 1st day of April following the expiration of their respective terms of office" after "(other than a Member of the House)".

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 94-177, §1(b), added par. (3).

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsec. (a). Former first sentence provided in part for franked mail (1) matter, not exceeding 4 pounds in weight, upon official or departmental business, to a Government official, and (2) correspondence, not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, upon official business to any person.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated part of former first sentence in provisions designated as subsec. (b)(1), substituted reference to elected officers of House of Representatives (other than a Member of House) for former references to Clerk of House of Representatives and the Sergeant at Arms of House of Representatives, included reference to Legislative Counsel of Senate, substituted the 1st day of April for the thirtieth day of June, and substituted internal reference to subsec. (a)(2) and (3) of this section for former provision respecting franked mail (1) matter, not exceeding 4 pounds in weight, upon official or departmental business, to a Government official, and (2) correspondence, not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, upon official business to any person.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated former second sentence in provisions designated as subsec. (b)(2), substituted provision respecting vacancy in Office of an elected officer of House of Representatives (other than a Member of House) for former provision respecting vacancy in office of Clerk of House of Representatives and Sergeant at Arms of House of Representatives and included provision for vacancy in Office of Legislative Counsel of Senate.

Subsecs. (c) to (f). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsecs. (c) to (f).

1971—Pub. L. 92-51 inserted reference to Legislative Counsel of House of Representatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 102(b) of Pub. L. 104-197 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1996, and shall apply with respect to any mailing postmarked on or after that date."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Section 309(b) of Pub. L. 102-392 provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 6, 1992]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 311(h)(1) of Pub. L. 101-520 applicable with respect to sessions of Congress beginning with the first session of the One Hundred Second Congress, see section 59e(1) of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Section 3(b) of Pub. L. 97-69 provided that: "This section [amending this section] shall become effective 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 26, 1981]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-521 effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as an Effective Date note under section 288 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191 provided that: "(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the provisions of this Act [enacting section 3219 of this title and sections 501 and 502 of Title 2, The Congress, amending this section, sections 3206, 3211, 3212, 3215, 3216, and 3218 of this title, and sections 733 and 907 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents, and repealing section 277 of Title 2] shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 1973].

"(b) The provisions of section 3214 of title 39, United States Code, as amended by section 4 of this Act; and the provisions of subsection (b) of section 3216 of title 39, United States Code, as amended by section 7 of this Act, shall take effect as of December 27, 1972."

SEPARABILITY

Section 15 of Pub. L. 93-191 provided that: "If a provision of this Act [enacting section 3219 of this title and sections 501 and 502 of Title 2, The Congress, amending this section, sections 3206, 3211, 3212, 3214 to 3216, and 3218 of this title, and sections 733 and 907 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents, and repealing section 277 of Title 2] is held invalid, all valid provisions severable from the invalid provision remain in effect. If a provision of this Act is held invalid in one or more of its applications, such provision remains in effect in all valid applications severable from the invalid application or applications."

MASS MAILINGS BY SENATORS

Pub. L. 103-283, title I, §§5, 6, July 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 1427, provided that:

"SEC. 5. Effective October 1, 1994, each of the figures contained in section 506(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973 (2 U.S.C. 58(b)(3)(A)(iii)) is increased by \$50,000: *Provided*, That, in any fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 1995, a Senator may use funds provided for official office expenses, but not to exceed \$50,000, for mass mailing, as defined in section 6(b)(1) and all such mass mailings shall be under the frank.

"SEC. 6. (a) This section shall apply to mailings by Senators, made during fiscal year 1995 and each fiscal year thereafter in addition to any other law relating to the use of the franking privilege.

"(b) For the purposes of this paragraph—

"(1) the term 'mass mailing'—

"(A) means, with respect to a session of Congress, a mailing of more than 500 newsletters or other pieces of mail with substantially identical content (whether such mail is deposited singly or in bulk, or at the same time or different times), but

"(B) does not include a mailing—

"(i) of matter in direct response to a communication from a person to whom the matter is mailed;

"(ii) to other Members of Congress or to a Federal, State, or local government official;

"(iii) of a news release to the communications media;

"(iv) of a town meeting notice, but no such mailing may be made fewer than 60 days immediately before the date of any primary election or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff) for any Federal, State, or local office in which a Member of the Senate is a candidate for election; or

"(v) of a Federal publication or other item that is provided by the Senate to all Senators or made available by the Senate for purchase by all Senators from official funds specifically for distribution.

"(c) Except as provided in section 5, a Senator may not mail a mass mailing under the frank.

"(d) The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration shall prescribe rules and regulations and take other action as the Committee considers necessary and proper for Senators to comply with this section and regulations."

Section 316(a), formerly section 316(a), (b), of Pub. L. 101-163, as renumbered and amended by Pub. L. 101-520, title III, §311(h)(3), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280; Pub. L. 102-392, title III, §308(a), Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1722, provided that: "Effective January 1, 1990, a mass mailing (as defined in section 3210(a)(6)(E) of title 39, United States Code) by a Senator shall be limited to 2 sheets of paper (or their equivalent), including any enclosure that—

“(1) is prepared by or for the Senator who makes the mailing; or

“(2) contains information concerning, expresses the views of, or otherwise relates to the Senator who makes the mailing.”

[Section 308(b) of Pub. L. 102-392 provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending section 316(a) of Pub. L. 101-163, set out above] shall take effect on October 1, 1992.”]

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3201, 3212, 3219 of this title; title 2 sections 31b-4, 59e, 59g, 59h, 282d, 501, 502; title 44 section 907.

§ 3211. Public documents

The Vice President, Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, each of the elected officers of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House) during the 90-day period immediately following the expiration of their respective terms of office, may send and receive as franked mail all public documents printed by order of Congress.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, § 2, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 741; Pub. L. 97-69, § 5(a), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043.)

AMENDMENTS

1981—Pub. L. 97-69 substituted “during the 90-day period immediately” for “until the first day of April”.

1973—Pub. L. 93-191 substituted “each of the elected officers of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House) until the first day of April” for “the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives, until the thirtieth day of June”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3201 of this title; title 2 sections 31b-4, 501, 502.

§ 3212. Congressional Record under frank of Members of Congress

(a) Members of Congress may send the Congressional Record as franked mail.

(b) Members of Congress may send, as franked mail, any part of, or a reprint of any part of, the Congressional Record, including speeches or reports contained therein, if such matter is mailable as franked mail under section 3210 of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, § 3, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 741.)

AMENDMENTS

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated existing text in provisions designated as subsec. (a).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated existing text in provisions designated as subsec. (b), authorized sending, as franked mail, reprints of parts of Congressional Record, and authorized the mailing of Congressional Record if the listed matter is mailable as franked mail under section 3210 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3201 of this title; title 2 sections 501, 502.

§ 3213. Seeds and reports from Department of Agriculture

Seeds and agricultural reports emanating from the Department of Agriculture may be mailed—

(1) as penalty mail by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(2) during the 90-day period immediately following the expiration of their terms of office, as franked mail by Members of Congress.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 97-69, § 5(b), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043.)

AMENDMENTS

1981—Par. (2). Pub. L. 97-69 substituted “during the 90-day period immediately” for “until the thirtieth day of June”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3201 of this title; title 2 sections 31b-4, 501, 502.

§ 3214. Mailing privilege of former President; surviving spouse of former President

(a) Subject to subsection (b), a former President and the surviving spouse of a former President may send nonpolitical mail within the United States and its territories and possessions as franked mail. Such mail of a former President and of the surviving spouse of a former President marked “Postage and Fees Paid” in the manner prescribed by the Postal Service shall be accepted by the Postal Service for transmission in the international mails.

(b) Subsection (a) shall cease to apply—

(1) 5 years after the effective date of this subsection, in the case of any individual who, on such effective date—

(A) is a former President (including any individual who might become entitled to the mailing privilege under subsection (a) as the surviving spouse of such a former President); or

(B) is the surviving spouse of a former President; and

(2) 4 years and 6 months after the expiration of the period for which services and facilities are authorized to be provided under section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), in the case of an individual who becomes a former President after such effective date (including any surviving spouse of such individual, as described in the parenthetical matter in paragraph (1)(A)).

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, § 4(a), Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 742; Pub. L. 103-123, title IV, § 6(b), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1246.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is Oct. 1, 1993. See Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note below.

Section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is section 4 of Pub. L. 88-277, which is set out as a note under section 102 of Title 3, The President.

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-123 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), substituted “Subject to subsection (b), a former” for “A former”, and added subsec. (b).

1973—Pub. L. 93-191 limited the mailing privilege to nonpolitical mail, extended the privilege to surviving spouse of former President and provided for acceptance of such mail marked “Postage and Fees Paid” by the Postal Service for transmission in the international mails.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Section 6(c) of Pub. L. 103-123 provided that: “The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [amending this section and provisions set out as a note under section 102 of Title 3, The President] shall take effect on October 1, 1993.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 27, 1972, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3201, 3216 of this title.

§ 3215. Lending or permitting use of frank unlawful

A person entitled to use a frank may not lend it or permit its use by any committee, organization, or association, or permit its use by any person for the benefit or use of any committee, organization, or association. This section does not apply to any standing, select, special, or joint committee, or subcommittee thereof, or commission, of the Senate, House of Representatives, or Congress, composed of Members of Congress, or to the Democratic caucus or the Republican conference of the House of Representatives or of the Senate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, §10, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 746.)

AMENDMENTS

1973—Pub. L. 93-191 substituted provision for non-application of section to “any standing, select, special, or joint committee, or subcommittee thereof, or commission, of the Senate, House of Representatives, or Congress, composed of Members of Congress, or to the Democratic caucus or the Republican conference of the House of Representatives or of the Senate” for such nonapplication to “any committee composed of Members of Congress”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3201, 3210 of this title; title 2 sections 501, 502.

§ 3216. Reimbursement for franked mailings

(a) The equivalent of—

(1) postage on, and fees and charges in connection with, mail matter sent through the mails—

(A) under the franking privilege (other than under section 3219 of this title), by the Vice President, Members of and Members-elect to Congress, the Secretary of the Sen-

ate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, each of the elected officers of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House), the Legislative Counsels of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Legal Counsel; and

(B) by the survivors of a Member of Congress under section 3218 of this title; and

(2) those portions of fees and charges to be paid for handling and delivery by the Postal Service of Mailgrams considered as franked mail under section 3219 of this title;

shall be paid by appropriations for the official mail costs of the Senate and the House of Representatives for that purpose and then paid to the Postal Service as postal revenue. Except as to Mailgrams and except as provided by sections 733 and 907 of title 44, envelopes, wrappers, cards, or labels used to transmit franked mail shall bear, in the upper right-hand corner, the sender's signature, or a facsimile thereof.

(b) Postage on, and fees and charges in connection with, mail matter sent through the mails under section 3214 of this title shall be paid each fiscal year, out of any appropriation made for that purpose, to the Postal Service as postal revenue in an amount equivalent to the postage, fees, and charges which would otherwise be payable on, or in connection with, such mail matter.

(c) Payment under subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be deemed payment for all matter mailed under the frank and for all fees and charges due the Postal Service in connection therewith.

(d) Money collected for matter improperly mailed under the franking privilege shall be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the general fund of the Treasury.

(e)(1) Not later than two weeks after the last day of each quarter of the fiscal year, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Postmaster General shall send to the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration a report which shall contain a tabulation of the estimated number of pieces and costs of franked mail, as defined in section 3201 of this title, in each mail classification sent through the mail for that quarter and for the preceding quarters in the fiscal year, together with separate tabulations of the number of pieces and costs of such mail sent by the House and by the Senate.

(2) Two weeks after the close of the second quarter of the fiscal year, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Postmaster General shall send to the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, the Committee on House Oversight, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, a statement of the costs of postage on, and fees and charges in connection with, mail matter sent through the mails as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection for the preceding two quarters together with an es-

timate of such costs for the balance of the fiscal year. As soon as practicable after receipt of this statement, the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, the Committee on House Oversight, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration shall consider promulgating such regulations for their respective Houses as may be necessary to ensure that total postage costs, as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, will not exceed the amounts available for the fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 92-51, §101, July 9, 1971, 85 Stat. 132; Pub. L. 93-191, §7, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 745; Pub. L. 93-255, §2(a), Mar. 27, 1974, 88 Stat. 52; Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §714(b), Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1884; Pub. L. 97-69, §6(a), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043; Pub. L. 97-263, §1(3), Sept. 24, 1982, 96 Stat. 1132; Pub. L. 101-163, title III, §§316(b), formerly §316(c), 317, Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1067, renumbered §316(b), Pub. L. 101-520, title III, §311(h)(3)(B), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280; Pub. L. 102-90, title III, §306, Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 466; Pub. L. 104-186, title II, §220, Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1748.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-186 substituted “Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives” for “Clerk of the House” in pars. (1) and (2) and “House Oversight” for “House Administration” in two places in par. (2).

1991—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 102-90 substituted “paragraph (1) of this subsection” for “subsection (1) of this section” in two places.

1990—Pub. L. 101-520 made technical amendment to Pub. L. 101-163, §316(b). See 1989 Amendment note below.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-163, §316(b), formerly §316(c), as renumbered by Pub. L. 101-520, which directed substitution of “by appropriations for the official mail costs of the Senate and the House of Representatives” for “by a lump sum appropriation to the legislative branch” was executed by making the substitution for “by a lump-sum appropriation to the legislative branch” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-163, §317, added subsec. (e).

1982—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 97-263 inserted reference to Law Revision Counsel of House of Representatives.

1981—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 97-69 substituted “survivors” for “surviving spouse”.

1978—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 95-521 inserted reference to Senate Legal Counsel.

1974—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-255 struck out “, and the printed words ‘Postage paid by Congress’” at end of last sentence.

