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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the United States Postal Service to notify postal customers and relevant officials when operations are temporarily suspended at a post office, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. DIAZ-BALART introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To require the United States Postal Service to notify postal customers and relevant officials when operations are temporarily suspended at a post office, 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY POST OFFICE CLO-**  
4       **SURE.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—If the United States Postal Serv-  
6       ice temporarily suspends operations at a post office, either

1 voluntarily or involuntarily, the United States Postal Serv-  
2 ice shall—

3 (1) submit the notices required by subsection  
4 (b);

5 (2) provide persons served by such post office  
6 an opportunity for comment in accordance with sub-  
7 section (c); and

8 (3) provide services to persons served by such  
9 post office in accordance with subsection (d).

10 (b) NOTICES.—

11 (1) SUSPENSION NOTICE.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States  
13 Postal Service shall notify persons served by a  
14 post office and the relevant officials for such  
15 post office of the temporary suspension of oper-  
16 ations at such post office.

17 (B) CONTENTS.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
19 by clause (ii), the notice required under  
20 subparagraph (A) with respect to the tem-  
21 porary suspension of operations at a post  
22 office shall include—

23 (I) in the case of a temporary  
24 suspension of operations that the  
25 United States Postal Service plans or

1 expects, the expected date on which  
2 such temporary suspension of oper-  
3 ations will begin;

4 (II) the reasons for such tem-  
5 porary suspension of operations;

6 (III) plans for—

7 (aa) providing retail postal  
8 services to persons served by  
9 such post office during such tem-  
10 porary suspension of operations;

11 (bb) providing persons  
12 served by such post office the op-  
13 portunity required by subsection  
14 (c); and

15 (cc) resuming the operations  
16 of such post office; and

17 (IV) an estimate of when the op-  
18 erations of such post office will re-  
19 sume.

20 (ii) ONSITE NOTICES.—Notwith-  
21 standing clause (i), a notice required under  
22 subparagraph (A) placed at the physical lo-  
23 cation of a post office shall include instruc-  
24 tions for accessing a website of the United  
25 States Postal Service containing the infor-

1                   mation described in clause (i) and may  
2                   contain such information.

3                   (C) TIMING.—The United States Postal  
4                   Service shall provide the notice required under  
5                   subparagraph (A)—

6                   (i) in the case of a temporary suspen-  
7                   sion of operations that the United States  
8                   Postal Service plans or expects, not later  
9                   than the later of—

10                   (I) 60 days prior to the expected  
11                   date on which such temporary suspen-  
12                   sion of operations will begin; or

13                   (II) the earliest date on which  
14                   the United States Postal Service plans  
15                   or expects such temporary suspension  
16                   of operations; and

17                   (ii) in all other cases, not later than  
18                   14 days after the date on which operations  
19                   are temporarily suspended.

20                   (D) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The United  
21                   States Postal Service may not temporarily sus-  
22                   pend operations at a post office unless the  
23                   United States Postal Service provides the notice  
24                   required under this paragraph, except that this  
25                   subparagraph shall not apply if such temporary

1 suspension of operations is not at the discretion  
2 of the United States Postal Service or is nec-  
3 essary due to health or safety concerns.

4 (2) STATUS UPDATES.—If the United States  
5 Postal Service temporarily suspends operations at a  
6 post office for a period of more than six months, not  
7 later than six months after the date on which such  
8 temporary suspension of operations begins, and  
9 every three months thereafter until the date on  
10 which such temporary suspension of operations ends,  
11 the United States Postal Service shall provide to  
12 persons served by such post office and the relevant  
13 officials for such post office a notice on the status  
14 of such temporary suspension of operations.

15 (3) REOPENING NOTICE.—Upon determining  
16 the date on which operations will resume at a post  
17 office at which operations are temporarily sus-  
18 pended, the United States Postal Service shall notify  
19 persons served by such post office and the relevant  
20 officials for such post office of the date of such re-  
21 sumption of operations at such post office and, in  
22 the case of a post office that has been relocated, the  
23 location of such post office.

1           (4) NOTICE DISTRIBUTION.—For each notice  
2       required under this subsection with respect to a post  
3       office, the United States Postal Service shall—

4           (A) mail such notice to persons served by  
5       such post office;

6           (B) place such notice at the physical loca-  
7       tion of such post office;

8           (C) make such notice publicly available on  
9       a website of the United States Postal Service;

10          (D) publish such notice on relevant social  
11       media websites; and

12          (E) send such notice to a valid email of  
13       each relevant official.

14          (5) RELEVANT OFFICIALS DEFINED.—In this  
15       subsection, the term “relevant officials”, with re-  
16       spect to a post office, means—

17           (A) each Member of the House of Rep-  
18       resentatives (including a Delegate or Resident  
19       Commissioner to Congress) representing a con-  
20       gressional district which includes all or part of  
21       the geographic area served by such post office;

22           (B) each Senator representing a State  
23       which includes all or part of the geographic  
24       area served by such post office; and

1 (C) the head of each local government with  
2 jurisdiction over all or part of the geographic  
3 area served by such post office.

4 (c) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT.—The United  
5 States Postal Service shall provide persons served by a  
6 post office at which operations are temporarily suspended  
7 an opportunity to present their views on such temporary  
8 suspension of operations, including the relocation of such  
9 post office.

10 (d) REPLACEMENT RETAIL POSTAL SERVICES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after  
12 the temporary suspension of operations at a post of-  
13 fice, the United States Postal Service shall provide  
14 to persons served by such post office the services de-  
15 scribed in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in the same geographic area as such  
17 post office, to the extent practicable; and

18 (B) to the extent that such post office pro-  
19 vided such services immediately before such  
20 temporary suspension of operations.

21 (2) RETAIL POSTAL SERVICES.—The services  
22 described in this paragraph are the following serv-  
23 ices not available from the post office at which oper-  
24 ations are temporarily suspended:

1 (A) Retail postal services, including the  
2 sale of boxes and other packaging material sold  
3 by the United States Postal Service.

4 (B) A means for holders of post office  
5 boxes at such post office to receive mail sent to  
6 the post office box of such holder.

7 (C) Providing, accepting, and processing  
8 forms necessary for persons to request a change  
9 of mailing address or a temporary halt to the  
10 delivery of mail to such person.

11 (3) DURATION.—The United States Postal  
12 Service shall provide the services required by para-  
13 graph (1) until the end of the temporary suspension  
14 of operations with respect to which the United  
15 States Postal Service is providing such services  
16 under such paragraph.

17 (e) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply only  
18 with respect to temporary suspensions of operations at  
19 post offices that begin after the date of the enactment of  
20 this Act.