

Looking for Employment?

Legislative Update January-February 2020

By: Legislative Director Lorrie Crow

Could this be what the future holds for employees of the USPS? If some sort of postal reform is not passed, it very well could be.

In an article released on January 22, 2020 in *Linn's Stamp News*, the new five-year study released by Postmaster General Megan Brennan and Robert Duncan, Chairman of the Postal Service's Board of Governors, states that if the Postal Service meets all of their financial obligations it will no longer have financial fluidity by 2021. A large portion of this financial responsibility of course includes the \$5.5 billion yearly prefunding mandate. According to Megan Brennan's April 30th testimony before the House Oversight Committee and Reform, if these payments are not made, the Postal Service has until 2024 before it runs out of cash.

Although these statements are true, if you dig deeper and read the United States Postal Service Five Year Strategic Plan for Fiscal years 2020-2024 by Megan Brennan and Robert Duncan in its entirety, it paints a bit of a different picture. The study is in-depth and comprehensive, and I would recommend everyone read it. But no matter what or who is reporting, the survival of the Postal Service depends on postal reforms. With the prefunding mandate accounting for approximately 90% of the financial woes for the Postal Service, getting HR 2382 passed in the House and S2965 through the Senate is the first step. A super majority has been met and surpassed in the House and on December 4, 2020 a motion to place HR 2382 on the Consensus Calendar was made.

Currently HR 2382 has 302 cosponsors. There are 435 voting members of the House of Representatives, and as of this date 232 Democrats and 70 Republications have signed on to this bill. The one holdout for Washington is Jamie Herrera Beutler (R-WA-3). By now we all know what comes next. If you are one of her constituents, start making those phone calls. I have heard it time and time again that public opinion really does sway their vote.

Correction: In the December update I jumped a head of myself and already started referring to the 117th Congress. We are still working with the 116th Congress, I apologize for the confusion.



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