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated existing text in provisions designated as par. (1)(A) and (B), substituted in subpar. (a) reference to elected officers of House of Representatives (other than a Member of House) for former references to Clerk of House of Representatives and Sergeant at Arms of House of Representatives, included in subpar. (A) reference to Legislative Counsel of Senate, added par. (2) and provision for the sender’s signature, or facsimile thereof, and printed words “Postage paid by Congress” in upper right-hand corner on transmitted franked mail.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b), which provided that the postage on mail matter sent through the mails under the franking privilege by former Presidents shall be paid by reimbursement of the postal revenues each fiscal year out of the general funds of the Treasury in an amount equivalent to the postage which would otherwise be payable on the mail matter, was struck out.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsecs. (c) and (d).

1971—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-51 inserted reference to Legislative Counsel of House of Representatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Section 316(b), formerly section 316(c), of Pub. L. 101-163, as renumbered by Pub. L. 101-520, title III, §311(h)(3)(B), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Oct. 1, 1989.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-521 effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as an Effective Date note under section 288 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, except that subsec. (b) of this section effective Dec. 27, 1972, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3201, 3210, 3219 of this title; title 2 section 31b-4.

§ 3217. Correspondence of members of diplomatic corps and consuls of countries of Postal Union of Americas and Spain

Correspondence of the members of the diplomatic corps of the countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain stationed in the United States may be reciprocally transmitted in the domestic mails free of postage, and be entitled to free registration without right to indemnity in case of loss. The same privilege is accorded consuls and vice consuls when they are discharging the function of consuls of countries stationed in the United States, for official correspondence among themselves, and with the Government of the United States.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 755.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3627 of this title.

§ 3218. Franked mail for survivors of Members of Congress

Upon the death of a Member of Congress during his term of office, the surviving spouse of such Member (or, if there is no surviving spouse, a member of the immediate family of the Member designated by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Secretary or the Clerk) may send, for a period not to exceed 180 days after his death, as franked mail, nonpolitical correspondence relating to the death of the Member.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 755; Pub. L. 93-191, §11, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 746; Pub. L. 97-69, §6(b), (c)(1), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043.)

AMENDMENTS

1981—Pub. L. 97-69 substituted “survivors” for “surviving spouses” in section catchline and, in text, inserted “(or, if there is no surviving spouse, a member of the immediate family of the Member designated by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House

of Representatives, as appropriate, in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Secretary or the Clerk)" after "such Member".

1973—Pub. L. 93-191 inserted "nonpolitical" before "correspondence".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3201, 3216 of this title; title 2 sections 501, 502.

§ 3219. Mailgrams

Any Mailgram sent by the Vice President, a Member of or Member-elect to Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, an elected officer of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House), the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives or the Senate, the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives, or the Senate Legal Counsel, and then delivered by the Postal Service, shall be considered as franked mail, subject to section 3216(a)(2) of this title, if such Mailgram contains matter of the kind authorized to be sent by that official as franked mail under section 3210 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 93-191, §12(a), Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 746; amended Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §714(c), Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1884; Pub. L. 97-263, §1(4), Sept. 24, 1982, 96 Stat. 1132.)

AMENDMENTS

1982—Pub. L. 97-263 inserted reference to Law Revision Counsel of House of Representatives.

1978—Pub. L. 95-521 inserted reference to Senate Legal Counsel.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-521 effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as an Effective Date note under section 288 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as an Effective Date of 1976 Amendment note under section 3210 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3216 of this title; title 2 sections 501, 502.

§ 3220. Use of official mail in the location and recovery of missing children

(a)(1) The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, after consultation with appropriate public and private agencies, shall prescribe general guidelines under which penalty mail may be used to assist in the location and recovery of missing children. The guidelines shall provide information relating to—

(A) the form and manner in which materials and information relating to missing children (such as biographical data and pictures, sketches, or other likenesses) may be included in penalty mail;

(B) appropriate sources from which such materials and information may be obtained;

(C) the procedures by which such materials and information may be obtained; and

(D) any other matter which the Office considers appropriate.

(2) Each executive department and independent establishment of the Government of the United States shall prescribe regulations under which penalty mail sent by such department or establishment may be used in conformance with the guidelines prescribed under paragraph (1).

(b) The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards shall prescribe for their respective Houses rules and regulations, and shall take such other action as the Committee or Commission considers necessary and proper, in order that purposes similar to those of subsection (a) may, in the discretion of the congressional official or office concerned, be carried out by the use of franked mail sent by such official or office.

(c) As used in this section, "Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention" and "Office" each means the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the Department of Justice, as established by section 201 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

(Added Pub. L. 99-87, §1(a)(1), Aug. 9, 1985, 99 Stat. 290.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 5 of Pub. L. 99-87, see Termination Date note below.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 201 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (c), is classified to section 5611 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

TERMINATION DATE

Section 5 of Pub. L. 99-87, as amended by Pub. L. 100-202, §101(m) [title VI, §627(a)], Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1329-390, 1329-430; Pub. L. 102-514, §1(2), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3371, provided that: "The amendments made by section 1 [enacting this section and amending sections 3201 and 3204 of this title and section 733 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents] and any guidelines, rules, or regulations prescribed to carry out such amendments shall cease to be effective after December 31, 1997."

ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

Section 2 of Pub. L. 99-87 provided that:

"(a) **GUIDELINES.**—The guidelines described in section 3220(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code, as added by this Act, shall be prescribed not later than ninety days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 9, 1985].

"(b) **RULES AND REGULATIONS.**—The regulations described in subsection (a)(2) of section 3220 of title 39, United States Code, as added by this Act, and the rules and regulations described in subsection (b) of such section, as so added, shall be prescribed not later than one hundred and eighty days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 9, 1985]."

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 3 of Pub. L. 99-87, as amended by Pub. L. 100-202, §101(m) [title VI, §627(b)], Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1329-390, 1329-430; Pub. L. 102-514, §1(1), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3371, provided that:

"(a) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than June 30, 1997, a written report containing the matter described in subsection (b) shall be prepared by—

“(1) the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and submitted to the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

“(2) the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and submitted to the President pro tempore of the Senate; and

“(3) the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards and submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“(b) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report under this section shall include—

“(1) an assessment of the effectiveness with which any authority provided by section 3220 of title 39, United States Code, as added by this Act, has (during the period covered by the report) been used, insofar as such authority was subject to guidelines or rules and regulations prescribed by the reporting entity;

“(2) recommendations as to whether the authority under such section should, insofar as such authority was subject to such guidelines or rules and regulations, be extended beyond the termination date otherwise applicable under section 5 [set out as a note above]; and

“(3) any other information which the reporting entity considers appropriate.”

CLARIFICATION RELATING TO COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Section 4 of Pub. L. 99-87 provided that: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authority provided by section 3220(b) of title 39, United States Code, as added by this Act, shall not be considered to be subject to the authority of any agency within the executive branch of the Government of the United States to coordinate programs relating to missing children.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3204 of this title; title 44 section 733.

CHAPTER 34—ARMED FORCES AND FREE POSTAGE

Sec.	
3401.	Mailing privileges of members of Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations.
[3402.	Repealed.]
3403.	Matter for blind and other handicapped persons.
3404.	Unsealed letters sent by blind or physically handicapped persons.
3405.	Markings.
3406.	Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-410, title II, §201(b)(1), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 928, added item 3406.

1979—Pub. L. 96-70, title I, §1331(e)(3)(B), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 482, struck out item 3402 “Mailing privileges of members of Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations in the Canal Zone”.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 3684 of this title.

§ 3401. Mailing privileges of members of Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations

(a) Letter mail or sound- or video-recorded communications having the character of personal correspondence shall be carried, at no cost to the sender, in the manner provided by this section, when mailed by—

(1) an individual who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active

duty, as defined in section 101 of title 10, or a civilian, otherwise authorized to use postal services at Armed Forces installations, who holds a position or performs one or more functions in support of military operations, as designated by the military theater commander, and addressed to a place within the delivery limits of a United States post office, if—

(A) such letter mail or¹ sound- or video-recorded communication is mailed by such individual at an Armed Forces post office established in an overseas area, as designated by the President, where the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in action against an enemy of the United States, engaged in military operations involving armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, engaged in temporary military operations under arduous circumstances, serving with a friendly foreign force in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent, or temporarily deployed overseas for an operational contingency in arduous circumstances, as determined by the Secretary of Defense; or

(B) such individual is hospitalized in a facility under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces of the United States as a result of disease or injury incurred as a result of service in an overseas area designated by the President under clause (A) of this paragraph; or

(2) a member of an armed force of a friendly foreign nation at an Armed Forces post office and addressed to a place within the delivery limits of a United States post office, or a post office of the nation in whose armed forces the sender is a member, if—

(A) the member is accorded free mailing privileges by his own government;

(B) the foreign nation extends similar free mailing privileges to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving with, or in, a unit under the control of a command of that foreign nation;

(C) the member is serving with, or in, a unit under the operational control of a command of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(D) such letter mail or sound- or video-recorded communication is mailed by the member—

(i) at an Armed Forces post office established in an overseas area, as designated by the President, where the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in action against an enemy of the United States, engaged in military operations involving armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, or serving with a friendly foreign force in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent; or

(ii) while hospitalized in a facility under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces of the United States as a result of disease or injury incurred as a result of services in an overseas area designated by the President under clause (D)(i) of this paragraph; and

¹ See 1990 Amendment note below.

(E) the nation in whose armed forces the sender is a member has agreed to assume all international postal transportation charges incurred.

(b) There shall be transported by air, between Armed Forces post offices which are located outside the 48 contiguous States of the United States or between any such Armed Forces post office and the point of embarkation or debarkation within the United States, the territories and possessions of the United States in the Pacific area, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands, on a space available basis, on scheduled United States air carriers at rates fixed and determined by the Secretary of Transportation in accordance with section 41901 of title 49, the following categories of mail matter:

(1)(A) letter mail or sound- or video-recorded communications having the character of personal correspondence;

(B) parcels not exceeding 15 pounds in weight and 60 inches in length and girth combined; and

(C) publications entitled to a periodical publication rate published once each week or more frequently and featuring principally current news of interest to members of the Armed Forces and the general public,

which are mailed at or addressed to any such Armed Forces post office;

(2) parcels not exceeding 70 pounds in weight and 100 inches in length and girth combined, which are mailed at any such Armed Forces post office; and

(3) parcels exceeding 15 pounds but not exceeding 70 pounds in weight and not exceeding 100 inches in length and girth combined, including surface-type official mail, which are mailed at or addressed to any such Armed Forces post office where adequate surface transportation is not available.

Whenever adequate service by scheduled United States air carriers is not available to provide transportation of mail matter by air in accordance with this subsection, the transportation of such mail may be authorized by other than scheduled United States air carriers.

(c) Any parcel, other than a parcel mailed at a rate of postage requiring priority of handling and delivery, not exceeding 30 pounds in weight and 60 inches in length and girth combined, which is mailed at or addressed to any Armed Forces post office established under section 406(a) of this title, shall be transported by air on a space available basis on scheduled United States air carriers at rates fixed and determined by the Secretary of Transportation in accordance with section 41901 of title 49, upon payment of a fee for such air transportation in addition to the rate of postage otherwise applicable to such a parcel not transported by air. If adequate service by scheduled United States air carriers is not available, any such parcel may be transported by air carriers other than scheduled United States air carriers.

(d) The Department of Defense shall transfer to the Postal Service as postal revenues, out of any appropriations or funds available to the Department of Defense, as a necessary expense of the appropriations or funds and of the activities

concerned, the equivalent amount of postage due, as determined by the Postal Service, for matter sent in the mails under authority of subsection (a) of this section.

(e) The Department of Defense shall transfer to the Postal Service as postal revenues, out of any appropriations or funds available to the Department of Defense, as a necessary expense of the appropriations or funds and of the activities concerned, sums equal to the expenses incurred by the Postal Service, as determined by the Postal Service, in providing air transportation for mail mailed at or addressed to Armed Forces post offices established under section 406 of this title, but reimbursement under this subsection shall not include the expense of air transportation (1) for which the Postal Service collects a special charge to the extent the special charge covers the additional expense of air transportation or (2) that is provided by the Postal Service at the same postage rate or charge for mail which is neither mailed at nor addressed to an Armed Forces post office.

(f) This section shall be administered under such conditions, and under such regulations, as the Postal Service and the Secretary of Defense jointly may prescribe.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 755; Pub. L. 92-469, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 782; Pub. L. 96-70, title I, §1331(e)(2), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 482; Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(1), Oct. 4, 1984, 98 Stat. 1707; Pub. L. 101-384, Sept. 18, 1990, 104 Stat. 737; Pub. L. 101-509, title VI, §631(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1480; Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XI, §1113, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1636; Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1051(b)(3), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2498; Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title III, §364, Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1628; Pub. L. 103-272, §5(k)(1), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1375.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “section 41901” for “section 1376”.

1993—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 103-160, in introductory provisions, inserted “an individual who is” before “a member” and “or a civilian, otherwise authorized to use postal services at Armed Forces installations, who holds a position or performs one or more functions in support of military operations, as designated by the military theater commander,” after “section 101 of title 10,” and, in subpars. (A) and (B), substituted “such individual” for “the member”.

1992—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 102-484 substituted “section 101 of title 10,” for “section 101(4) and (22) of title 10,” in introductory provisions.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-510 substituted “sound- or video-recorded” for “sound-recorded” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 101-510 substituted “sound- or video-recorded” for “sound-recorded”.

Pub. L. 101-509, which directed that “, or temporarily deployed overseas for an operational contingency in arduous circumstances, as determined by the Secretary of Defense” be inserted after “belligerent”, and that “or” be struck out the first time it appears, was executed by making the insertion as directed but by striking out “or” appearing before “serving with a friendly foreign force” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 101-384 inserted “engaged in temporary military operations under arduous circumstances,” before “or serving”.

Subsecs. (a)(2)(D), (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 101-510 substituted “sound- or video-recorded” for “sound-recorded”.

1984—Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 98-443 substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Civil Aeronautics Board”.

1979—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-70 substituted “or the Virgin Islands,” for “the Virgin Islands, or the Canal Zone.”

