

S 1663

United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: May 17, 2021

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. (May 17, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1663>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 8, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 15, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 12, 2022
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 20, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 17, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3287	Related bill	Nov 9, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act

This bill authorizes the mailing of alcoholic beverages by certain entities in accordance with the delivery requirements otherwise applicable to a privately carried shipment. The authorization applies to an entity (including a winery, brewery, beverage distilled spirits plant, or other wholesaler, distributor, importer, or retailer of alcoholic beverages) that has registered with, obtained a permit from, or obtained approval of an application from the Department of the Treasury.

The bill directs the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to prescribe regulations (1) requiring direct delivery to a duly authorized agent at a postal facility or to the addressee, who must be at least 21 years of age and present a valid, government-issued photo identification at the time of delivery; (2) prohibiting such alcoholic beverages from being for resale or any other commercial purpose; and (3) requiring such entity to certify that the mailing is not in violation of applicable laws or regulations and to provide other information as directed by the USPS.

A state, local, or tribal government may bring a civil action against the USPS in U.S. district court for a violation of a law of the state, locality, or tribe regarding the sale, mailing, transportation, or importation of alcoholic beverages. The USPS shall be liable to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances but shall not be liable for interest prior to judgment or for punitive damages.

Actions Timeline

- **May 17, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 17, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.