

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide free post office boxes to individuals who are unhoused or
experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide free post office boxes to individuals who are
unhoused or experiencing housing instability, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mail Accessibility and
5 Inclusion for Low-Income Families Act” or the “MAIL
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. POST OFFICE BOXES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**
8 **UNHOUSED OR EXPERIENCING HOUSING IN-**
9 **STABILITY.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

1 (1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible
2 individual” means an unhoused or housing unstable
3 individual—

4 (A) whose annual income does not exceed
5 the poverty line, as established by the Director
6 of the Office of Management and Budget and
7 revised by the Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services in accordance with section 9902(2) of
9 title 42, United States Code;

10 (B) receiving assistance under a State pro-
11 gram funded under part A of title IV of the So-
12 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

13 (C) receiving housing assistance or benefits
14 under any Federal program for assistance for
15 rental housing, including—

16 (i) the programs for rental assistance
17 under section 8 of the United States Hous-
18 ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), includ-
19 ing the housing choice voucher program
20 and the program for project-based voucher
21 assistance;

22 (ii) the public housing program under
23 such Act;

24 (iii) the program for supportive hous-
25 ing for elderly persons under section 202

1 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C.
2 1701q);

3 (iv) the program for supportive hous-
4 ing for persons with disabilities under sec-
5 tion 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez Na-
6 tional Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C.
7 8013); or

8 (v) the programs for rural housing
9 under title V of the Housing Act of 1949
10 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.);

11 (D) enrolled in the Medicaid program
12 under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42
13 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

14 (E) who is a member of a household re-
15 ceiving assistance under the supplemental nutri-
16 tion assistance program established under the
17 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
18 2011 et seq.); or

19 (F) enrolled in the special supplemental
20 nutrition program for women, infants, and chil-
21 dren established under section 17 of the Child
22 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

23 (2) UNHOUSED OR HOUSING UNSTABLE INDIV-
24 VIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term

1 “unhoused or housing unstable individual” means an
2 individual who is—

3 (A) homeless (as defined in section 103 of
4 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 11302)); or

6 (B) at risk of homelessness (as defined in
7 section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11360)).

8 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FREE POST OFFICE BOXES
9 FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the United States
12 Postal Service shall issue regulations providing that
13 an eligible individual may request and receive a post
14 office box without any fees, subject to post office box
15 availability, if the eligible individual submits to the
16 appropriate local or regional Postmaster, at such
17 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
18 tion as the Postmaster General determines appro-
19 priate, proof of eligibility.

20 (2) AUTHORITY.—The United States Postal
21 Service shall have authority to procure additional
22 post office boxes, as determined appropriate by the
23 United States Postal Service, to carry out the regu-
24 lations issued under paragraph (1).

1 (c) REIMBURSEMENT OF FORGONE REVENUE.—Sec-
2 tion 2401 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f),
4 and (g) as subsections (e), (f), (g) and (h), respec-
5 tively; and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(d) There are authorized to be appropriated to the
9 Postal Service each year—

10 “(1) a sum determined by the Postal Service to
11 be equal to the difference between the revenues the
12 Postal Service would have received if section 2 of the
13 MAIL Act had not been enacted and the estimated
14 revenues to be received in post office box fees under
15 such section; and

16 “(2) a sum equal to the additional funds ex-
17 pended in the acquisition, installation, maintenance,
18 and provision of post office boxes as required by sec-
19 tion 2 of the MAIL Act.”.

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
22 appropriated to the United States Postal Service for
23 fiscal year 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, to
24 carry out the acquisition, installation, maintenance,
25 and provision of additional post office boxes under

1 this Act, the amount determined by the Postmaster
2 General under paragraph (2).

3 (2) AMOUNT.—For each fiscal year, the Post-
4 master General shall determine, and shall submit to
5 Congress for the acquisition, installation, mainte-
6 nance, and provision of post office boxes a request
7 for, the amount equal to—

8 (A) the revenues the United States Postal
9 Service would normally have received for the
10 rental of post office boxes provided under sec-
11 tion 2 of the MAIL Act; and

12 (B) the cost of acquiring, installing, main-
13 taining, and provisioning post office boxes as
14 required by section 2 of the MAIL Act, includ-
15 ing—

16 (i) any reconfiguration, retention or
17 procurement of retail space as necessary to
18 accommodate such post office boxes;

19 (ii) the purchase of equipment re-
20 quired to install and maintain such post
21 office boxes; and

22 (iii) additional staffing or other labor
23 costs arising from the installation, mainte-
24 nance, and provision of such post office
25 boxes.

1 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND REPORTS.**

2 (a) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—Not later than 180
3 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Post-
4 master General shall submit to Committee on Homeland
5 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the
6 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Com-
7 mittee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House
8 of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations
9 of the House of Representatives a plan for carrying out
10 this Act.

11 (b) **PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Not later 5 years after the
12 date on which Postmaster General submits the plan re-
13 quired under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter,
14 the Postmaster General shall submit to the committees de-
15 scribed in that subsection a report on the provision of post
16 office boxes to eligible individuals pursuant to this Act.