1972—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 92-469, §1, substituted “15” for “5” after “pounds” in cl. (B), redesignated subsec. (b)(2) as (b)(1)(C), and deleted therefrom former cls. reading “(A) in an overseas area designated by the President under subsection (a) of this section, or (B) in an isolated, hardship, or combat support area overseas, or where adequate surface transportation is not available”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 92-469, §1, added subsec. (b)(2). Former subsec. (b)(2) redesignated subsec. (b)(1)(C).

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 92-469, §1, substituted “15” for “5” after “pounds”.

Subsecs. (c) to (f). Pub. L. 92-469, §2, added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsecs. (c) to (e) as (d) to (f), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-443 effective Jan. 1, 1985, see section 9(v) of Pub. L. 98-443, set out as a note under section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-70 effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 3304 of Pub. L. 96-70, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

OPERATION DESERT SHIELD

Section 631(b) of Pub. L. 101-509 provided that: “This section [amending this section] shall apply to military personnel participating in ‘Operation Desert Shield.’”

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11255

Ex. Ord. No. 11255, Nov. 1, 1965, 30 F.R. 14135, which designated Vietnam and certain waters adjacent thereto as an overseas combat area where the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in military operations involving armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, for purposes of sections 4169 and 4303 of former Title 39, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 12553, Feb. 25, 1986, 51 F.R. 7237.

EX. ORD. NO. 12556. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Ex. Ord. No. 12556, Apr. 16, 1986, 51 F.R. 13205, provided:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. Delegation of Functions. The function conferred upon the President by section 3401(a) of title 39 of the United States Code, of designating an area for free mailing privileges, is delegated to the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 2. Interagency Consultation. In performing the function delegated by this Order, the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of State and the United States Postal Service, and with the heads of other Executive agencies as appropriate. The Secretary of Defense shall provide timely notice to the United States Postal Service of any designations or terminations of designations made under this Order.

RONALD REAGAN.

§ 3402. Repealed. Pub. L. 96-70, title I, § 1331(e)(3)(A), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 482]

Section, Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 757, related to mailing privileges of members of Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations in the Canal Zone.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 3304 of Pub. L. 96-70, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

§ 3403. Matter for blind and other handicapped persons

(a) The matter described in subsection (b) of this section (other than matter mailed under section 3404 of this title) may be mailed free of postage, if—

(1) the matter is for the use of the blind or other persons who cannot use or read conventionally printed material because of a physical impairment and who are certified by competent authority as unable to read normal reading material in accordance with the provisions of sections 135a and 135b of title 2;

(2) no charge, or rental, subscription, or other fee, is required for such matter or a charge, or rental, subscription, or other fee is required for such matter not in excess of the cost thereof;

(3) the matter may be opened by the Postal Service for inspection; and

(4) the matter contains no advertising.

(b) The free mailing privilege provided by subsection (a) of this section is extended to—

(1) reading matter and musical scores;

(2) sound reproductions;

(3) paper, records, tapes, and other material for the production of reading matter, musical scores, or sound reproductions;

(4) reproducers or parts thereof, for sound reproductions; and

(5) braille writers, typewriters, educational or other materials or devices, or parts thereof, used for writing by, or specifically designed or adapted for use of, a blind person or a person having a physical impairment as described in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 757.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3404, 3405, 3627 of this title.

§ 3404. Unsealed letters sent by blind or physically handicapped persons

Unsealed letters sent by a blind person or a person having a physical impairment, as described in section 3403(a)(1) of this title, in raised characters or sightsaving type, or in the form of sound recordings, may be mailed free of postage.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 758.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3403, 3405, 3627 of this title.

§ 3405. Markings

All matter relating to blind or other handicapped persons mailed under section 3403 or 3404

of this title, shall bear the words “Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped”, or words to that effect specified by the Postal Service, in the upper right-hand corner of the address area.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 758.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3627 of this title.

§ 3406. Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

(a) Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (individually or in bulk)—

(1) shall be carried expeditiously and free of postage; and

(2) may be mailed at a post office established outside the United States under section 406 of this title, unless such mailing is prohibited by treaty or other international agreement of the United States.

(b) As used in this section, the term “balloting materials” has the meaning given that term in section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

(Added Pub. L. 99-410, title II, §201(a), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 928.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 99-410, Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 924, which is classified principally to subchapter I-G (§1973ff et seq.) of chapter 20 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. Section 107 of that Act is classified to section 1973ff-6 of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1973ff of Title 42 and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to elections taking place after Dec. 31, 1987, see section 204 of Pub. L. 99-410, set out as a note under section 1973ff of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3627 of this title.

CHAPTER 36—POSTAL RATES, CLASSES, AND SERVICES

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SUBCHAPTER IV—POSTAL SERVICES AND COMPLAINTS

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3681.	Reimbursement.
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AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §704(a)(3)(B)(ii), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1270, substituted “free rates” for “free and reduced rates” in item 3627 and added item 3642.

Pub. L. 103-31, §8(h)(4), May 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 86, added item 3629.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 204, 410, 2004, 2401 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER I—POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

§ 3601. Establishment

(a) The Postal Rate Commission is an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government of the United States. The Commission is composed of 5 Commissioners, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commissioners shall be chosen on the basis of their professional qualifications and may be removed by the President only for cause. Not more than 3 of the Commissioners may be adherents of the same political party.

(b) A Commissioner may continue to serve after the expiration of his term until his successor has qualified, except that a Commissioner may not so continue to serve for more than 1 year after the date upon which his term otherwise would expire under section 3602 of this title.

(c) One of the Commissioners shall be designated as Chairman by, and shall serve in the position of Chairman at the pleasure of, the President.

(d) The Commissioners shall by majority vote designate a Vice Chairman of the Commission. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman of the Commission in the absence of the Chairman.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 759; Pub. L. 94-421, §3(a), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1304; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §708(c), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1273.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-123 substituted “consent” for “concent”.

1976—Pub. L. 94-421 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), required that appointments by the President be subject to Senate confirmation, substituted provision permitting the President to remove commissioners for cause for provision which required a Civil Service Commission hearing for removal, and added subsecs. (b) to (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective Aug. 12, 1970, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

POSTAL RATE COMMISSIONER HOLDING OFFICE ON
SEPTEMBER 24, 1976

Section 3(b) of Pub. L. 94-421 provided that: "The provisions of section 3601(a) of title 39, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall not apply with respect to any Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission holding office on the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 24, 1976], except that such provisions shall apply to any appointment of such a Commissioner occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act."

§ 3602. Terms of office

The Commissioners of the Postal Rate Commission shall serve for terms of 6 years except that—

(1) the terms of the Commissioners first taking office shall expire as designated by the President at the time of appointment, 1 at the end of 2 years, 2 at the end of 4 years, and 2 at the end of 6 years, following the appointment of the first of them; and

(2) any Commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall serve for the remainder of such term.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 759.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3601 of this title.

§ 3603. Rules; regulations; procedures

The Postal Rate Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations and establish procedures, subject to chapters 5 and 7 of title 5, and take any other action they deem necessary and proper to carry out their functions and obligations to the Government of the United States and the people as prescribed under this chapter. Such rules, regulations, procedures, and actions shall not be subject to any change or supervision by the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 759.)

§ 3604. Administration

(a) The Chairman of the Postal Rate Commission shall be the principal executive officer of the Commission. The Chairman shall exercise or direct the exercise of all the executive and administrative functions of the Commission, including functions of the Commission with respect to (1) the appointment of personnel employed under the Commission, except that the appointment of heads of major administrative units under the Commission shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the Commission, (2) the supervision of the personnel employed under the Commission and the distribution of business among them and among the Commissioners, and (3) the use and expenditure of funds.

(b) In carrying out any of his functions under this section, the Chairman shall be governed by the general policies of the Commission.

(c) The Chairman may obtain such facilities and supplies as may be necessary to permit the

Commission to carry out its functions. Any officer or employee appointed under this section shall be paid at rates of compensation and shall be entitled to programs offering employee benefits established under chapter 10 or chapter 12 of this title, as appropriate.

(d)(1) The Commission shall periodically prepare and submit to the Postal Service a budget of the Commission's expenses, including, but not limited to, expenses for facilities, supplies, compensation, and employee benefits. The budget shall be considered approved—

(A) as submitted if the Governors fail to act in accordance with subparagraph (B) of this paragraph; or

(B) as adjusted if the Governors holding office, by unanimous written decision, adjust the total amount of money requested in the budget.

Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to authorize the Governors to adjust any item included within the budget.

(2) Expenses incurred under any budget approved under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be paid out of the Postal Service fund established under section 2003 of this title.

(e) The provisions of section 410 and chapter 10 of this title shall apply to the Commission, as appropriate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 759; Pub. L. 94-421, § 4, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1305.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-421 increased the authority of the Chairman to the exercise of all executive and administrative functions, including appointment of personnel and control over use and expenditure of funds, and struck out requirement that all final acts of the Commissioners be by a vote of an absolute majority.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-421 added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (c) and amended.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-421 redesignated former subsec. (b) as (c), transferred authority to obtain facilities and supplies from the Commission to the chairman, and struck out the authority of the Commission to appoint and fix compensation of officers and employees and requiring them to be responsible to the Commissioners. Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).

Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 94-421 redesignated former subsecs. (c) and (d) as (d) and (e), respectively, and in subsec. (d), as so redesignated, made minor changes in phraseology.

TRANSITIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses of Postal Rate Commission from Aug. 12, 1970, until date of commencement of operations of Commission deemed administrative expenses of Post Office Department, see section 12 of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note under section 2004 of this title.

EX. ORD. NO. 11570. REGULATION OF CONDUCT FOR POSTAL
RATE COMMISSION AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Ex. Ord. No. 11570, Nov. 24, 1970, 35 F.R. 18183, as amended by Ex. Ord. No. 12107, Dec. 28, 1978, 44 F.R. 1055, provided:

Under the Postal Reorganization Act (Public Law 91-375) [this title], the Postal Rate Commission (referred to hereafter as the "Commission") is charged with the establishment and adjustment of fair and equitable rates of postage, fees for postal services, and classifications of mail. It is essential to public confidence in the United States Postal Service that the activities, procedures, decisions, and recommendations of

the Commission be impartial and disinterested and free from taint or suspicion of favoritism of any kind whatsoever, both in fact and in appearance.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 301 of Title 3, and Section 7301 of Title 5, United States Code, and the Postal Reorganization Act [this title], it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 101. The Commission is subject to Executive Order No. 11222 of May 8, 1965 [formerly set out as a note under section 201 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure], "Prescribing Standards of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees," and Part 735 of the regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (5 CFR Part 735).

SEC. 102. The Office of Personnel Management shall prepare initial standards of conduct regulations for the Commission. The regulations shall contain such provisions as will ensure that the Commissioners and employees of the Commission are fully guarded against involvement in conflicts of interest situations, or the appearance thereof, or other conduct that may lessen public confidence. The regulations shall include provision for:

(a) concurrent filing of confidential statements of outside employment and financial interests by employees of the Commission with a designated official of the Commission and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management;

(b) strict control of *ex parte* contacts with the Commission and the Commissioners or employees of the Commission regarding particular matters at issue in contested proceedings before the Commission. The control of such contacts shall include, but not be limited to, the maintenance of public records of such contacts which fully identify the individuals involved and the nature of the subject matter discussed; and

(c) prohibition against the receipt of honoraria, travel expenses, entertainment, gifts, loans, favors, or anything of value by a Commissioner or employee of the Commission from an individual (other than one having a close family or personal relationship) or organization having, or likely to have, business with the Commission.

SEC. 103. The Office of Personnel Management shall issue the initial standards of conduct regulations applicable to the Commission not later than 120 days after the effective date of this Order. Thereafter, the Office may from time to time amend the regulations, consistent with this Order. The regulations and any amendments thereto shall be published in the Federal Register.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2003 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER II—PERMANENT RATES AND CLASSES OF MAIL

SUBCHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This subchapter is referred to in sections 3642, 3662, 3681, 3682 of this title.

§ 3621. Authority to fix rates and classes

Except as otherwise provided, the Governors are authorized to establish reasonable and equitable classes of mail and reasonable and equitable rates of postage and fees for postal services in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Postal rates and fees shall be reasonable and equitable and sufficient to enable the Postal Service under honest, efficient, and economical management to maintain and continue the development of postal services of the kind and quality adapted to the needs of the United States. Postal rates and fees shall provide sufficient revenues so that the total estimated income and appropriations to the Postal Service

will equal as nearly as practicable total estimated costs of the Postal Service. For purposes of this section, "total estimated costs" shall include (without limitation) operating expenses, depreciation on capital facilities and equipment, debt service (including interest, amortization of debt discount and expense, and provision for sinking funds or other retirements of obligations to the extent that such provision exceeds applicable depreciation charges), and a reasonable provision for contingencies.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 760.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

RATEMAKING LIMITATIONS

Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, § 704(b)(2), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1270, provided that:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), rates of postage may not be established, under subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, in a manner designed to allow the United States Postal Service to receive through revenues any portion of the additional revenues (referred to in section 2401(d) of such title, as amended by paragraph (1)(E)) for which amounts are authorized to be appropriated under such section 2401(d).

"(B) EXCEPTION.—If Congress fails to appropriate an amount authorized under section 2401(d) of title 39, United States Code (as amended by paragraph (1)(E)), rates for the various classes of mail may be adjusted in accordance with the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 36 of such title (excluding section 3627 thereof) such that the resulting increase in revenues will equal the amount that Congress so failed to appropriate."

CONTINUATION OF EXISTING RATES AND FEES

Section 3 of Pub. L. 91-375 provided that: "The classes of mail, the rates of postage, and fees for postal services prescribed by law or regulation made or adopted prior to the effective date [see Effective Date note set out above] of subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, as enacted by section 2 of this Act, shall be in effect according to the terms of such law or regulation until changed in accordance with such subchapter."

