

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 181

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Verrelli, Mukherji, Benson and Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to provide immediate financial assistance to United States Postal Service.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress to
2 provide immediate financial assistance to the United States
3 Postal Service.
4
5 **Whereas**, The United States Postal Service and its more than 600,000
6 employees serve the needs of 157 million business and residential
7 customers six days a week, maintains an affordable and universal
8 network, and connects the rural, suburban, and urban communities
9 of the United States; and
10 **Whereas**, The Postal Service is consistently one of the highest rated
11 agencies of the federal government in non-partisan opinion polls,
12 and is the second largest employer of veterans in the United States;
13 and
14 **Whereas**, The employees of the Postal Service are dedicated public
15 servants who not only process and deliver mail, but also serve as
16 the eyes and ears of communities by responding first in situations
17 involving health, safety, and crime in those communities; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Unfortunately, as a result of the public health and
19 economic crisis caused by COVID-19, the Postal Service is in need
20 of urgent financial relief; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
22 (CARES) Act that was passed in March included a provision
23 allowing the Postal Service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the
24 U.S. Treasury Department; however, the Treasury Secretary has
25 sought to impose stringent terms and conditions on the loan; and
26 **WHEREAS**, In May, the United States House of Representatives passed
27 the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions
28 (HEROES) Act that included a provision to direct \$25 billion to the
29 Postal Service; however, the United States Senate has not voted on
30 the bill; and
31 **Whereas**, According to the Postal Service, the agency will run out of
32 cash by the end of September if Congress does not provide
33 immediate financial assistance; and
34 **WHEREAS**, A halt in postal service operations would have grave
35 consequences across the country and threaten the delivery of
36 essential goods and services and democracy itself; and
37 **WHEREAS**, The Postal Service delivers more than a billion shipments
38 of prescription medications and other critical supplies each year,
39 and that number is expected to grow rapidly as a result of COVID-
40 19; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Along with local e-commerce, critical communications by
42 federal, State, and local government, such as vote-by-mail and
43 absentee ballots and U.S. Census forms, are delivered by the Postal
44 Service throughout the country; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The agency is also the only delivery service that goes
46 everywhere in the United States, not just places with denser
47 populations; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, Without the Postal Service, rural communities, where
2 millions of Americans are sheltering in place, could be cut off from
3 crucial provisions and government communications; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Postal Service employees are already feeling the impact of
5 the agency's fiscal challenges that have been exacerbated by the
6 current public health and economic crisis; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Postal Service employees are being asked to alter certain
8 mail delivery practices and the agency is seeking to prohibit
9 overtime and curtail the use of other measures local postmasters use
10 to ameliorate staffing shortages; and

11 **WHEREAS**, To support millions of residents who depend on the Postal
12 Service, including agency employees, Congress must act now and
13 provide immediate financial assistance to prevent the Postal
14 Service, a critical infrastructure of the United States, from
15 collapsing; now, therefore,

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
18 *Jersey:*

1. This House respectfully urges Congress to provide immediate financial assistance to the United States Postal Service to protect the agency from becoming insolvent as a result of the public health and economic crises caused by COVID-19.

25 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
26 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
27 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, to the
28 Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of
29 Representatives, and to every member of Congress elected from this
30 State.

STATEMENT

35 This resolution respectfully urges Congress to provide immediate
36 financial assistance to the United States Postal Service.

Unfortunately, the Postal Service is in need of urgent financial relief because of the public health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that was passed in March included a provision allowing the Postal Service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the U.S. Treasury Department; however, the Treasury Secretary has sought to impose stringent terms and conditions on the loan. Additionally, in May, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act that included a provision to direct \$25 billion to the Postal Service; however, the U.S. Senate has not voted on the bill. According to the Postal Service, the agency will run out of cash by

1 the end of September if Congress does not act now and provide
2 immediate financial assistance.

3 A halt in postal service operations would have grave
4 consequences across the country and threaten the delivery of
5 essential goods and services and democracy itself. The Postal
6 Service delivers more than a billion shipments of prescription
7 medications and other critical supplies each year, and that number
8 is expected to grow rapidly because of COVID-19. Along with
9 local e-commerce, critical communications by federal, State, and
10 local government, such as vote-by-mail and absentee ballots and
11 U.S. Census forms, are delivered by the Postal Service throughout
12 the country. The agency is also the only delivery service that goes
13 everywhere in the United States, not just places with denser
14 populations. Without the Postal Service, rural communities, where
15 millions of Americans are sheltering in place, could be cut off from
16 crucial provisions and government communications.

17 In order to prevent a critical infrastructure of the United States
18 from collapsing, this House respectfully urges Congress to provide
19 immediate financial assistance to Postal Service and to support the
20 millions of residents who depend on the Postal Service, including
21 over 600,000 agency employees.