92

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5658, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. FOSSELLA OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle F of title VI, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 664. POSTAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES SERVING IN IRAQ OR**
3 **AFGHANISTAN.**

4 (a) AVAILABILITY OF POSTAL BENEFITS.—The Sec-
5 retary of Defense, in consultation with the United States
6 Postal Service, shall provide for a program under which
7 postal benefits are provided to qualified individuals in ac-
8 cordance with this section.

9 (b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—In this section, the
10 term "qualified individual" means a member of the Armed
11 Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101 of title
12 10, United States Code) who—

13 (1) is serving in Iraq or Afghanistan; or

14 (2) is hospitalized at a facility under the juris-
15 diction of the Department of Defense as a result of
16 a disease or injury incurred as a result of service in
17 Iraq or Afghanistan.

18 (c) POSTAL BENEFITS DESCRIBED.—

1 (1) VOUCHERS.—The postal benefits provided
2 under the program shall consist of such coupons or
3 other similar evidence of credit, whether in printed,
4 electronic, or other format (in this section referred
5 to as a "voucher"), as the Secretary of Defense, in
6 consultation with the Postal Service, shall determine,
7 which entitle the bearer or user to make qualified
8 mailings free of postage.

9 (2) QUALIFIED MAILING.—In this section, the
10 term "qualified mailing" means the mailing of a sin-
11 gle mail piece which—

12 (A) is first-class mail (including any
13 sound- or video-recorded communication) not
14 exceeding 13 ounces in weight and having the
15 character of personal correspondence or parcel
16 post not exceeding 10 pounds in weight;

17 (B) is sent from within an area served by
18 a United States post office; and

19 (C) is addressed to a qualified individual.

20 (3) COORDINATION RULE.—Postal benefits
21 under the program are in addition to, and not in lieu
22 of, any reduced rates of postage or other similar
23 benefits which might otherwise be available by or
24 under law, including any rates of postage resulting

1 from the application of section 3401(b) of title 39,
2 United States Code.
3 (d) NUMBER OF VOUCHERS.—A member of the
4 Armed Forces shall be eligible for one voucher for every
5 second month in which the member is a qualified indi-
6 vidual.
7 (e) LIMITATIONS ON USE; DURATION.—A voucher
8 may not be used—
9 (1) for more than a single qualified mailing; or
10 (2) after the earlier of—
11 (A) the expiration date of the voucher, as
12 designated by the Secretary of Defense; or
13 (B) the end of the one-year period begin-
14 ning on the date on which the regulations pre-
15 scribed under subsection (f) take effect.
16 (f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
18 (in consultation with the Postal Service) shall prescribe
19 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the pro-
20 gram, including—
21 (1) procedures by which vouchers will be pro-
22 vided or made available in timely manner to quali-
23 fied individuals; and

1 (2) procedures to ensure that the number of
2 vouchers provided or made available with respect to
3 any qualified individual complies with subsection (d).
4 (g) TRANSFERS TO POSTAL SERVICE.—
5 (1) BASED ON ESTIMATES.—The Secretary of
6 Defense shall transfer to the Postal Service, out of
7 amounts available to carry out the program and in
8 advance of each calendar quarter during which post-
9 al benefits may be used under the program, an
10 amount equal to the amount of postal benefits that
11 the Secretary estimates will be used during such
12 quarter, reduced or increased (as the case may be)
13 by any amounts by which the Secretary finds that
14 a determination under this section for a prior quar-
15 ter was greater than or less than the amount finally
16 determined for such quarter.
17 (2) BASED ON FINAL DETERMINATION.—A
18 final determination of the amount necessary to cor-
19 rect any previous determination under this section,
20 and any transfer of amounts between the Postal
21 Service and the Department of Defense based on
22 that final determination, shall be made not later
23 than six months after the end of the one-year period
24 referred to in subsection (e)(2)(B).

1 (3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—All estimates
2 and determinations under this subsection of the
3 amount of postal benefits under the program used in
4 any period shall be made by the Secretary of De-
5 fense in consultation with the Postal Service.
6 (h) FUNDING.—
7 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of
8 the amounts authorized to be appropriated in section
9 421 for Military Personnel for fiscal year 2009,
10 $10,000,000 shall be for postal benefits provided in
11 this section.
12 (2) OFFSETTING REDUCTION.—Unexpended
13 funds authorized to be appropriated in fiscal year
14 2009 for Military Personnel are reduced by
15 $10,000,000.