Provisions of section 3 of Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by the Board of Governors and published by it in the Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 3622. Rates and fees

(a) From time to time the Postal Service shall request the Postal Rate Commission to submit a recommended decision on changes in a rate or rates of postage or in a fee or fees for postal services if the Postal Service determines that such changes would be in the public interest and in accordance with the policies of this title. The Postal Service may submit such suggestions for rate adjustments as it deems suitable.

(b) Upon receiving a request, the Commission shall make a recommended decision on the request for changes in rates or fees in each class of mail or type of service in accordance with the policies of this title and the following factors:

(1) the establishment and maintenance of a fair and equitable schedule;

(2) the value of the mail service actually provided each class or type of mail service to both the sender and the recipient, including but not limited to the collection, mode of transportation, and priority of delivery;

(3) the requirement that each class of mail or type of mail service bear the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to that class or type plus that portion of all other costs of the Postal Service reasonably assignable to such class or type;

(4) the effect of rate increases upon the general public, business mail users, and enterprises in the private sector of the economy engaged in the delivery of mail matter other than letters;

(5) the available alternative means of sending and receiving letters and other mail matter at reasonable costs;

(6) the degree of preparation of mail for delivery into the postal system performed by the mailer and its effect upon reducing costs to the Postal Service;

(7) simplicity of structure for the entire schedule and simple, identifiable relationships between the rates or fees charged the various classes of mail for postal services;

(8) the educational, cultural, scientific, and informational value to the recipient of mail matter; and

(9) such other factors as the Commission deems appropriate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 760; Pub. L. 94-421, §10, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1311.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (b)(8), (9). Pub. L. 94-421 added par. (8) and redesignated former par. (8) as (9).

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3624, 3641 of this title.

§ 3623. Mail classification

(a) Within 2 years after the effective date of this subchapter, the Postal Service shall request the Postal Rate Commission to make a recommended decision on establishing a mail classification schedule in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) Following the establishment of the mail classification schedule requested under subsection (a) of this section, the Postal Service may from time to time request that the Commission submit, or the Commission may submit to the Governors on its own initiative, a recommended decision on changes in the mail classification schedule.

(c) The Commission shall make a recommended decision on establishing or changing the schedule in accordance with the policies of this title and the following factors:

(1) the establishment and maintenance of a fair and equitable classification system for all mail;

(2) the relative value to the people of the kinds of mail matter entered into the postal system and the desirability and justification for special classifications and services of mail;

(3) the importance of providing classifications with extremely high degrees of reliability and speed of delivery;

(4) the importance of providing classifications which do not require an extremely high degree of reliability and speed of delivery;

(5) the desirability of special classifications from the point of view of both the user and of the Postal Service; and

(6) such other factors as the Commission may deem appropriate.

(d) The Postal Service shall maintain one or more classes of mail for the transmission of letters sealed against inspection. The rate for each such class shall be uniform throughout the United States, its territories, and possessions. One such class shall provide for the most expeditious handling and transportation afforded mail matter by the Postal Service. No letter of such a class of domestic origin shall be opened except under authority of a search warrant authorized by law, or by an officer or employee of the Postal Service for the sole purpose of determining an address at which the letter can be delivered, or pursuant to the authorization of the addressee.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 761; Pub. L. 94-421, §8, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1310.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this subchapter, referred to in subsec. (a), is Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-421 substituted "Governors on" for "Postal Service on".

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3624, 3641 of this title.

§ 3624. Recommended decisions of Commission

(a) The Postal Rate Commission shall promptly consider a request made under section 3622 or 3623 of this title, except that the Commission shall not recommend a decision until the opportunity for a hearing on the record under sections 556 and 557 of title 5 has been accorded to the Postal Service, users of the mails, and an officer of the Commission who shall be required to represent the interests of the general public.

(b) In order to conduct its proceedings with utmost expedition consistent with procedural fairness to the parties, the Commission may (without limitation) adopt rules which provide for—

(1) the advance submission of written direct testimony;

(2) the conduct of prehearing conferences to define issues, and for other purposes to insure orderly and expeditious proceedings;

(3) discovery both from the Postal Service and the parties to the proceedings;

(4) limitation of testimony; and

(5) the conduct of the entire proceedings off the record with the consent of the parties.

(c)(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2) of this subsection, in any case in which the Postal Service makes a request under section 3622 of this title for a recommended decision by the Commission on changes in a rate or rates of postage or in a fee or fees for postal services the

Commission shall transmit its recommended decision to the Governors under subsection (d) of this section no later than 10 months after receiving any such request from the Postal Service.

(2) In any case in which the Commission determines that the Postal Service has unreasonably delayed consideration of a request made by the Postal Service under section 3622 by failing to respond within a reasonable time to any lawful order of the Commission, the Commission may extend the 10-month period described in paragraph (1) of this subsection by one day for each day of such delay.

(d) The Commission shall transmit its recommended decision in a rate, fee, or classification matter to the Governors. The recommended decision shall include a statement specifically responsive to the criteria established under section 3622 or 3623, as the case may be.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 761; Pub. L. 94-421, §5(a), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1306.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 94-421 added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

RATE CHANGE REQUEST MADE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1975,
OR UNDER DOCKET NUMBER R76-1

Section 5(b) of Pub. L. 94-421 provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section [adding subsec. (c) of this section] shall not apply to any action or proceeding with respect to the recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission relating to proposed changes in rates of postage, and in fees for postal services, requested on September 18, 1975, by the United States Postal Service in a request which bears, or which at any time has been included under, Postal Rate Commission Docket Number R76-1."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3628, 3641, 3662 of this title.

§ 3625. Action of the Governors

(a) Upon receiving a recommended decision from the Postal Rate Commission, the Governors may approve, allow under protest, reject, or modify that decision in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) The Governors may approve the recommended decision and order the decision placed in effect.

(c) The Governors may, under protest, allow a recommended decision of the Commission to take effect and (1) seek judicial review thereof under section 3628 of this title, or (2) return the recommended decision to the Commission for reconsideration and a further recommended decision, which shall be acted upon under this section and subject to review in accordance with section 3628 of this title.

(d) The Governors may reject the recommended decision of the Commission and the Postal Service may resubmit its request to the Commission for reconsideration. Upon resubmission, the request shall be reconsidered, and a further recommended decision of the Commission shall be acted upon under this section and subject to review in accordance with section 3628 of this title. However, with the unanimous written concurrence of all of the Governors then

holding office, the Governors may modify any such further recommended decision of the Commission under this subsection if the Governors expressly find that (1) such modification is in accord with the record and the policies of this chapter, and (2) the rates recommended by the Commission are not adequate to provide sufficient total revenues so that total estimated income and appropriations will equal as nearly as practicable estimated total costs.

(e) The decision of the Governors to approve, allow under protest, reject, or modify a recommended decision of the Commission shall be in writing and shall include an estimate of anticipated revenue and a statement of explanation and justification. The decision, the record of the Commission's hearings, and the Commission's recommended decision shall be made generally available at the time the decision is issued and shall be printed and made available for sale by the Public Printer within 10 days following the day the decision is issued.

(f) The Board shall determine the date on which the new rates, fees, the mail classification schedule, and changes in such schedule under this subchapter shall become effective.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 762; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §708(d), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1273.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-123 substituted "section 3628" for "section 3268".

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3662 of this title.

§ 3626. Reduced rates

(a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of mailer under former section 4358, 4452(b), 4452(c), 4454(b), or 4454(c)¹ of this title shall be established in accordance with the applicable provisions of this chapter.

(2) For the purpose of this subsection—

(A) the term "costs attributable", as used with respect to a class of mail or kind of mailer, means the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to such class of mail or kind of mailer (excluding any other costs of the Postal Service);

(B) the term "regular-rate category" means any class of mail or kind of mailer, other than a class or kind referred to in paragraph (3)(A) or section 2401(c); and

(C) the term "institutional-costs contribution", as used with respect to a class of mail or kind of mailer, means that portion of the estimated revenues to the Postal Service from such class of mail or kind of mailer which remains after subtracting an amount equal to the estimated costs attributable to such class of mail or kind of mailer.

(3)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (4) or (5), rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of mailer under former section 4358, 4452(b), 4452(c), 4554(b), or 4554(c) of this title shall be established in a manner such that the estimated

¹ So in original. Probably should be "4554(b), or 4554(c)".

revenues to be received by the Postal Service from such class of mail or kind of mailer shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) the estimated costs attributable to such class of mail or kind of mailer; and

(ii) the product derived by multiplying the estimated costs referred to in clause (i) by the applicable percentage under subparagraph (B).

(B) The applicable percentage for any class of mail or kind of mailer referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be the product derived by multiplying—

(i) the percentage which, for the most closely corresponding regular-rate category, the institutional-costs contribution for such category represents relative to the estimated costs attributable to such category of mail, times

(ii)(I) one-twelfth, for fiscal year 1994;

(II) one-sixth, for fiscal year 1995;

(III) one-fourth, for fiscal year 1996;

(IV) one-third, for fiscal year 1997;

(V) five-twelfths, for fiscal year 1998; and

(VI) one-half, for any fiscal year after fiscal year 1998.

(C) Temporary special authority to permit the timely implementation of the preceding provisions of this paragraph is provided under section 3642.

(D) For purposes of establishing rates of postage under this subchapter for any of the classes of mail or kinds of mailers referred to in subparagraph (A), subclauses (I) through (V) of subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be deemed amended by striking the fraction specified in each such subclause and inserting “one-half”.

(4) The rates for the advertising portion of any mail matter under former section 4358(d) or 4358(e) of this title shall be equal to the rates for the advertising portion of the most closely corresponding regular-rate category of mail, except that if the advertising portion does not exceed 10 percent of the issue of the publication involved, the advertising portion shall be subject to the same rates as apply to the nonadvertising portion.

(5) The rates for any advertising under former section 4358(f) of this title shall be equal to 75 percent of the rates for advertising contained in the most closely corresponding regular-rate category of mail.

(b)(1) For the purposes of this title, the term “periodical publications”, as used in former section 4351 of this title, includes (A) any catalog or other course listing, including mail announcements of legal texts which are part of post-bar admission education issued by any institution of higher education or by a nonprofit organization engaged in continuing legal education; and (B) any looseleaf page or report (including any index, instruction for filing, table, or sectional identifier which is an integral part of such report) which is designed as part of a looseleaf reporting service concerning developments in the law or public policy.

(2) Any material described in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall qualify to be entered and mailed as second class mail in accordance with the applicable provisions of former section 4352 through former section 4357 of this title.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, the term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given it by section 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a)), and includes a nonprofit organization that coordinates a network of college-level courses that is sponsored primarily by nonprofit educational institutions for an older adult constituency.

(c) In the administration of this section, one conservation publication published by an agency of a State which is responsible for management and conservation of the fish or wildlife resources of such State shall be considered a publication of a qualified nonprofit organization which qualifies for rates of postage under former section 4358(d) of this title.

(d)(1) For purposes of this title, the term “agricultural”, as used in former sections 4358(j)(2), 4452(d), and 4554(b)(1)(B) of this title, includes the art or science of cultivating land, harvesting crops or marine resources, or raising of livestock.

(2) In the administration of this section, and for purposes of former sections 4358(j)(2), 4452(d), and 4554(b)(1)(B) of this title, agricultural organizations or associations shall include any organization or association which collects and disseminates information or materials relating to agricultural pursuits.

(e)(1) In the administration of this section, the rates for third-class mail matter mailed by a qualified political committee shall be the rates currently in effect under former section 4452 of this title for third-class mail matter mailed by a qualified nonprofit organization.

(2) For purposes of this subsection—

(A) the term “qualified political committee” means a national or State committee of a political party, the Republican and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committees, the Democratic National Congressional Committee, and the National Republican Congressional Committee;

(B) the term “national committee” means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the national level; and

(C) the term “State committee” means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the State level.

(f) In the administration of this chapter, the rates for mail under former section 4358(g) of this title shall be established without regard to either the provisions of such former section 4358(g) or the provisions of this section.

(g)(1) In the administration of this section, the rates for mail under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of former section 4358 of this title shall not apply to an issue of a publication if the number of copies of such issue distributed within the county of publication is less than the number equal to the sum of 50 percent of the total paid circulation of such issue plus one.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to an issue of a publication if the total paid circulation of such issue is less than 10,000 copies.

(h) In the administration of this section, the number of copies of a subscription publication

mailed to nonsubscribers during a calendar year at rates under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of former section 4358 of this title may not exceed 10 percent of the number of copies of such publication mailed at such rates to subscribers.

[(i) Repealed. Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, § 704(a)(3)(A), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1269.]

(j)(1) In the administration of this section, the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title shall not apply to mail which advertises, promotes, offers, or, for a fee or consideration, recommends, describes, or announces the availability of—

(A) any credit, debit, or charge card, or similar financial instrument or account, provided by or through an arrangement with any person or organization not authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title;

(B) any insurance policy, unless the organization which promotes the purchase of such policy is authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title, the policy is designed for and primarily promoted to the members, donors, supporters, or beneficiaries of the organization, and the coverage provided by the policy is not generally otherwise commercially available;

(C) any travel arrangement, unless the organization which promotes the arrangement is authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title, the travel contributes substantially (aside from the cultivation of members, donors, or supporters, or the acquisition of income or funds) to one or more of the purposes which constitutes the basis for the organization's authorization to mail at such rates, and the arrangement is designed for and primarily promoted to the members, donors, supporters, or beneficiaries of the organization; or

(D) any product or service (other than any to which subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) relates), if—

(i) the sale of such product or the providing of such service is not substantially related (aside from the need, on the part of the organization promoting such product or service, for income or funds or the use it makes of the profits derived) to the exercise or performance by the organization of one or more of the purposes constituting the basis for the organization's authorization to mail at such rates; or

(ii) the mail matter involved is part of a cooperative mailing (as defined under regulations of the Postal Service) with any person or organization not authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title;

except that—

(I) any determination under clause (i) that a product or service is not substantially related to a particular purpose shall be made under regulations which shall be prescribed by the Postal Service and which shall be consistent with standards established by the Internal Revenue Service and the courts with respect to subsections (a) and (c) of section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(II) clause (i) shall not apply if the product involved is a periodical publication described in subsection (m)(2) (including a subscription to receive any such publication); and

(III) clause (i) shall not apply to space advertising in mail matter that otherwise qualifies for rates under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title, and satisfies the content requirements established by the Postal Service for periodical publications: *Provided*, That such changes in law shall take effect immediately and shall stay in effect hereafter unless the Congress enacts legislation on this matter prior to October 1, 1995.

