

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 282

Approved September 14, 2020

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a significant health and safety threat to the United states; and

WHEREAS, In response to the dangers of COVID-19, many states have committed to expanding the availability of mail-in voting for the November election; and

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised regarding proposed changes to certain operations by the United States Postal Service that could result in a reduction in service performance and the overall reliability of the Postal Service during a period where mail delivery will be an essential component of the November election process; and

WHEREAS, On August 22, 2020, the United States House passed House Bill 8015, the Delivering for America Act, which would prevent the United States Postal Service from implementing or approving any operational changes until the later of January 31, 2021 or the expiration the COVID-19 Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 8015 has now been transmitted to the United States Senate where it awaits a vote so that this critical piece of legislation can then be signed into law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby endorse and urge Congress to pass House Bill H.R.8015, the Delivering for America Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to each member of Rhode Island's congressional delegation and to the President of the United States.

IN CITY COUNCIL

I HEREBY APPROVE.

SEP 03 2020

READ AND PASSED

Sabrina Mats  
PRES.

Date

Mayor

9/14/20

Shawn Selleck  
CLERK *adm*

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8015

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## AN ACT

To maintain prompt and reliable postal services during the  
COVID–19 health emergency, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Delivering for America  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROMPT AND RELIABLE POSTAL SERVICES DURING**  
5 **COVID–19 PANDEMIC.**

6       (a) **IN GENERAL.**—During the period beginning on  
7 the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the last  
8 day of the COVID–19 public health emergency or January  
9 31, 2021, whichever is later, the United States Postal  
10 Service may not implement or approve any change to the  
11 operations or the level of service provided by the Postal  
12 Service from those in effect on January 1, 2020, that  
13 would reduce service performance or impede prompt, reli-  
14 able, and efficient services, including any of the following  
15 actions:

16           (1) Any change in the nature of postal services  
17 which will generally affect service on a nationwide or  
18 substantially nationwide basis.

19           (2) Any revision of service standards.

20           (3) Any closure or consolidation of any post of-  
21 fice or postal facility, or any reduction of such office  
22 or facility hours.

23           (4) Any prohibition or restriction on the use of  
24 overtime or overtime pay to Postal Service officers  
25 or employees.

1           (5) Any change that would prevent the Postal  
2       Service from meeting its service standards or cause  
3       a decline in measurements of performance relative to  
4       those service standards.

5           (6) Any change that would have the effect of  
6       delaying deferring, or curtailing mail, allowing for  
7       the non-delivery of mail to a delivery route, or in-  
8       creasing the volume of undelivered mail.

9           (7) Treating election mail as any class of mail  
10      other than first-class mail, regardless of whether  
11      such treatment requires payment of overtime pay to  
12      officers or employees of the Postal Service.

13          (8) Removing, decommissioning, or any other  
14      stoppage of mail sorting machines, other than for  
15      routine maintenance.

16          (9) Removing or eliminating any mail collection  
17      box that is available to the public.

18          (10) Enacting any rule, policy, or standard the  
19      purpose or effect of which would delay the delivery  
20      of mail to or from a government entity.

21          (11) Instituting any hiring freeze.

22      (b) REVERSAL OF POLICIES HINDERING DELIVERY  
23      OF MAIL.—The United States Postal Service shall reverse  
24      any initiative or action that is causing delay in processing  
25      or delivery or non-delivery of the mail.

1 (c) ELECTION MAIL.—

2 (1) POLICY ON POSTMARKS.—It shall be the  
3 policy of the United States Postal Service to post-  
4 mark, which shall include any imprinted indicia from  
5 the Postal Service that indicates the date of receipt,  
6 all election mail processed by the Postal Service.

7 (2) SAME-DAY PROCESSING.—The United  
8 States Postal Service shall ensure, to the maximum  
9 extent practical, that election mail is processed and  
10 cleared from any postal facility or post office on the  
11 same day it is received at such a facility or post of-  
12 fice.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

14 (1) the term “COVID–19 public health emer-  
15 gency” means the public health emergency declared  
16 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on  
17 January 27, 2020, with respect to the 2019 Novel  
18 Coronavirus;

19 (2) the term “election mail” means mail con-  
20 sisting of—

21 (A) voter registration application forms,  
22 completed voter registration application forms,  
23 and voter registration cards or similar mate-  
24 rials;

1 (B) absentee and other mail-in ballot appli-  
2 cation forms, blank absentee and other mail-in  
3 ballots, and completed absentee and other mail-  
4 in ballots; and

5 (C) other materials relating to an election  
6 which are mailed by a State or local election of-  
7 ficial to individuals who are registered to vote  
8 in the election; and

9 (3) the term “government entity” means the  
10 Federal Government or any State (as that term is  
11 defined in section 311 of title 5, United States  
12 Code) or local government and any subdivision  
13 thereof.

14 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE POSTAL**  
15 **SERVICE.**

16 There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treas-  
17 ury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending  
18 September 30, 2020, for an additional payment to the  
19 Postal Service Fund (established under section 2003 of  
20 title 39, United States Code), \$25,000,000,000, to remain  
21 available until expended. Of the amount appropriated in  
22 the previous sentence, \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to  
23 “United States Postal Service—Office of Inspector Gen-  
24 eral—Salaries and Expenses”.

1 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2       Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter or oth-  
3 erwise effect the terms and conditions of section 3406 of  
4 title 39, United States Code (relating to balloting mate-  
5 rials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
6 Voting Act).

7 **SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

8       (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The amounts provided by this Act  
9 are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to  
10 section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010  
11 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

12       (b) **DESIGNATION IN THE SENATE.**—In the Senate,  
13 this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursu-  
14 ant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Con-  
15 gress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal  
16 year 2018.

Passed the House of Representatives August 22,  
2020.

Attest:

*Clerk.*