

UPDATE

NAPS Leg/Reg Update - July 16, 2013

Postal Reform Arises from From Summer Slumber

You wouldn't know it's the "dog days" of July in Washington, judging by the sudden rush of action in the House of Representatives on postal business this week.

On Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm ET, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will hold a hearing on two draft postal reform measures.

The hearing, ["A Path Forward on Postal Reform,"](#) will focus on comprehensive postal measures drafted by Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Ranking Minority Member Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD). Both bills -- only in draft form at this point -- have been under review by postal stakeholders, including NAPS, over the past month.

But Chairman Issa could introduce and move his measure through the House Oversight Committee as early as next week at the Committee's business meeting on July 24, then bring it to the House floor for passage before the start of the August recess.

NAPS has studied and commented on both the Issa and Cummings bills. The NAPS analysis of the Issa measure, the "Postal Service Reform Act of 2013," is [here](#). The NAPS analysis of the Cummings measure, the "Innovate to Deliver Act of 2013" is [here](#).

Both Issa and Cummings introduced relatively similar measures during the last Congress. This time, the most notable difference lies in Issa's concession to realign the pre-funding payments, a move that he previously criticized as a ["taxpayer bailout."](#)

Now, rejecting that characterization, Issa has shifted his attention to other moves that could save billions of dollars, but also reduce mail service and degrade the USPS brand. Chief among them: dropping Saturday mail delivery; phasing out

"door delivery" and shifting to "cluster box" or "centralized" delivery in many areas; and sacking the USPS Board of Governors, replacing the BOG with a five-member "control board" that would have wide authority to further cut USPS jobs and infrastructure costs. Issa's bill also would require the USPS to close more post offices and facilities, moves that Congress may more readily accept in a non-election year.

Cummings' bill would also provide retiree health prefunding relief, but on more generous terms to the Postal Service. It also would expand the Postal Service's authority to innovate and move more aggressively into non-postal product markets.

You can monitor Wednesday's House hearing on the [House Oversight Committee's website](#).

Six-Day Delivery Hangs On

Also on Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee will consider a funding bill containing the mandate for the continuation of six-day mail delivery.

The House Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee last week approved the inclusion of the six-day mail delivery mandate in the bill. The Congress has included the mandate in the annual appropriations bill for the past three decades.

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