(2) Matter shall not be excluded from being mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title, by an organization authorized to mail at those rates solely because—

(A) such matter contains, but is not primarily devoted to, acknowledgements of organizations or individuals who have made donations to the authorized organization; or

(B) such matter contains, but is not primarily devoted to, references to and a response card or other instructions for making inquiries concerning services or benefits available as a result of membership in the authorized organization: *Provided*, That advertising, promotional, or application materials specifically concerning such services or benefits are not included.

(3)(A) Upon request, an organization authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title shall furnish evidence to the Postal Service concerning the eligibility of any of its mail matter or mailings to be sent at those rates.

(B) The Postal Service shall establish procedures to carry out this paragraph, including procedures for mailer certification of compliance with the conditions specified in paragraph (1)(D) or subsection (m), as applicable, and verification of such compliance.

(k)(1) No person or organization shall mail, or cause to be mailed by contractual agreement or otherwise, at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title, any matter to which those rates do not apply.

(2) The Postal Service may assess a postage deficiency in the amount of the unpaid postage against any person or organization which violates paragraph (1) of this subsection. This assessment shall be deemed the final decision of the Postal Service, unless the party against whom the deficiency is assessed appeals it in writing within thirty days to the postmaster of the office where the mailing was entered. Such an appeal shall be considered by an official designated by the Postal Service, other than the postmaster of the office where the mailing was entered, who shall issue a decision as soon as practicable. This decision shall be deemed final unless the party against whom the deficiency was assessed appeals it in writing within thirty days to a further reviewing official designated by the Postal Service, who shall issue the final decision on the matter.

(3) The Postal Service shall maintain procedures for the prompt collection of postage deficiencies arising from the violation of paragraph (1) of this subsection, and may in its discretion, follow the issuance of a final decision regarding a deficiency under paragraph (2) of this subsection deduct the amount of that deficiency incurred during the previous 12 months from any postage accounts or other monies of the violator in its possession.

(l) In the administration of this section, the term “advertising”, as used in former section 4358(j)(2) of this title, does not include the publisher’s own advertising in a publication published by the official highway or development agency of a State.

(m)(1) In the administration of this section, the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title shall not apply to mail consisting of products, unless such products—

(A) were received by the organization as gifts or contributions; or

(B) are low cost articles (as defined by section 513(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a periodical publication of a qualified nonprofit organization.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 762; Pub. L. 93-328, §1, June 30, 1974, 88 Stat. 287; Pub. L. 94-421, §11, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1311; Pub. L. 95-593, §11(c), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2538; Pub. L. 99-272, title XV, §§15102(b)(1), (c), 15104, 15105, Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 330, 331; Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, §6003(a), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1933; Pub. L. 101-509, title II, §§1(a), 3, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1397, 1399; Pub. L. 102-141, title II, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 842, 843; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §§704(a)(1), (3)(A), 705(a)-(c), 708(e), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273; Pub. L. 103-329, title VI, §639, Sept. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 2432; Pub. L. 104-255, §2, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3169.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Former sections 4351 to 4358, 4452, and 4554 of this title, referred to in subsecs. (a)-(e)(1), (f), (g)(1), (h), and (j) to (m), mean the aforesaid sections which were classified to former Title 39, The Postal Service, prior to the general revision and reenactment of Title 39 by Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsecs. (j)(1)(D)(I) and (m)(1)(B), is classified to section 513 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

The phrase “shall take effect immediately and shall stay in effect hereafter”, referred to in subsec. (j)(1)(D)(III), probably means that the provision shall take effect Sept. 30, 1994, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 103-329, which enacted subsec. (j)(1)(D)(III), and shall stay in effect after that date.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 104-255 inserted before period “, and includes a nonprofit organization that coordinates a network of college-level courses that is sponsored primarily by nonprofit educational institutions for an older adult constituency”.

1994—Subsec. (j)(1)(D)(III). Pub. L. 103-329 added cl. (III).

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(a)(1), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows:

“(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of

mailer under former section 4358, 4452(b), 4452(c), 4554(b), or 4554(c) of this title shall be established in accordance with applicable provisions of this chapter.

“(2) Rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of mailer referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be established in accordance with the requirement that the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to such class of mail or kind of mailer (excluding any other costs of the Postal Service) shall be borne by such class of mail or kind of mailer, as the case may be: *Provided, however*, That with respect to mail under former section 4452(b) and 4452(c) of this title the preceding limitation shall apply only to rates of postage for letter shaped pieces, as such pieces are defined in the associated classification and rate schedules.”

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 103-123, §704(a)(3)(A), struck out subsec. (i) which defined “reduced-rate category” and “regular-rate category” and provided method for determining costs recovered by revenues plus appropriations for reduced-rate categories and for the purpose of distinguishing costs recovered from regular-rate categories and reduced-rate categories and determining appropriation requests relating to reduced-rate categories.

Subsec. (j)(1)(D). Pub. L. 103-123, §705(a), added subpar. (D).

Subsec. (j)(3). Pub. L. 103-123, §705(c), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A) and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (k), (l). Pub. L. 103-123, §708(e), redesignated subsec. (k), defining “advertising”, as (l).

Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 103-123, §705(b), added subsec. (m).

1991—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 102-141 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “Rates of postage for a class of mail or kind of mailer referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be established in accordance with the requirement that the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to such class of mail or kind of mailer (excluding any other costs of the Postal Service) shall be borne by such class of mail or kind of mailer, as the case may be.”

Subsec. (i)(2). Pub. L. 102-141 inserted “Subject to the requirements of section 2401(c) of this title and paragraph (a)(2) of this section with respect to mail under former sections 4452(b) and 4452(c) of this title,” before “This subsection”.

1990—Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 101-509, §1(a), added subsec. (j).

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 101-509, §3, added subsec. (k) defining “advertising”.

Pub. L. 101-509, §1(a), added subsec. (k) relating to mailing of matter at inapplicable rates.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-272, §15102(b)(1), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows: “If the rates of postage for any class of mail or kind of mailer under former sections 4358, 4359, 4421, 4422, 4452, or 4554 of this title, as such rates existed on the effective date of this subchapter, are, on the effective date of the first rate decision under this subchapter affecting that class or kind, less than the rates established by such decision, a separate rate schedule shall be adopted for that class or kind effective each time rates are established or changed under this subchapter, with annual increases as nearly equal as practicable, so that—

“(1) the revenues received from rates for mail under former sections 4358, 4452(b) and (c), 4554(b) and (c) shall not, on and after the first day of the sixteenth year following the effective date of the first rate decision applicable to that class or kind, exceed the direct and indirect postal costs attributable to mail of such class or kind (excluding all other costs of the Postal Service);

“(2) the rates for mail under former sections 4359, 4421, 4422, and 4554(a) shall be equal, on and after the first day of the eighth year following the effective date of the first rate decision applicable to that class or kind, to the rates that would have been in effect for such mail if this subparagraph had not been enacted; and

“(3) the rates for mail under former section 4452(a) shall be equal, on and after the first day of the fifth year following the effective date of the first rate decision applicable to that class or kind, to the rates that would have been in effect for such mail if this subparagraph had not been enacted.

No person who would have been entitled to mail matter under former section 4359 of this title shall mail such matter at the rates provided under this subsection unless he files annually with the Postal Service a written request for permission to mail matter at such rates.”

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 99-272, §15102(c), added subsec. (f).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 99-272, §15104, added subsec. (g).

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 99-272, §15105, added subsec. (h).

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 99-509 added subsec. (i).

1978—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 95-593 added subsec. (e).

1976—Pub. L. 94-421 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subssecs. (b) to (d).

1974—Pub. L. 93-328 substituted “sixteenth” for “tenth” year in subpar. (1), substituted “under former sections” for “under sections”, “eighth” for “fifth” year, and “subparagraph” for “subsection” and struck out reference to section “4452(a)” after “4422,” in subpar. (2), and added subpar. (3).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Section 704(c)(1) of Pub. L. 103-123 provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting section 3642 of this title and amending this section and section 3627 of this title] shall apply with respect to rates for mail sent after September 30, 1993.”

Section 705(d) of Pub. L. 103-123 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall apply with respect to mail sent, and the rates for mail sent, after December 31, 1993.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1(a) of Pub. L. 101-509 effective 90 days after Nov. 5, 1990, see section 1(c) of Pub. L. 101-509, set out as a note under section 2401 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENTS

Section 6003(c) of Pub. L. 99-509 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 2401 of this title] shall take effect on January 1, 1989, or on the effective date of the next general change in rates and fees under sections 3622 and 3625 of title 39, United States Code [Apr. 3, 1988, see 53 F.R. 10014], whichever is sooner.”

Section 15102(b)(2) of Pub. L. 99-272 provided that: “The amendment made by this subsection [amending this section] shall apply with respect to rates of postage taking effect after December 31, 1985.”

RELIEF OF CERTAIN PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

Pub. L. 104-52, title V, §527, Nov. 19, 1995, 109 Stat. 496, provided that: “For mail classification purposes under section 3626 of title 39, United States Code, and any regulations of the United States Postal Service for the administration of that section, a weekly second-class periodical publication which—

“(i) is eligible to publish legal notices under any applicable laws of the State where it is published;

“(ii) is eligible to be mailed at the rates for mail under former subsection 4358(a), (b), and (c) of title 39, United States Code, as limited by current subsection 3626(g) of that title; and

“(iii) the pages of which were customarily secured by 2 staples before March 19, 1989;

shall not be considered to be a bound publication solely because its pages continue to be secured by 2 staples after that date.”

FORBEARANCE REGARDING CERTAIN POSTAGE DEFICIENCIES

Section 2 of Pub. L. 101-509 provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Postal Service may forbear from the collection of any postage defi-

ciency assessed against an organization authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of title 39, United States Code, if the assessment of that deficiency arises from a violation of the cooperative mailing regulations of the Postal Service set forth at section 625.5 of the Domestic Mail Manual, and the Postal Service has made no determination that the organization knowingly or willfully violated such regulations. If any organizations authorized to mail at the rates for mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of title 39, United States Code, has paid on its own behalf all or part of a postage deficiency which the Postal Service would forbear from collecting under this section, the Postal Service may refund to that organization the amount which it has paid.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The provisions of this section shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 5, 1990], and shall apply to mailings which were sent on or between July 1, 1986, and the effective date of this section.”

CONSTRUCTION RESPECTING POSTAGE RATES REDUCTION UNAUTHORIZED

Section 2 of Pub. L. 93-328 provided that: “Nothing in section 1 of this Act [amending this section] shall be construed to authorize a reduction in any rate of postage in effect and being paid on the date of enactment of this Act [June 30, 1974].”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3629, 3642 of this title.

§ 3627. Adjusting free rates

If Congress fails to appropriate an amount authorized under section 2401(c) of this title for any class of mail sent free of postage under section 3217 or 3403-3406¹ the rate for that class may be adjusted in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter so that the increased revenues received from the users of such class will equal the amount for that class that the Congress was to appropriate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 763; Pub. L. 95-593, §11(b), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2538; Pub. L. 99-410, title II, §201(b)(3), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 928; Pub. L. 103-31, §8(h)(3), May 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 86; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §704(a)(3)(B)(i), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1269.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-123 substituted “free rates” for “free and reduced rates” in section catchline and “sent free of postage under section 3217 or 3403-3406” for “sent at a free or reduced rate under section 3217, 3403-3406, 3626, or 3629 of this title,” in text.

Pub. L. 103-31 substituted “3626, or 3629 of this title” for “or 3626 of this title,”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-410 substituted “3406” for “3405” and struck out “under the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, or under the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975” after “3626 of this title,”.

1978—Pub. L. 95-593 inserted provisions relating to applicability of Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-123 applicable with respect to rates for mail sent after Sept. 30, 1993, see section 704(c)(1) of Pub. L. 103-123, set out as a note under section 3626 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-31 effective (1) with respect to a State that, on May 20, 1993, has a provision

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by “of this title,”.

in the constitution of the State that would preclude compliance with section 1973gg et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, unless the State maintained separate Federal and State official lists of eligible voters, on the later of Jan. 1, 1996, or the date that is 120 days after the date by which, under the constitution of the State as in effect on May 20, 1993, it would be legally possible to adopt and place into effect any amendments to the constitution of the State that are necessary to permit compliance with section 1973gg et seq. of Title 42 without requiring a special election, and (2) with respect to a State not described above, on Jan. 1, 1995, see section 13 of Pub. L. 103-31, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1973gg of Title 42.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-410 applicable with respect to elections taking place after Dec. 31, 1987, see section 204 of Pub. L. 99-410, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1973ff of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3684 of this title.

§ 3628. Appellate review

A decision of the Governors to approve, allow under protest, or modify the recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission may be appealed to any court of appeals of the United States, within 15 days after its publication by the Public Printer, by an aggrieved party who appeared in the proceedings under section 3624(a) of this title. The court shall review the decision, in accordance with section 706 of title 5, and chapter 158 and section 2112 of title 28, except as otherwise provided in this section, on the basis of the record before the Commission and the Governors. The court may affirm the decision or order that the entire matter be returned for further consideration, but the court may not modify the decision. The court may not suspend the effectiveness of the changes, or otherwise prevent them from taking effect until final disposition of the suit by the court. No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision made by the Commission or Governors under this chapter except as provided in this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 763; Pub. L. 98-620, title IV, §402(37), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3360.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-620 struck out provision which required the court to make the matter a preferred cause and to expedite judgment in every way.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-620 not applicable to cases pending on Nov. 8, 1984, see section 403 of Pub. L. 98-620, set out as a note under section 1657 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3625, 3641, 3662, 3681 of this title.

