

HR 756

Postal Service Reform Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jan 31, 2017

Current Status: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mr. Garrett asked unanimous consent that he may hereafter be considered

Latest Action: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mr. Garrett asked unanimous consent that he may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 756, a bill originally introduced by former Representative Chaffetz, for purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection. (Mar 20, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/756>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]

Party: Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Jan 31, 2017
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Jan 31, 2017
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jan 31, 2017
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Jan 31, 2017
Rep. Ross, Dennis A. [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Jan 31, 2017
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Feb 13, 2017
Rep. Russell, Steve [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Feb 13, 2017
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Mar 13, 2017
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Mar 13, 2017
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		May 25, 2017
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		May 25, 2017
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		May 25, 2017
Rep. Garrett, Thomas A., Jr. [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Jan 16, 2018
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Apr 11, 2018
Rep. Faso, John J. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Apr 26, 2018
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]	R · NE		May 7, 2018
Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Jun 5, 2018
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Jul 11, 2018
Rep. Knight, Stephen [R-CA-25]	R · CA		Jul 25, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 3, 2017
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Markup By	Mar 16, 2017
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 8, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 3532	Related bill	Oct 4, 2018: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 622.
115 HR 7019	Related bill	Oct 2, 2018: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
115 HR 6846	Related bill	Sep 27, 2018: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
115 HR 6076	Related bill	Jun 18, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
115 S 2629	Related bill	Apr 9, 2018: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 366.
115 HR 4762	Related bill	Jan 10, 2018: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Postal Service Reform Act of 2017

TITLE I--POSTAL SERVICE BENEFITS REFORM

This bill requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish a Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to offer health benefits plans for U.S. Postal Service (USPS) employees, annuitant retirees, and their families at rates that reflect the cost of benefits provided solely to the USPS risk pool. Medicare-eligible postal retirees and family members are automatically enrolled in part A (Hospital Insurance) and part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance Benefits for Aged and Disabled) of title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act. Each plan must provide Medicare part D (Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program) prescription drug benefits through an employer group waiver plan.

Postal retirees not previously enrolled in Medicare will be transitioned automatically into Medicare part B.

The USPS's annual prefunding payments to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund must be recomputed each year based on economic and actuarial methods to liquidate 100% of the USPS's actuarial liability by September 30, 2055. The bill modifies the prefunding schedule established under the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

The OPM must use postal-specific demographic and economic assumptions in its valuations of the USPS's Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) pension accounts. Under CSRS and FERS, any projected USPS funding surpluses shall be returned to the USPS through amortized annual installments.

TITLE II--POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONS REFORM

This title reduces from nine to five the number of governors serving on the USPS Board of Governors with the Postmaster General and the Deputy Postmaster General. The USPS's power shall be vested in the governors and carried out by the Postmaster General consistent with the strategic direction and pricing and product strategy approved by the governors. The Postmaster General may delegate authority, but the bill removes the board's authority to delegate authority to the Postmaster General.

The USPS must transfer funds to the Department of State to coordinate and negotiate international postal rates and delivery services.

The USPS must provide mail delivery other than door delivery (with a preference for centralized delivery) for new delivery points unless a new delivery point is built or established within a block of existing primarily door delivery points. It must also begin converting to centralized delivery, curbside delivery, or sidewalk delivery for existing: (1) business delivery points, and (2) residential delivery points with postal patrons' consent.

This title: (1) revises the Postal Regulatory Commission's (PRC's) standards for establishing or revising rates or classifications for first-class mail, standard mail, or other market-dominant products; (2) repeals a rate preference that currently allows certain political committees to send third-class mail at the nonprofit organization rate; and (3) increases by 1 cent the postage rate for first-class stamps by reinstating 50% of the exigent rate surcharge for first-class mail and other market-dominant products that was in effect on April 9, 2016.

The USPS may establish a program to provide property and services on behalf of state, local, or tribal governments for noncommercial products and services, and a program to provide property and services to other executive agencies and

the Government Publishing Office, but only if such property and services provide a reasonable contribution to the institutional costs of the USPS.

In determining whether to close or consolidate a post office, the USPS must: (1) consider the availability of broadband Internet service and commercial mobile service in a geographic area, and (2) conduct a nonbinding survey to allow postal patrons to indicate their preferences among alternative postal service options.

The USPS is prohibited from offering postage-evidencing products or services that do not comply with regulations applicable to private companies.

The PRC must complete the initial review of the system for regulating rates and classes for market-dominant products such that a final rule for a revised or reapproved system is issued by May 1, 2018.

TITLE III--POSTAL SERVICE PERSONNEL

A Chief Innovation Officer is established to: (1) maximize USPS revenues, (2) utilize emerging information technologies, and (3) update an innovation strategy for postal and nonpostal products and services.

The President must appoint an Inspector General of the Postal Community to consolidate the currently separate USPS and PRC inspectors general.

The right to appeal adverse personnel actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board is extended to USPS or inspector general employees who are not represented by a bargaining representative.

TITLE IV--POSTAL CONTRACTING REFORM

The USPS and the PRC must: (1) issue policies on contracting officer delegations of authority for postal contracts, (2) publish noncompetitive contract awards that exceed specified dollar amounts, (3) require contracting officers and decision-makers to disclose personal and business relationships that would cause questions regarding their impartiality, and (4) establish procedures for the ethics counsel to review conflict of interest disclosures to determine whether a contracting officer's participation would violate ethical conduct standards.

The USPS or the PRC may void postal contracts if: (1) there is a criminal conviction (from which no further appeal may be taken) for bribery or a conflict of interest relating to the contract, or (2) the contractor fails to make required disclosures.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 20, 2018:** ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mr. Garrett asked unanimous consent that he may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 756, a bill originally introduced by former Representative Chaffetz, for purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 16, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Feb 8, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 3, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.