



# House Introduces HEROES Act With Key Postal Provisions

On May 12, lawmakers in the House introduced H.R. 6800, or the **HEROES** (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions) Act. The bill provides emergency funding for various agencies and sectors of the economy.

Among the postal provisions included in the legislation are:

- A \$25 billion cash infusion for the USPS (subject to oversight/audit by the USPS Office of Inspector General)
- Modification of the CARES Act \$10 billion loan provision so that the USPS loan would be subject to terms and conditions of the existing note agreement between USPS and the Federal Financing Bank, thereby easing previous restrictions on the line of credit
- Promotion of vote by mail via absentee ballots with prepaid postage by state/local governments
- Work performed by USPS employees deemed “essential work”

Additionally, Thomas.gov list other things that are in the bill as:

- provides FY2020 emergency supplemental appropriations to federal agencies;
- provides payments and other assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments;
- provides additional direct payments of up to \$1,200 per individual;
- expands paid sick days, family and medical leave, unemployment compensation, nutrition and food assistance programs, housing assistance, and payments to farmers;
- modifies and expands the Paycheck Protection Program, which provides loans and grants to small businesses and nonprofit organizations;

- establishes a fund to award grants for employers to provide pandemic premium pay for essential workers;
- expands several tax credits and deductions;
- provides funding and establishes requirements for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing;
- eliminates cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatments;
- extends and expands the moratorium on certain evictions and foreclosures; and
- requires employers to develop and implement infectious disease exposure control plans.

The bill also modifies or expands a wide range of other programs and policies, including those regarding

- Medicare and Medicaid,
- health insurance,
- broadband service,
- medical product supplies,
- immigration,
- student loans and financial aid,
- the federal workforce,
- prisons,
- veterans benefits,
- consumer protection requirements,
- the U.S. Postal Service,
- federal elections,
- aviation and railroad workers, and
- pension and retirement plans.

As always, contacting your member of Congress is essential to the passage or defeat of this bill.

NRLCA President Ronnie Stutts recently delivered a message supporting this act in a video conference with Representative Carolyn Maloney, (D- NY)

*Van Heath, Legislative Rep.*