§ 3629. Reduced rates for voter registration purposes

The Postal Service shall make available to a State or local voting registration official the rate for any class of mail that is available to a

qualified nonprofit organization under section 3626 for the purpose of making a mailing that the official certifies is required or authorized by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(Added Pub. L. 103-31, §8(h)(1), May 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 86.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 103-31, May 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 77, which is classified principally to subchapter I-H (§1973gg et seq.) of chapter 20 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1973gg of Title 42 and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective (1) with respect to a State that, on May 20, 1993, has a provision in the constitution of the State that would preclude compliance with section 1973gg et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, unless the State maintained separate Federal and State official lists of eligible voters, on the later of Jan. 1, 1996, or the date that is 120 days after the date by which, under the constitution of the State as in effect on May 20, 1993, it would be legally possible to adopt and place into effect any amendments to the constitution of the State that are necessary to permit compliance with section 1973gg et seq. of Title 42 without requiring a special election, and (2) with respect to a State not described above, on Jan. 1, 1995, see section 13 of Pub. L. 103-31, set out as a note under section 1973gg of Title 42.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2401, 3627 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER III—TEMPORARY RATES AND CLASSES

§ 3641. Temporary changes in rates and classes

(a) In any case in which the Postal Rate Commission fails to transmit a recommended decision on a change in rates of postage or in fees for postal services to the Governors in accordance with section 3624(c) of this title, the Postal Service may establish temporary changes in rates of postage and in fees for postal services in accordance with the proposed changes under consideration by the Commission. Such temporary changes may take effect upon such date as the Postal Service may determine, except that such temporary changes may take effect only after 10 days' notice in the Federal Register.

(b) Any temporary rate or fee established by the Postal Service under subsection (a) of this section shall be in accordance with the policies of this title and shall not exceed such amount as may be necessary for sufficient revenues to assure that the total estimated income, including appropriations, of the Postal Service shall, to the extent practicable, be equal to the total estimated costs of the Postal Service.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Postal Service may not establish any temporary rate for a class of mail or any temporary fee for a postal service which is more than the permanent rate or fee requested for such class or postal service by the Postal Service under section 3622 of this title.

(d) Any temporary change in rates of postage or in fees for postal services made by the Postal

Service under this section shall remain in effect no longer than 150 days after the date on which the Commission transmits its recommended decision to the Governors under section 3624(d) of this title, unless such temporary change is terminated by the Governors before the expiration of such period.

(e) If the Postal Rate Commission does not transmit to the Governors within 90 days after the Postal Service has submitted, or within 30 days after the Postal Service has resubmitted, to the Commission a request for a recommended decision on a change in the mail classification schedule (after such schedule is established under section 3623 of this title), the Postal Service, upon 10 days' notice in the Federal Register, may place into effect temporary changes in the mail classification schedule in accordance with proposed changes under consideration by the Commission. Any temporary change shall be effective for a period ending not later than 30 days after the Commission has transmitted its recommended decision to the Governors.

(f) If, under section 3628 of this title, a court orders a matter returned to the Commission for further consideration, the Postal Service, with the consent of the Commission, may place into effect temporary changes in rates of postage, and fees for postal services, or in the mail classification schedule.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 763; Pub. L. 94-421, §6(a), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1306.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-421 added subsec. (a). Former subsec. (a) redesignated (e) and amended.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-421 added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (f).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-421 substituted provision limiting the temporary rate increase to an amount no greater than the permanent fee requested for that class or service, for provision which limited a temporary increase to the lesser of either the rate or fee requested or an amount more than one-third greater than the permanent fee in effect for that class or service at the time a permanent change is requested.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-421 added subsec. (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 94-421 redesignated former subsec. (a) as (e) and struck out reference to requests for decisions on change in the rates of postage or fees for postal service.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 94-421 redesignated former subsec. (b) as (f).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

RATE CHANGE REQUEST MADE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1975, OR UNDER DOCKET NUMBER R76-1

Section 6(b)(1) of Pub. L. 94-421 provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section [amending this section] shall not apply to any action or proceeding with respect to the recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission relating to proposed changes in rates of postage and in fees for postal services requested on September 18, 1975, by the United States Postal Service in a request which bears, or

which at any time has been included under, Postal Rate Commission Docket Number R76-1."

APPLICABILITY OF FORMER PROVISIONS OF SECTION TO RATE CHANGE REQUEST MADE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1975, UNDER DOCKET NUMBER R76-1

Section 6(b)(2) of Pub. L. 94-421 provided that: "The provisions of section 3641 of title 39, United States Code, as such provisions were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 24, 1976], shall apply to any temporary rate or fee established by the Postal Service pursuant to its request to the Postal Rate Commission, dated September 18, 1975, for a recommended decision, bearing Docket Number R76-1."

§ 3642. Special authority relating to reduced-rate categories of mail

(a) In order to permit the timely implementation of section 3626(a)(3), the Postal Service may establish temporary rates of postage for any class of mail or kind of mailer referred to in section 3626(a)(3)(A).

(b) Any exercise of authority under this section shall be in conformance with the requirements of section 3626(a), subject to the following:

(1) All attributable costs and institutional-costs contributions assumed shall be the same as those which were assumed for purposes of the then most recent proceedings under subchapter II pursuant to which rates of postage for the class of mail or kind of mailer involved were last adjusted.

(2) Any temporary rate established under this section shall take effect upon such date as the Postal Service may determine, except that—

(A) such a rate may take effect only after 10 days' notice in the Federal Register; and
(B) no such rate may take effect after September 30, 1998.

(3) A temporary rate under this section may remain in effect no longer than the last day of the fiscal year in which it first takes effect.

(4) Authority under this section may not be exercised in a manner that would result in more than 1 change taking effect under this section, during the same fiscal year, in the rates of postage for a particular class of mail or kind of mailer, except as provided in paragraph (5).

(5) Nothing in paragraph (4) shall prevent an adjustment under this section in rates for a class of mail or kind of mailer with respect to which any rates took effect under this section earlier in the same fiscal year if—

(A) the rates established for such class of mail or kind of mailer by the earlier adjustment are superseded by new rates established under subchapter II; and

(B) authority under this paragraph has not previously been exercised with respect to such class of mail or kind of mailer based on the new rates referred to in subparagraph (A).

(c) The Postal Service may prescribe any regulations which may be necessary to carry out this section, including provisions governing the coordination of adjustments under this section with any other adjustments under this title.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of section 3626(a)(3)(B) or subsection (a) of this section, any temporary rates established under this section for non-letter-shaped mail under former section 4452(b) or 4452(c) of this title shall not be lower than the rates in effect for such mail on September 30, 1993.

(Added Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §704(a)(2), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1268.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Former section 4452 of this title, referred to in subsec. (d), means section 4452 of former Title 39, The Postal Service, prior to the general revision and reenactment of Title 39 by Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to rates for mail sent after Sept. 30, 1993, see section 704(c)(1) of Pub. L. 103-123, set out as an Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note under section 3626 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3626 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER IV—POSTAL SERVICES AND COMPLAINTS

§ 3661. Postal services

(a) The Postal Service shall develop and promote adequate and efficient postal services.

(b) When the Postal Service determines that there should be a change in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis, it shall submit a proposal, within a reasonable time prior to the effective date of such proposal, to the Postal Rate Commission requesting an advisory opinion on the change.

(c) The Commission shall not issue its opinion on any proposal until an opportunity for hearing on the record under sections 556 and 557 of title 5 has been accorded to the Postal Service, users of the mail, and an officer of the Commission who shall be required to represent the interests of the general public. The opinion shall be in writing and shall include a certification by each Commissioner agreeing with the opinion that in his judgment the opinion conforms to the policies established under this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 764.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

COMMISSION ON POSTAL SERVICE

Pub. L. 94-421, §7, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1307, related to establishment, appointment and compensation of personnel and officers of a Commission on Postal Service and its duty to determine public service aspects of Postal Service and extent to which public service aspects of Postal Service are to be supported by appropriations, to study rate making, and to review service levels and electronic fund transfers and communication techniques, with appropriate recommendations to be transmitted to President and Congress on or before Mar. 15, 1977, 60 days after which transmittal it was to cease to exist.

§ 3662. Rate and service complaints

Interested parties who believe the Postal Service is charging rates which do not conform to the policies set out in this title or who believe that they are not receiving postal service in accordance with the policies of this title may lodge a complaint with the Postal Rate Commission in such form and in such manner as it may prescribe. The Commission may in its discretion hold hearings on such complaint. If the Commission, in a matter covered by subchapter II of this chapter, determines the complaint to be justified, it shall, after proceedings in conformity with section 3624 of this title, issue a recommended decision which shall be acted upon in accordance with the provisions of section 3625 of this title and subject to review in accordance with the provisions of section 3628 of this title. If a matter not covered by subchapter II of this chapter is involved, and the Commission after hearing finds the complaint to be justified, it shall render a public report thereon to the Postal Service which shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 764.)

SUBCHAPTER V—GENERAL

§ 3681. Reimbursement

No mailer may be reimbursed for any amount paid under any rate or fee which, after such payment, is determined to have been unlawful after proceedings in accordance with the provisions of section 3628 of this title, or is superseded by a lower rate or fee established under subchapter II of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 764.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective Jan. 20, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-10 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 3682. Size and weight limits

The Postal Service may establish size and weight limitations for mail matter in the same manner as prescribed for changes in mail classification under subchapter II of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 765; Pub. L. 96-70, title I, §1331(e)(4), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 482; Pub. L. 97-242, §1(a), Aug. 24, 1982, 96 Stat. 300.)

AMENDMENTS

1982—Pub. L. 97-242 struck out subsecs. (a) and (b) and designation “(c)” before “The Postal Service” and in resulting undesignated paragraph substituted “mail matter” and “mail classification” for “letter mail” and “classification”, respectively. Former subsecs. (a) and (b) had provided that the maximum weight of mail other than letter mail was 40 pounds, that the maximum size was 78 inches in girth and length combined before July 1, 1971, and 84 inches in girth and length combined on and after July 1, 1971, and that the maximum size on mail, other than letter mail, was 100 inches in girth and length combined and the maximum weight was 70 pounds if the mail (1) was mailed at, or addressed for delivery at, other than first-class post offices or on rural or star routes, (2) contained baby fowl, live plants, trees, shrubs, or agricultural commodities

but not the manufactured products of those commodities, (3) would have been entitled to be mailed under former section 4554 of this title, (4) was addressed to or mailed at any Armed Forces post office outside the 50 States, or (5) was addressed to or mailed in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the States of Alaska and Hawaii, or a possession of the United States including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

1979—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 96-70 struck out “the Canal Zone and” after “United States including”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Section 1(b) of Pub. L. 97-242 provided that: “The size and weight limitations for other than letter mail established by subsections (a) and (b) of section 3682 of title 39, United States Code, as in effect on the day prior to the effective date of this section [Aug. 24, 1982], shall remain in effect until changed pursuant to section 3682 of such title, as amended, by subsection (a) of this section.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-70 effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 3304 of Pub. L. 96-70, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3684 of this title.

§ 3683. Uniform rates for books; films; other materials

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the rates of postage established for mail matter enumerated in former section 4554 of this title shall be uniform for such mail of the same weight, and shall not vary with the distance transported.

(b) The rates of postage under former section 4554(b)(1) of this title shall not be effective except with respect to mailings which—

(1) constitute materials specified in former section 4554(b)(2) of this title; and

(2) are sent between—

(A) an institution, organization, or association listed in subparagraph (A) or (B) of such former section 4554(b)(1) and any other such institution, organization, or association;

(B) an institution, organization, or association referred to in subparagraph (A) and any individual (other than an individual having a financial interest in the sale, promotion, or distribution of the materials involved);

(C) an institution, organization, or association referred to in subparagraph (A) and a qualified nonprofit organization (as defined in former section 4452(d) of this title) that is not such an institution, organization, or association; or

(D) an institution, organization, or association referred to in subparagraph (A) and a publisher, if such institution, organization, or association has placed an order to purchase such materials for delivery to such institution, organization, or association.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 765; Pub. L. 94-421, §12, Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1312; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §706(a), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1272.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Former sections 4452 and 4554 of this title, referred to in text, mean sections 4452 and 4554 of former Title 39,

The Postal Service, prior to the general revision and reenactment of Title 39 by Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-123 amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as follows: “The rates for mail matter specified in former section 4554(a)(1) or 4554(b)(2)(A) of this title, when mailed from a publisher or a distributor to a school, college, university, or library, shall be the rate currently in effect for such mail matter under the provisions of former section 4554(b)(1) of this title.”

1976—Pub. L. 94-421 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Section 706(b) of Pub. L. 103-123 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to mail sent after September 30, 1993.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3684 of this title.

§ 3684. Limitations

Except as provided in section 3627 of this title, no provision of this chapter shall be construed to give authority to the Governors to make any change in any provision of section 3682 or 3683 or chapter 30, 32, or 34 of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 765; Pub. L. 99-410, title II, §201(b)(4), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 929.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-410 struck out “, or of the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955” after “or 34 of this title”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-410 applicable with respect to elections taking place after Dec. 31, 1987, see section 204 of Pub. L. 99-410, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1973ff of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

§ 3685. Filing of information relating to periodical publications

(a) Each owner of a publication having periodical publication mail privileges shall furnish to the Postal Service at least once a year, and shall publish in such publication once a year, information in such form and detail and at such time as the Postal Service may require with respect to—

(1) the identity of the editor, managing editor, publishers, and owners;

(2) the identity of the corporation and stockholders thereof, if the publication is owned by a corporation;

(3) the identity of known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders;

(4) the extent and nature of the circulation of the publication, including, but not limited to, the number of copies distributed, the methods of distribution, and the extent to which such circulation is paid in whole or in part; and

(5) such other information as the Postal Service may deem necessary to determine whether the publication meets the standards for periodical publication mail privileges.

