

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2595

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may elect to have the United States Postal Service use the Hold for Pickup service or the Signature Confirmation service in delivering the document, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2017

Ms. SPEIER (for herself and Mr. WOODALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may elect to have the United States Postal Service use the Hold for Pickup service or the Signature Confirmation service in delivering the document, 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 “Strengthening the De-  
3 partment of Homeland Security Secure Mail Initiative  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act—

7 (1) the terms “Hold for Pickup service” and  
8 “Signature Confirmation service” means the services  
9 described in sections 508.7.2.1 and 503.8.1.1.a, re-  
10 spectively, of the Domestic Mail Manual (or any suc-  
11 cessor services);

12 (2) the term “Immigration Examinations Fee  
13 Account” means the account established under sec-  
14 tion 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
15 (8 U.S.C. 1356(m));

16 (3) the term “Postal Service” means the United  
17 States Postal Service; and

18 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
19 of Homeland Security.

20 **SEC. 3. OFFERING HOLD FOR PICKUP AND SIGNATURE**  
21 **CONFIRMATION SERVICES UNDER THE SE-**  
22 **CURE MAIL INITIATIVE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year  
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
25 provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative (or  
26 any successor program) under which a person to whom

1 a document is sent under that initiative may elect, except  
2 as provided in subsection (e), to have the Postal Service  
3 use the Hold for Pickup service or the Signature Con-  
4 firmation service in delivering the document.

5 (b) FEE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accord-  
7 ance with section 286(m) of the Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), shall require  
9 the payment of a fee from a person electing a service  
10 under subsection (a), which shall be set at a level  
11 that ensures recovery of—

12 (A) the full costs of providing all such  
13 services; and

14 (B) any additional costs associated with  
15 the administration of the fees collected.

16 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the fees col-  
17 lected under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

18 (A) deposit as offsetting receipts into the  
19 Immigration Examinations Fee Account the  
20 portion representing—

21 (i) the cost to the Secretary of pro-  
22 viding the services under subsection (a);  
23 and

1 (ii) any additional costs associated  
2 with the administration of the fees col-  
3 lected; and

4 (B) transfer to the Postal Service the por-  
5 tion representing the cost to the Postal Service  
6 of providing the services under subsection (a).

7 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Postal Service may promul-  
8 gate regulations that—

9 (1) subject to paragraph (2), minimize the cost  
10 of providing the services under subsection (a); and

11 (2) do not require the Postal Service to incur  
12 additional expenses that are not recoverable under  
13 subsection (b).

14 (d) NOTICE OF CHANGES.—The Postal Service shall  
15 notify the Secretary of any changes to the Hold for Pickup  
16 service or the Signature Confirmation service.

17 (e) USE OF PRIVATE CARRIER.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines  
19 that a private carrier that offers substantially simi-  
20 lar services to the Hold for Pickup and Signature  
21 Confirmation services would provide better service  
22 and value than the Postal Service provides under  
23 subsection (a), the Secretary may, in accordance  
24 with paragraph (2) of this subsection—

1 (A) discontinue use of the services of the  
2 Postal Service under subsection (a); and

3 (B) enter into a contract with the private  
4 carrier under which a person to whom a docu-  
5 ment is sent under the Secure Mail Initiative  
6 (or any successor program) may elect to have  
7 the private carrier use one of the substantially  
8 similar services in delivering the document.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not  
10 exercise the authority under paragraph (1) unless  
11 the Secretary—

12 (A) determines, and notifies the Postal  
13 Service, that the private carrier offers services  
14 that are substantially similar to the Hold for  
15 Pickup and Signature Confirmation services;

16 (B) provides for an option under the Se-  
17 cure Mail Initiative (or any successor program)  
18 under which a person to whom a document is  
19 sent under that initiative may elect a service  
20 under paragraph (1)(B);

21 (C) requires the payment of a fee from a  
22 person electing a service under paragraph  
23 (1)(B), which shall be set at a level that en-  
24 sures recovery of—

1 (i) the full cost of contracting with the  
2 private carrier to provide all such services;  
3 and

4 (ii) any additional costs associated  
5 with the administration of the fees col-  
6 lected; and

7 (D) deposits the fees collected under sub-  
8 paragraph (C) as offsetting receipts into the  
9 Immigration Examinations Fees Account.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
12 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-  
13 port that describes—

14 (1) the implementation of the requirements  
15 under section 3;

16 (2) the fee imposed under subsection (b) or  
17 (e)(2)(C), as applicable, of section 3; and

18 (3) the number of times during the previous  
19 year that a person used a service under subsection  
20 (a) or (e)(1)(B) of section 3.

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