

Comparison of S. 2051 and H.R. 5714

S. 2051

H.R. 5714

Universal Service Principles

PRC to update definition of universal service obligation.

Calculation of Liabilities

OPM must use postal-specific assumptions for retiree health and pension liabilities.

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Postal Health Plan

Postal-only health program within FEHBP; requires Medicare-eligible retirees to participate in Medicare parts B and D. Late-enrollment waived for current annuitants eligible, but not participating in Medicare Part B.

Postal-only health program within FEHBP; requires Medicare-eligible retirees to participate in Medicare parts B and D. Late-enrollment waived for current eligible annuitants not participating in Medicare Part B. Three-year Medicare Part B premium subsidy for current Medicare-eligible annuitants not enrolled in Part B.

Retiree Health Prefunding

Amortizes 80% of retiree liability over 40 years. Permits USPS to invest portion of fund in TSP-like account.

Amortizes 100% of retiree liability over 40 years; liability to be recomputed each year. (H.R. 5707 would permit USPS to invest portion of fund in TSP-like account.)

FERS Surplus Refund

Authorizes refund of FERS overpayments, not to exceed \$6 billion in first year and apply to debt; two-thirds of remaining surplus in second year; remaining surplus to be paid in installments.

Authorizes amortized refund of projected FERS surpluses on the same schedule as the amortization of a projected shortfall.

CSRS Liability

Extends liability payment to 40 years.

Authorizes amortized refund of projected CSRS surpluses on the same schedule as the amortization of a projected shortfall.

MSPB

Provides MSPB appeal rights to certain EAS employees.

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Arbitration

Requires arbitrator to consider USPS finances.

Consultation

Clarifies pay consultations and includes benefits as part of differential.

Employee Morale

OIG study to evaluate morale; requires USPS to create plan to address OIG recommendations.

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Solvency Plan

Requires PMG to submit long-term solvency plan to Congress and PRC; PRC to conduct review of operations as it relates to service and make recommendations for improving operations and services.

Plant Closings and Consolidations

Two-year moratorium

Post Office Closings, Consolidations and Hour Reductions

Five-year moratorium, after which USPS must consider alternatives to closings.

One-plus year pause in hour reductions for rural post offices during OIG POSTPlan study. Reduces the number of days the PRC has to consider appeals from 120 days to 60 days. Adds factors to consider before closing a post office, including geography, Internet access and distance to next post office, and consider alternatives to closings. Allows for appeals regarding the closing or consolidation of post office stations and post office branches.

Area and District Structure

Within one year, USPS plan to reduce number of area and district offices.

Service Standards

Requires USPS to implement strict performance standards.

Clarifies the PRC's authority to levy fines against the Postal Service, payable to the U.S. Treasury, for deliberate noncompliance with the provisions of *Title 39*, such as the service standards established by the Postal Service.

Conversion of Delivery Points

Encourages use of most effective delivery points.

Five-year phase-in of centralized delivery for businesses; 40% community approval to implement residential centralized or curbside delivery; vouchers available to postal customers to defray costs; waiver for physical hardship; OIG review of savings attributable to conversion.

USPS Fleet

Pilot program for energy-efficient vehicles; GAO study of environmental conditions on vehicles and collision-aversion technology; USPS report on fleet replacement and modernization.

Facility Leases

Must use competitive realtors.

U.S. Capitol Post Offices

Limits number of Capitol post offices to two: House and Senate.

Exigent Rate

Makes 4.3% exigent rate permanent.

Makes one-half of exigent rate (2.15%) permanent.

Costing System

PRC to revise costing methodologies.

Adds factors for PRC to consider when revising rate system. Directs PRC to review appropriateness of underlying costing methodologies and revise as needed.

Negotiated Service Agreements

Streamlines approval process.

Non-Postal Services

USPS may offer new products and services that use USPS infrastructure, are consistent with public interest, do not hamper core mission, improve finances and cover costs.

USPS may only offer new products and services within its core area or in partnership with other governmental entities, to the extent they cover costs.

Wine, Beer and Spirits

USPS may convey products when in accordance with state and local laws.

Chief Innovation Officer

Creates chief innovation officer.

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Advisory Commission on USPS

Establishes commission to study USPS long-term strategy, including business model, revenue, costs, etc.

Customer Service Study and Transparency

Authorizes USPS to conduct study on customer service. Directs USPS to create web-based portal for customers to view delivery standards and performance.

Report on Mailing Industry

Directs PRC to publish annual report on health of mailing industry.

USPS Board of Governors

Number of members to be reduced from nine to five.

PRC

Two full terms and creates controls on expenses. Requires 90-day timeline for response to proposals relating to market-dominant products. USPS must respond to PRC advisory opinions before any changes in service.

Postal IG

IG to be appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation. IG has jurisdiction over USPS and PRC.

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FECA

Reforms workers' compensation program to convert injured workers on to retirement.

Contracting Reform

USPS must disclose non-competitive contracts.