The Postal Service shall not require the names of persons owning less than 1 percent of the total amount of stocks, bonds, mortgages, or other securities.

(b) Each publication having such mail privileges shall furnish to the Postal Service information in such form and detail, and at such times, as the Postal Service requires to determine whether the publication continues to qualify for such privileges.

(c) The Postal Service shall make appropriate rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this section, including provision for suspension or revocation of periodical publication mail privileges for failure to furnish the required information.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 765.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 22 section 611.

PART V—TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL

Table with 2 columns: Chap. and Sec. listing sections 50 through 56.

CHAPTER 50—GENERAL

Table with 2 columns: Sec. and description of sections 5001 through 5007.

§ 5001. Provisions for carrying mail

The Postal Service shall provide for the transportation of mail in accordance with the policies established under section 101(e) and (f) of this title and the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 766.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors.

§ 5002. Transportation of mail of adjoining countries through the United States

The Postal Service, with the consent of the President, may make arrangements to allow the mail of countries adjoining the United States to be transported over the territory of the United

States from one point in that country to any other point therein, at the expense of the country to which the mail belongs, upon obtaining a like privilege for the transportation of United States mail through the country to which the privilege is granted.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 766.)

§ 5003. Establishment of post roads

The following are post roads:

- (1) the waters of the United States, during the time the mail is carried thereon;
(2) railroads or parts of railroads and air routes in operation;
(3) canals, during the time the mail is carried thereon;
(4) public roads, highways, and toll roads during the time the mail is carried thereon; and
(5) letter-carrier routes established for the collection and delivery of mail.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 766.)

§ 5004. Discontinuance of service on post roads

The Postal Service may discontinue service on a post road or part thereof when, in its opinion, the public interest so requires.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 767.)

§ 5005. Mail transportation

(a) The Postal Service may obtain mail transportation service—

- (1) from common carriers by rail and motor vehicle or persons as provided in chapter 52 of this title;
(2) from air carriers as provided in chapter 54 of this title;
(3) from water carriers as provided in chapter 56 of this title; and
(4) by contract from any person (as defined in section 5201(6) of this title) or carrier for surface and water transportation under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, subject to the provisions of this section.

(b)(1) Contracts for the transportation of mail procured under subsection (a)(4) of this section shall be for periods not in excess of 4 years (or where the Postal Service determines that special conditions or the use of special equipment warrants, not in excess of 6 years) and shall be entered into only after advertising a sufficient time previously for proposals.

(2) A contract under subsection (a)(4) of this section may be renewed at the existing rate by mutual agreement between the contractor or subcontractor and the Postal Service.

(3) Any contract between the Postal Service and any carrier or person for the transportation of mail shall be available for inspection in the office of the Postal Service and either the Surface Transportation Board or the Secretary of Transportation if for the carriage of mail in foreign air transportation (as defined in section

40102(a) of title 49), as appropriate, and in post offices on the post roads involved as determined by the Postal Service, at least 15 days prior to the effective date of the contract.

(c) The Postal Service, in determining whether to obtain transportation of mail by carrier or person under subsection (a)(1) of this section, by contract under subsection (a)(4) of this section, or by Government motor vehicle, shall use the mode of transportation which best serves the public interest, due consideration being given to the cost of the transportation service under each mode.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 767; Pub. L. 92-286, May 1, 1972, 86 Stat. 133; Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(2), Oct. 4, 1984, 98 Stat. 1707; Pub. L. 103-272, §5(k)(2), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1375; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(1), (2), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 945, 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(1), substituted “5201(6)” for “5201(7)”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(2), substituted “Surface Transportation Board” for “Interstate Commerce Commission”.

1994—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “section 40102(a) of title 49” for “section 101 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958”.

1984—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 98-443 substituted “Secretary of Transportation if for the carriage of mail in foreign air transportation (as defined in section 101 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958)” for “Civil Aeronautics Board”.

1972—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 92-286 substituted “contractor or subcontractor” for “holder”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-443 effective Jan. 1, 1985, see section 9(v) of Pub. L. 98-443, set out as a note under section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 5006. Lien on compensation of contractor

(a) A person who—

- (1) performs service for a contractor or subcontractor in the transportation of mail;
- (2) files his contract for service with the Postal Service; and
- (3) files satisfactory evidence of performance with the Postal Service;

shall have a lien on money due the contractor or subcontractor for the service.

(b) The Postal Service may pay the person establishing a lien under subsection (a) of this section the sum due him, when the contractor or subcontractor fails to pay the person the amount of his lien within 2 months after the expiration of the month in which the service was performed. It shall charge the amount so paid to the contract. The payments may not exceed the annual rate of pay of the contractor or subcontractor.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 767.)

§ 5007. Free transportation of postal employees

(a) Each person or carrier engaged in the transportation of mail shall carry on any vessel,

train, motor vehicle, or aircraft he operates, upon exhibiting their credentials and without extra charge therefor, persons on duty in charge of the mails or when traveling to and from such duty.

(b)(1) In this subsection, “air carrier” and “aircraft” have the same meanings given those terms in section 40102(a) of title 49.

(2) An air carrier engaged in transporting mail shall carry without charge on any plane it operates those agents and officers of the Postal Service traveling on official business related to transporting mail by aircraft, as prescribed by regulations of the Secretary of Transportation, on exhibiting credentials.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 768; Pub. L. 103-272, §4(g)(1), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1364.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-272 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

CHAPTER 52—TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL BY SURFACE CARRIER

Sec.

- 5201. Definitions.
- 5202. Applicability.
- 5203. Authorization of service by carrier.
- 5204. Changes in service; placement of equipment.
- 5205. Evidence of service.
- 5206. Fines and deductions.
- 5207. Surface Transportation Board to fix rates.
- 5208. Procedures.
- 5209. Special rates.
- 5210. Intermodal transportation.
- 5211. Statistical studies.
- 5212. Special contracts.
- 5213. Carrier operations; receipts; expenditures.
- 5214. Agreements with passenger common carriers by motor vehicle.
- 5215. Star route certification.

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(15), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946, substituted “Surface Transportation Board” for “Interstate Commerce Commission” in item 5207.

§ 5201. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

- (1) “Board” means the Surface Transportation Board;
- (2) “carrier” and “regulated surface carrier” mean a railroad, a freight forwarder, or a motor carrier;
- (3) “railroad” means a railway common carrier, including an electric urban and interurban railway common carrier;
- (4) “freight forwarder” means any regulated freight forwarder which holds itself out to the general public as a carrier to transport or provide transportation of property as authorized by a registration issued by the Board;
- (5) “motor carrier” means a motor carrier, except a passenger-carrying motor vehicle of such a carrier, within the meaning of section 13102(12) of title 49, that holds a registration issued by the Board;
- (6) “person” includes any person other than a carrier holding a certificate or registration issued by the Board; and
- (7) “mail” includes equipment and supplies of the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 768; Pub. L. 95-473, §2(a)(4)(A)-(C), Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1465; Pub. L. 96-454, §3(b)(2), Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2012; Pub. L. 97-261, §6(d)(4), Sept. 20, 1982, 96 Stat. 1107; Pub. L. 99-521, §4(3), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2993; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(3)-(9), (14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Par. (1). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(3), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “‘Commission’ means the Interstate Commerce Commission;”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(4), substituted “or a motor carrier” for “a motor common carrier, or express carrier”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(5), (14), substituted “carrier” for “common carrier”, “registration” for “permit”, and “Board” for “Commission”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(6), (14), substituted “motor carrier” for “motor common carrier” in two places, “13102(12)” for “10102(14)”, “registration” for “certificate of public convenience and necessity”, and “Board” for “Commission”.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(7)-(9), (14), redesignated par. (7) as (6), substituted “certificate or registration” for “certificate of public convenience and necessity” and “Board” for “Commission”, and struck out former par. (6) which read as follows: “‘express carrier’ means any express carrier engaged in transportation as a common carrier for hire under section 10102(8) of title 49;”.

Pars. (7), (8). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(8), redesignated pars. (7) and (8) as (6) and (7), respectively.

1986—Par. (5). Pub. L. 99-521 substituted reference to section 10102(14) of title 49 for reference to section 10102(13) of title 49.

1982—Par. (5). Pub. L. 97-261, §6(d)(4)(A), substituted “10102(13)” for “10102(12)”.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 97-261, §6(d)(4)(B), substituted “10102(8) of title 49” for “10102(7)”.

1980—Par. (5). Pub. L. 96-454 substituted “10102(12)” for “10102(11)”.

1978—Par. (2). Pub. L. 95-473, §2(a)(4)(A), substituted “motor common carrier, or express carrier” for “motor carrier, or an express company”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 95-473, §2(a)(4)(B), substituted “‘motor common carrier’ means a motor common carrier, except a passenger-carrying motor vehicle of such a carrier, within the meaning of section 10102(11) of title 49, that holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Commission” for “‘motor carrier’ means any common carrier by motor vehicle, except a passenger-carrying motor vehicle, within the meaning of section 303(a)(14) of title 49, which holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Commission”.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 95-473, §2(a)(4)(C), substituted “carrier” for “company” and “section 10102(7)” for “section 1(3) of title 49”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Section 15 of Pub. L. 99-521 provided that: “This Act [see Tables for classification] shall take effect sixty days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 22, 1986].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-261 effective on 60th day after Sept. 20, 1982, see section 31(a) of Pub. L. 97-261, set out as a note under section 77c of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of

Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5005 of this title.

§ 5202. Applicability

This chapter applies to mail transportation performed by any person or carrier or carrier combination regardless of the mode of transportation actually used to provide the service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 768.)

§ 5203. Authorization of service by carrier

(a) The Postal Service may establish mail routes and authorize mail transportation service thereon.

(b) A carrier shall transport mail offered for transportation by the Postal Service in the manner, under the conditions, and with the service prescribed by the Postal Service. A carrier is entitled to receive fair and reasonable compensation for the transportation and service connected therewith.

(c) The Postal Service shall determine the trains or motor vehicles upon which mail shall be transported, except that no carrier shall be compelled to transport mail on any train or vehicle which is operated exclusively for the transportation of passengers and their baggage.

(d) A carrier shall transport with due speed such mail as the Postal Service directs under this section.

(e) No carrier shall be required to serve territory it is not otherwise authorized to serve, to provide service for the Postal Service at a rate which is less than compensatory cost, or to provide service at a detriment to the carrier or its other customers.

(f) Any order or determination of the Postal Service providing for the transportation of mail by a motor carrier shall be filed with the Board. If the Board finds, within 90 days after the filing, that the order or determination will be detrimental to the motor carrier or its other customers, or that such carrier does not operate equipment suitable for the transportation of mail, the order or determination shall be terminated.

(g) An order or determination of the Postal Service under this section shall be consistent with the orders of the Board under sections 5207 and 5208 of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 768; Pub. L. 95-473, §2(a)(4)(D), Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1465; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(10), (14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “motor carrier” for “motor common carrier” in two places and “Board” for “Commission” in two places.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(14), substituted “Board” for “Commission”.

1978—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 95-473 substituted “motor common carrier” for “motor carrier” in two places.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5206 of this title.

§ 5204. Changes in service; placement of equipment

(a) The Postal Service may authorize, according to the need therefor, new or additional mail transportation service by carriers at the rate or compensation fixed under this chapter. It may reduce or discontinue service with pro rata reductions in compensation and indemnity for the loss of reasonable investment in equipment used exclusively for mail.

(b) A railroad shall place cars used for full or apartment post office service in position at such times before departure as the Postal Service directs.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 769.)

§ 5205. Evidence of service

A carrier shall submit evidence of its performance of mail transportation service, signed by an authorized official, in such form and at such times as the Postal Service requires. Mail transportation service is considered that of the carrier performing it regardless of the ownership of the property used by the carrier.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 769.)

§ 5206. Fines and deductions

(a) The Postal Service may fine any carrier an amount not to exceed \$500 for each day the carrier refuses to perform mail transportation services required by it at rates or compensation established under this chapter.

(b) The Postal Service shall fine a carrier an amount it deems reasonable for failure or refusal by that carrier to transport mail as required by the Postal Service under section 5203 of this title.

(c) The Board may make deductions from the compensation of a carrier for failure to perform mail transportation service as required under section 5203 of this title. If the failure to perform is due to the fault of the carrier, it may deduct a sum not exceeding twice the compensation applying to such service. Such deductions shall not be made prior to the expiration of 60 days following service upon the carrier by the Board of notice of intention to assess a fine or make a deduction and of the basis therefor.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 769.)

§ 5207. Surface Transportation Board to fix rates

(a) The Board shall determine and fix the fair and reasonable rates or compensation for the transportation of mail by carrier and the service connected therewith, and shall prescribe the method of computing such rates or compensation. The Board shall publish its orders stating its determination under this section which shall remain in force until changed by it after notice and hearing.

(b) For the purpose of determining and fixing rates or compensation under this section, the Board may make just and reasonable classifications of carriers and, where just and equitable, fix general rates applicable to carriers in the same classification.

(c) In determining and fixing fair and reasonable rates or compensation under this section, the Board shall consider the relation between the Government and carriers as public service corporations, and the nature of public service as distinguished, if there is a distinction, from the ordinary transportation business of the carriers.

(d) Initial rates or compensation for mail transportation service by any carrier or carriers shall be those agreed to by the Postal Service and the carrier or carriers, and such rates or compensation shall continue in effect until such time as the Board fixes the rates or compensation under subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 770; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(11), (14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “Surface Transportation Board” for “Interstate Commerce Commission” in section catchline and “Board” for “Commission” wherever appearing in text.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 5203, 5208, 5212 of this title.

§ 5208. Procedures

(a) At any time after 6 months from the entry of an order stating the Board’s determination under section 5207 of this title, the Postal Service or an interested carrier may apply for a reexamination and substantially similar proceedings as have theretofore been had shall be followed with respect to the rates of compensation for services covered by the application. At the conclusion of the hearing the Board shall enter an order stating its determination.

