



Congresswoman
VERONICA ESCOBAR
Texas' 16th Congressional District

August 22, 2020

FACT SHEET
H.R. 8015, Delivering for America Act

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL:

Requiring the Postal Service to Return to the Operations Levels and Service Levels In Effect on January 1, 2020

The bill prohibits the Postal Service from implementing or approving any changes to the operations or service levels in effect on January 1, 2020, that would impede prompt, reliable, and efficient service. The prohibitions would remain in effect for the duration of the coronavirus public health emergency or January 1, 2021, whichever is later. Specifically, the bill would prohibit:

- Any change that would generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis;
- Any revision of existing service standards;
- Closing, consolidating, or reducing the hours of any post office or postal facility;
- Any prohibition on paying overtime to Postal Service officers or employees;
- Any change that would prevent the Postal Service from meeting its service standards or cause a decline in measurements of performance relative to those standards; and
- Any change that would have the effect of delaying mail or increasing the volume of undelivered mail.

Requiring the Postal Service to Treat All Election Mail as First-Class Mail

Background:

- The Postal Service has had a longstanding practice of prioritizing the delivery of all election mail to meet First-Class delivery times – even if it doesn't have First-Class postage.
- However, breaking with this longstanding practice, on August 11, 2020, the Postal Service's General Counsel revealed that state election workers had been notified that a state paying Marketing Mail rates instead of First-Class rates for election mail "will result in slower delivery times and will increase the risk that voters will not receive their ballots in time to return them by mail."

The Bill's Provisions:

- **All Election Mail to be Treated As First-Class Mail:** Specifically, the bill states, "The United States Postal Service shall ensure, to the maximum extent practical, that election mail is processed and cleared from any postal facility or post office on the same day as it is received at such a facility or post office" and specifically prohibits the Postal Service from "treating election mail as any class of mail other than first-class mail."
- **All Election Mail Shall Be Postmarked:** The bill states "It shall be the policy of the United States Postal Service to postmark, which shall include any imprinted indicia from the Postal Service that indicates the date of receipt, all election mail processed by the Postal Service."

Providing An Emergency Appropriation of \$25 Billion, The Amount Requested Unanimously By the USPS Board of Governors, Which Is Composed of 100 Percent Trump Appointees

The Bill's Provision:

- **The bill provides the \$25 billion in critical funding for the Postal Service that was requested in April by the USPS Board of Governors,** which is composed of 100 percent Trump appointees.
- **The Request by the USPS Board of Governors for the \$25 Billion Emergency Appropriation:** On April 1, 2020, the USPS Board of Governors met and approved by a unanimous vote to submit a request to Congress for an emergency appropriation of \$25 billion to address the financial crisis created for the Postal Service by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic downturn.
- **Briefing to A House Committee by Prior-Postmaster General Megan Brennan in April on the Postal Service's Dire Financial Situation:** On April 9, then-Postmaster General Megan Brennan held a virtual briefing with the Members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee to discuss the Postal Service's current financial crisis. At this briefing, Brennan made the following points about the crisis:
 - Brennan pointed out, "We are at a critical juncture in the life of the Postal Service. At a time when America needs the Postal Service more than ever, the reason we are so needed is having a devastating impact on our business. The Postal Service relies on the sale of postal products and services to fund our operations and these sales are plummeting as a result of the pandemic. Also, the sudden drop in mail volumes, our most profitable revenue stream, is steep."
 - Brennan stated that the Postal Service will "run out of cash" by September without financial assistance from Congress. This lack of cash could cripple the ability of the Postal Service to continue to deliver the medications, the packages, the benefit checks, and the ballots that Americans rely on the mail for now more than ever in this pandemic.