

UPDATE: Congress Unveils Bipartisan Stimulus Bill with \$10 Billion for the USPS

12/10/2020

The bipartisan coalition responsible for the bill released further details on stipulations for USPS emergency funding yesterday, though lawmakers have yet to reach an agreement on the final legislative text.

If passed, the bill would not require the USPS to repay the \$10 billion in pandemic relief, and terms and conditions previously agreed upon in principle under the CARES Act in July 2020 would no longer apply.

More specifically, the bill would require the USPS Board of Governors to give Congress a plan to ensure long-term solvency at the agency within 180 days of enactment as well as compel the USPS to show how the funds were used in its quarterly and annual reports to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

12/3/2020

On December 1, a bipartisan group of lawmakers released a new \$908 billion stimulus bill aimed at providing economic relief for individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments. Among the various entities that would potentially receive aid, the USPS would get \$10 billion in emergency funding if passed.

Work to design the new spending bill came through discussions among a group of senators as well as members of the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus.

The senators who designed the plan included Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Angus King (I-ME), Joe Manchin III (D-WVA), Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Mark R. Warner (D-VA).

Members of the House Problem Solvers Caucus who worked on the bill included Problem Solvers Co-Chairs Tom Reed (R-NY) and Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) as well as

Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Dean Phillips (D-MN), Fred Upton (R-MI), Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH).

The total bill amount is down from a previous figure of \$2.4 trillion proposed by House Democrats before the election, though still well above the \$500 billion in spending supported by the Senate. If passed, the proposed stimulus plan would provide relief only through the end of winter with a new bill likely to be introduced soon after the new administration takes office.

To read the article in full on the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association website, click here:
<https://www.nrlca.org/News/1260>