(b) Except as authorized by sections 5207(d), 5209, 5210, and 5212 of this title, the Postal Service shall pay a carrier the rates or compensation so determined and fixed for application at such stated times as named in the order.

(c) The Postal Service may file with the Board a comprehensive plan stating—

(1) its requirements for the transportation of mail by carrier;

(2) the character and speed of the trains or motor vehicles which are to carry the various kinds of mail;

(3) the service, both terminal and en route, which carriers are to render;

(4) what it believes to be the fair and reasonable rates or compensation for the services required; and

(5) all other information which may be material to the inquiry, but such other information may be filed at any time in the discretion of the Board.

(d) When a comprehensive plan is filed, the Board shall give notice of not less than 30 days to each carrier required by the Postal Service to transport mail pursuant to such plan. A carrier may file its answer at the time fixed by the Board, but not later than 30 days after the expi-

ration date fixed by the Board in the notice, and the Board shall proceed with the hearing.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 770; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(12), (14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “Board’s” for “Commission’s” in subsec. (a) and “Board” for “Commission” wherever appearing in subsecs. (a), (c), and (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5203 of this title.

§ 5209. Special rates

Upon petition by the Postal Service, the Board shall determine and fix carload or truckload, or less than carload or truckload, rates for the transportation of mail not entitled to high priority in transportation. A carrier shall perform the service at the rates so determined when requested to do so and under the conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 770; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “Board” for “Commission”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5208 of this title.

§ 5210. Intermodal transportation

The Postal Service may permit a carrier to perform mail transportation by any form of transportation it deems appropriate at rates or compensation not exceeding those allowable for similar service by the designated form of transportation.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 771.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5208 of this title.

§ 5211. Statistical studies

The Postal Service may arrange for weighing and measuring mail transported on carrier mail routes and make other computations for statistical and administrative purposes to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 771.)

§ 5212. Special contracts

The Postal Service may enter into special contracts with any carrier or person, without advertising, for bids and for periods not in excess of 4 years. It may contract to pay lower rates or

compensation or, where in its judgment conditions warrant, higher rates or compensation than those determined or fixed by the Board. The fact that the Board has not prescribed rates or compensation for the carrier involved, under section 5207 of this title, shall not preclude execution of a contract under this section. Such contracts may be negotiated only after reasonable notice has been posted in advance in post offices on the post roads to be served, and other carriers or persons have been given an opportunity to offer to negotiate for the transportation of mail.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 771; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “Board” for “Commission” in two places.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5208 of this title.

§ 5213. Carrier operations; receipts; expenditures

The Postal Service shall request any carrier transporting the mails to furnish, under seal, such data relating to the operations, receipts, and expenditures of such carrier as may, in its judgment, be deemed necessary to enable it to ascertain the cost of mail transportation and the proper compensation to be paid for such service.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 771.)

§ 5214. Agreements with passenger common carriers by motor vehicle

The Postal Service may enter into contracts under such terms and conditions as it shall prescribe and without advertising for bids for the transportation of mail, in passenger-carrying motor vehicles, by passenger common carriers, or by motor vehicles over the regular routes on which the carrier is permitted by law to transport passengers.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 771.)

§ 5215. Star route certification

(a) Any person who was a contractor under a star route, mail messenger, or contract motor vehicle service contract on the effective date of this section (or successor in interest to any such person), shall, upon application to the Board for the territory within which such contractor operated on or before the effective date of this section be issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity as a motor carrier for the transportation of mail by the Board without the Board’s requiring further proof that the public convenience and necessity will be served by such operation and without further proceedings.

(b) Applications of persons who were not contractors on the effective date of this section shall be decided in accordance with applicable Board procedure.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “person” has the same meaning given that term under section 1 of title 1.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 771; Pub. L. 95-473, §2(a)(4)(E), Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1465; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, §307(12)-(14), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 946.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this section, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b), is July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-88 substituted “Board” for “Commission” in two places, “motor carrier” for “motor common carrier”, and “Board’s” for “Commission’s”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-88, §307(14), substituted “Board” for “Commission”.

1978—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95-473 substituted “motor common carrier” for “motor carrier”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-88 effective Jan. 1, 1996, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as an Effective Date note under section 701 of Title 49, Transportation.

CHAPTER 54—TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL BY AIR

Sec.	
5401.	Authorization.
5402.	Contracts for transportation of mail by air.
5403.	Fines.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 5005 of this title.

§ 5401. Authorization

(a) The Postal Service is authorized to provide for the safe and expeditious transportation of mail by aircraft.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in section 5402 of this title, the Postal Service may make such rules, regulations, and orders consistent with part A of subtitle VII of title 49, or any order, rule, or regulation made by the Secretary of Transportation thereunder, as may be necessary for such transportation.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 772; Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(3), Oct. 4, 1984, 98 Stat. 1707; Pub. L. 103-272, §5(k)(3), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1375.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “part A of subtitle VII” for “sections 1301-1542”.

1984—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-443 substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Civil Aeronautics Board”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-443 effective Jan. 1, 1985, see section 9(v) of Pub. L. 98-443, set out as a note under section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 5402. Contracts for transportation of mail by air

(a) The Postal Service may contract with any certificated air carrier, without advertising for bids, in such manner and under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, for the transportation of mail by aircraft between any of the points in foreign air transportation between which the carrier is authorized by the Secretary of Transportation to engage in the transportation of mail. Such contracts shall be for the transportation of at least 750 pounds of mail per flight, and no more than 5 percent, based on weight, of the international mail transported under any such contract shall consist of letter mail. Any such contract shall be filed with the Secretary of Transportation not later than 90 days before its effective date. Unless the Secretary of Transportation shall determine otherwise (under criteria prescribed by section 40101(a) of title 49) not later than 10 days prior to the effective date of the contract, such contract shall become effective.

(b) When the Postal Service deems that the transportation of mail by aircraft is required between points in foreign air transportation between which the Secretary of Transportation has not authorized an air carrier or combination of air carriers to engage in the transportation of mail, it may contract with any air carrier in such manner and under such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate for the transportation of any class or classes of mail. The transportation of mail under contracts entered into under this subsection is not, except for sections 40109(a) and (c)-(h) and 42112 of title 49, air transportation within the provisions of part A of subtitle VII of title 49. The Postal Service shall cancel such contract, in whole or in respect to certain points as the certificate shall require, upon the issuance by the Secretary of Transportation of an authorization under chapters 411 and 413 of title 49 to any air carrier to engage in the transportation of mail by aircraft between any of the points named in the contract, and the inauguration of scheduled service by such carrier.

(c) If the Postal Service determines that service by certificated air carriers or combination of air carriers between any pair or pairs of points in foreign air transportation is not adequate for its purposes, it may contract for a period of not more than 4 years, without advertising for bids, in such manner and under such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate, with any air taxi operator or combination thereof for such air transportation service. Contracts made under this subsection may be renewed at the existing rate by mutual agreement between the holder and the Postal Service. The Postal Service, with the consent of the air taxi operator, may adjust the compensation under such contracts for increased or decreased costs occasioned by changed conditions occurring during the contract term. The Postal Service shall cancel such a contract when the Secretary of Transportation authorizes an additional certificated carrier or carriers to provide service between any pair or pairs of points covered by the contract, and such carrier or carriers inaugurate schedules adequate for its purposes.

(d) The Postal Service may determine rates and contract with any air carrier for the transportation of mail by aircraft in interstate air transportation either through negotiations or competitive bidding.

(e) For purposes of this section, the terms “air carrier”, “interstate air transportation”, and “foreign air transportation” have the meanings given such terms in section 40102(a) of title 49.

(f) The authority of the Secretary of Transportation and the Postal Service under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall also apply, and the authority of the Postal Service under subsection (d) shall not apply, to the transportation of mail by aircraft between any two points both of which are within the State of Alaska and between which the air carrier is authorized by the Secretary to engage in the transportation of mail.

(g)(1) The Postal Service, in selecting carriers of non-priority bypass mail to any point served by more than one carrier in the State of Alaska, shall, at a minimum, require that any such carrier shall—

(A) hold a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under section 41102(a) of title 49;

(B) operate at least 3 scheduled flights each week to such point;

(C) exhibit an adherence to such scheduled flights to the best of the abilities of such carrier; and

(D) have provided scheduled service within the State of Alaska for at least 12 consecutive months with aircraft—

(i) up to 7,500 pounds payload capacity before being selected as a carrier of nonpriority bypass mail at an applicable intra-Alaska bush service mail rate; and

(ii) over 7,500 pounds payload capacity before being selected as a carrier of nonpriority bypass mail at the intra-Alaska mainline service mail rate.

(2) The Postal Service—

(A) may provide direct mainline non-priority bypass mail service to any bush point in the State of Alaska, without regard to paragraph (1)(B), if such service is equal to or better than interline service in cost and quality; and

(B) shall deduct the non-priority bypass mail poundage flown on direct mainline flights to bush points within the State of Alaska by any carrier, from such carrier's allocation of the total poundage of non-priority bypass mail transported to the nearest appropriate Postal Service hub point in any month.

(3)(A) The Postal Service shall determine the bypass mail bush points and hub points described under paragraph (2)(B) after consultation with the State of Alaska and the affected local communities and air carriers.

(B) Any changes in the determinations of the Postal Service under subparagraph (A) shall be made—

(i) after consultation with the State of Alaska and the affected local communities and air carriers; and

(ii) after giving 12 months public notice before any such change takes effect.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 772; Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(4), Oct. 4, 1984, 98 Stat. 1707; Pub. L.

100-238, title I, §137, Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1767; Pub. L. 103-272, §4(g)(2), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1364; Pub. L. 103-429, §5, Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4378; Pub. L. 104-52, title VI, §631(a), Nov. 19, 1995, 109 Stat. 505.)

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-52, §631(a)(1), substituted “The” for “During the period beginning January 1, 1985, and ending January 1, 1999, the”.

Subsec. (g)(1)(D). Pub. L. 104-52, §631(a)(2), amended subpar. (D) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (D) read as follows: “have provided scheduled service within the State of Alaska for at least 12 months before being selected as a carrier of non-priority bypass mail.”

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-272, §4(g)(2)(A), substituted “section 40101(a) of title 49” for “section 1302 of title 49”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-272, §4(g)(2)(B), substituted “sections 40109(a) and (c)-(h) and 42112 of title 49” for “sections 1371(k) and 1386(b) of title 49”, “part A of subtitle VII of title 49” for “sections 1301-1542 of title 49”, and “chapters 411 and 413 of title 49” for “sections 1371-1386 of title 49”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-272, §4(g)(2)(C), inserted “determine rates and” after “Service may” and struck out “and overseas” after “in interstate”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-272, §4(g)(2)(D), struck out “overseas air transportation,” before “and ‘foreign’”, and substituted “section 40102(a) of title 49” for “section 101 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1301)”.

Subsec. (g)(1)(A). Pub. L. 103-429 substituted “section 41102(a) of title 49” for “section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1371)”.

1988—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 100-238, §137(1), substituted “January 1, 1999” for “January 1, 1989”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 100-238, §137(2), added subsec. (g).

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(4)(A)-(C), substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Civil Aeronautics Board” wherever appearing, substituted “between any of the points in foreign air transportation” for “between any of the points”, and struck out “10 percent of the domestic mail transported under any such contract or” before “5 percent”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(4)(A), (D), substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Civil Aeronautics Board” wherever appearing and “required between points in foreign air transportation” for “required between points”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(4)(A), (E), substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Civil Aeronautics Board” and “pairs of points in foreign air transportation is not adequate” for “pairs of points is not adequate”.

Subsecs. (d) to (f). Pub. L. 98-443, §9(g)(4)(F), added subsecs. (d) to (f).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Section 631(b) of Pub. L. 104-52 provided that:

“(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall be effective on and after August 1, 1995.

“(2) Subparagraph (D) of section 5402(g)(1) title 39, United States Code (as in effect before the amendment made under subsection (a)), shall apply to a carrier, if such carrier—

“(A) has an application pending before the Department of Transportation for approval under section 41102 or 41110(e) of title 39, [probably should be “49,”] United States Code, before August 1, 1995; and

“(B) would meet the requirements of such subparagraph if such application were approved and such certificate were purchased.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-443 effective Jan. 1, 1985, see section 9(v) of Pub. L. 98-443, set out as a note under

section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5401 of this title; title 49 sections 41901, 41902.

§ 5403. Fines

The Postal Service may impose or remit fines on carriers transporting mail by air on routes extending beyond the borders of the United States for—

- (1) unreasonable or unnecessary delay to mail; and
- (2) other delinquencies in the transportation of the mail.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

CHAPTER 56—TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL BY VESSEL

Sec.	
5601.	Sea post service.
5602.	Termination of contracts for foreign transportation.
5603.	Transportation of mail by vessel as freight or express.
5604.	Fines on ocean carriers.
5605.	Contracts for transportation of mail by vessel.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in section 5005 of this title.

§ 5601. Sea post service

The Postal Service may maintain sea post service on ocean vessels conveying mail to and from the United States.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 5602. Termination of contracts for foreign transportation

Contracts for the transportation of mail by vessel between the United States and a foreign port shall be made subject to cancellation by the Postal Service or the Congress.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

§ 5603. Transportation of mail by vessel as freight or express

The Postal Service may require that mail be transported by freight or express when—

- (1) there is no competition on a water route and the rate or compensation asked is excessive; or
- (2) no proposal is received.

A common carrier by water that fails or refuses to transport the mail when required to do so under this section shall be fined not more than \$500 for each day of refusal.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

§ 5604. Fines on ocean carriers

The Postal Service may impose or remit fines on carriers transporting mail by vessel on routes extending beyond the borders of the United States for—

- (1) unreasonable or unnecessary delay to the mails; and
- (2) other delinquencies in the transportation of mail.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

§ 5605. Contracts for transportation of mail by vessel

The Postal Service may contract for the transportation of mail by vessel without advertising for bids for periods of not in excess of 4 years.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)