

S 1742

Rural Postal Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jul 9, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Jul 9, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1742>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]

Party: Democratic • **State:** ND • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Aug 3, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Aug 3, 2015
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 30, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 10, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 9, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Rural Postal Act of 2015

Imposes a two-year moratorium on the closing or consolidation of any postal facility (i.e., a processing and distribution center, processing and distribution facility, network distribution center, or other facility that is operated by the U.S. Postal Service [USPS], the primary function of which is to sort and process mail). Sets forth matters which the USPS must consider in making a determination to close or consolidate a postal facility, including the effect of the closing or consolidation on the affected community, and for using an alternate means of transportation contract. Allows any person served by a postal facility to appeal a closing or consolidation to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Preserves the current six-day mail delivery schedule.

Sets forth criteria for the closing or consolidation of rural post offices. Imposes a one-year moratorium on the discontinuation of a rural post office.

Grants a right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to any USPS officer or employer who: (1) is not represented by a recognized bargaining representative; and (2) is in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule.

Establishes in the USPS the position of Chief Morale Officer who shall oversee USPS employees, including managers, and develop national initiatives that address working conditions, staffing, communication, and training.

Establishes the Rural Postal Service Advisory Commission to provide strategic guidance on enhancing and protecting postal services in rural areas and to foster innovative thinking to address challenges facing the USPS in enhancing and protecting such services.

Expresses the sense of Congress with respect to the USPS considering options for delivery vehicles in rural areas, providing wireless broadband Internet access service in rural post offices, and maintaining door or curbside delivery in lieu of centralized delivery.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 9, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 9, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.