

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require the Postal Service to consider the effect of closing or consolidating a postal facility on the ability of the affected community to vote by mail and to provide for a moratorium on the closing or consolidation of post offices and postal facilities to protect the ability to vote by mail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—112th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 1789

To improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. WYDEN (for
himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN)

Viz:

1 On page 28, strike lines 20 through 24 and insert
2 the following:

3 “(i) conduct an area mail processing
4 study relating to that postal facility that
5 includes—

6 “(I) a plan to reduce the capacity
7 of the postal facility, but not close the
8 postal facility; and

1 “(II) consideration of the effect
2 of the closure or consolidation of the
3 postal facility on the ability of individ-
4 uals served by the postal facility to
5 vote by mail and the ability of the
6 Postal Service to timely deliver ballots
7 by mail in accordance with the dead-
8 line to return ballots established
9 under applicable State law;

10 On page 29, line 13, strike “and” and all that follows
11 through “publish” on line 14 and insert the following:

12 “(II) consider the effect of the
13 closure or consolidation of the postal
14 facility on the ability of individuals
15 served by the postal facility to vote by
16 mail and the ability of the Postal
17 Service to timely deliver ballots by
18 mail in accordance with the deadline
19 to return ballots established under ap-
20 plicable State law; and

21 “(III) publish

22 On page 30, line 1, after “the facility” insert the fol-
23 lowing: “or consideration of the effect of the closure or

1 consolidation of the postal facility on the ability of individ-
2 uals served by the postal facility to vote by mail and the
3 ability of the Postal Service to timely deliver ballots by
4 mail in accordance with the deadline to return ballots es-
5 tablished under applicable State law”.

6 On page 45, strike line 3 and all that follows through
7 “(c)” on line 11 and insert the following:

8 (b) MORATORIUM ON CLOSING OF POST OFFICES
9 AND POSTAL FACILITIES.—

10 (1) GENERAL MORATORIUM.—Notwithstanding
11 section 404(d) of title 39, United States Code, dur-
12 ing the period beginning on the date of enactment
13 of this Act and ending on the date on which the
14 Postal Service establishes the service standards
15 under subsection (b), the Postal Service may not
16 close a post office, except as required for the imme-
17 diate protection of health and safety.

18 (2) MORATORIUM TO PROTECT THE ABILITY OF
19 VOTERS TO VOTE ABSENTEE OR BY MAIL.—Notwith-
20 standing paragraph (1) or subsection (d) or (f) of
21 section 404 of title 39, United States Code, during
22 the period beginning on the date of enactment of
23 this Act and ending on November 13, 2012, the
24 Postal Service may not close or consolidate a post

1 office or postal facility located in a State that con-
2 ducts all elections by mail or permits no-excuse ab-
3 sentee voting, except as required for the immediate
4 protection of health and safety.

5 (c) NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS.—Sec-
6 tion 404 of title 39, United States Code, as amended by
7 this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(g) NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS.—Not
9 later than 120 days before the date on which the Postal
10 Service closes or consolidates a post office or postal facility
11 (as defined in subsection (f)), the Postal Service shall no-
12 tify each State and local election official for the area af-
13 fected by the closing or consolidation of the closing or con-
14 solidation.”.

15 (d)