

Scm

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TO: NAPS Executive Board
FROM: Bruce Moyer
SUBJ: Carper and Collins Bills

I wanted to provide you with more information on the scope and coverage of the postal bills introduced by Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME).

Both bills direct OPM to recalculate whether there was an overpayment by USPS of its CSRS retirement obligations and if there is a surplus, for those assets to be directed to the Postal Retiree Health Benefits Fund. Those provisions are unlikely to be part of any bill that is marked up by the Senate government affairs committee. Last week after GAO issued its report finding OPM compliance with the payment law, Sen. Carper issued a statement suggesting that the overpayment issue be put aside and that all parties work to craft a bill dealing with the remaining concerns.

There are other issues covered by both or each of the bills, though none are as controversial as the provisions sprinkled throughout the Issa-Ross bill, HR 2309.

The Carper bill and the Collins bill both require the arbitrator in a collective bargaining dispute to take the financial condition of the postal service into account. The Carper bill authorizes five-day delivery. The Collins bill does not. The Collins bill makes changes to worker compensation coverage, the Carper bill does not.

Here is a quick summary of the provisions of each of the bills.

The Carper bill:

- requires a USPS plan for alternative retail expansion,
- gives USPS greater authority over service standards and delivery frequency (making 5-day delivery or less available),
- authorizes USPS shipping of beer and wine,
- permits USPS to develop and sell non-postal products
- requires the arbitrator to take the financial condition of the Postal Service into account, and
- extends existing federal law to the resolution of USPS contract disputes.

The Collins bill:

- encourages USPS and the PRC to develop ways to increase the use of Negotiated Service Agreements,
- requires the PMG to provide Congress with a plan for reducing area and district field structure and a plan on post office co-location,
- directs USPS to take customer input into account before changing significant mail specifications,
- requires the arbitrator to take the financial condition of the Postal Service into account
- establishes in the USPS and the Commission an advocate for competition,
- requires the USPS and the PRC to apply greater transparency to its noncompetitive purchase activities,
- make changes to USPS contract rules to introduce ethics and conflict of interest restrictions, and
- revises federal workers compensation law covering federal and postal employees, converting the status of disabled employees to retiree status when they reach retirement age.

Please contact me if you have any further questions:

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