

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4675

To require the United States Postal Service to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Postal Regulatory Commission before implementing any network changes, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11 (legislative day, JULY 10), 2024

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require the United States Postal Service to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Postal Regulatory Commission before implementing any network changes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Postal
5 Service Stop and Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
2 means the Postal Regulatory Commission.

3 (2) NETWORK CHANGES.—The term “network
4 changes”—

5 (A) means permanent changes to the facili-
6 ties or network of the Postal Service, includ-
7 ing—

8 (i) consolidation or partial consolida-
9 tion of processing or logistics facilities;

10 (ii) aggregation or consolidation of
11 processing, distribution, or delivery oper-
12 ations;

13 (iii) conversions or construction of fa-
14 cilities in order to centralize operations; or

15 (iv) the systematic reduction of trans-
16 portation trips between sorting facilities
17 and delivery units; and

18 (B) does not include temporary operational
19 changes that are necessary to maintain reliable
20 service between facilities or to alleviate conges-
21 tion that has caused delays or disruption of
22 service.

23 (3) POSTAL SERVICE.—The term “Postal Serv-
24 ice” means the United States Postal Service.

1 **SEC. 3. ADVISORY OPINION ON NETWORK CHANGES.**

2 (a) ADVISORY OPINION.—

3 (1) PROPOSAL.—Prior to implementing any
4 network changes, the Postal Service shall submit to
5 the Commission a comprehensive proposal with re-
6 spect to all such network changes using the proce-
7 dures under section 3661(b) of title 39, United
8 States Code.

9 (2) OPINION.—Not later than 180 days after
10 the submission of a comprehensive proposal under
11 paragraph (1), the Commission shall issue an opin-
12 ion on the comprehensive proposal using the proce-
13 dures under section 3661(c) of title 39, United
14 States Code.

15 (3) REVERSAL.—An opinion under paragraph
16 (2) shall also address the extent to which reversal of
17 any network changes implemented on or after Janu-
18 ary 1, 2023, is advisable.

19 (4) ACCESS.—The Postal Service shall provide
20 the Commission any information and records the
21 Commission deems necessary to issue an opinion
22 under paragraph (2), including any access to Postal
23 Service facilities.

24 (b) PAUSE.—The Postal Service shall not implement
25 any proposed network changes until—

1 (1) the Commission issues an opinion on the
2 proposed network changes under subsection (a)(2);
3 and

4 (2) the Postal Service—

5 (A) considers the opinion; and

6 (B) submits to Congress and the Commis-
7 sion a response to the opinion that—

8 (i) addresses the opinion and any rec-
9 ommendations therein; and

10 (ii) explains the decision of the Postal
11 Service to implement or not implement
12 each recommendation contained in the
13 opinion.

14 (c) PROHIBITION.—The Postal Service shall not im-
15 plement any network changes if the opinion under sub-
16 section (a)(2) finds that such changes are likely to have
17 a negative impact on service if implemented.

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