

JUNE 7, 1955 House

(a) of this act for serving heavily patronized routes. Payments for such equipment maintenance shall be made at the same periods and in the same manner as payments of regular compensation.

(b) Any employee in the postal field service who is assigned to serve any rural route, and who furnishes the vehicle used in the performance of such service, shall be paid the equipment maintenance allowance provided for the route so served, in addition to his compensation.

Allowances for postmasters in fourth-class post offices

Sec. 619. Postmasters of fourth-class post offices shall be paid as allowances for rent, fuel, light, and equipment an amount equal to 15 percent of the basic compensation earned in each pay period, at the same time and in the same manner as their regular compensation.

TITLE VII—SALARY INCREASES

Retroactive basic salary increases

Sec. 701. (a) The basic salary in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this section, of each employee paid under the act of July 6, 1945, as amended (39 U. S. C. secs. 833, 859, 861A, 862, 863-866, 869, 893), or under the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, shall be increased by 6 percent effective March 1, 1955 (rounded to the nearest dollar in the case of per annum rates and to the nearest one-half cent in the case of hourly rates, a half-dollar or one-quarter of a cent being rounded to the next highest dollar or one-half cent, respectively). Such increase shall be applied (1) in the case of each rural carrier to his fixed compensation, his compensation per mile, and any additional compensation allowed him for serving a heavily patronized route, and (2) to the amounts specified in sections 3 (c), 3 (d), 12 (a), 12 (e), 15 (f), and 17 (d) of the act of July 6, 1945 (Public Law 134, Seventy-ninth Congress), as amended.

(b) Retroactive salary shall be paid under this act only in the case of an individual in the service of the United States (including service in the Armed Forces of the United States) or of the municipal government of the District of Columbia on the date of enactment of this act, except that such retroactive salary shall be paid a retired postmaster, officer, or employee for services rendered during the period beginning March 1, 1955, and ending with the date of his retirement, or in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 3, 1950, for services rendered by a deceased postmaster, officer, or employee during the period beginning on March 1, 1955, and ending with the date of his death. For the purposes of this subsection, service in the Armed Forces of the United States, in the case of an individual relieved from training and service in the Armed Forces of the United States and from his mobilization following his military and service, shall include the period provided by law for the mandatory restoration of such individual to a position in or under the Federal Government or of the municipal government of the District of Columbia.

TITLE VIII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Classes of post offices

Sec. 611. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Postmaster General shall divide the post offices into four classes on the basis of the total postal receipts for the preceding calendar year. He shall place in the first class those post offices at which such receipts are \$10,000 or more. He shall place in the second class those post offices at which such receipts are \$6,000 or more, but less than \$10,000. He shall place in the third class those post offices at which such receipts are \$3,000 or more, but less than \$6,000. He

Assignment of employees

Sec. 802. With the consent of the employee, the Postmaster General is authorized to detail any employee, including any employee of the departmental service, between the postal field service and the departmental service to such extent as may be necessary to develop a more efficient working force and more effectively to perform the work of the Department. Each such detail shall be made for a period of not more than 1 year and may be made without change in compensation of the employee so detailed.

Increases in basic compensation not "equivalent increases"

Sec. 803. Any increase in rate of basic compensation by reason of enactment of this act shall not be considered as an "equivalent increase" in compensation within the meaning of section 701 (a) (A) of the Classification Act of 1949, in the case of employees who transfer or are transferred to a position coming within the purview of the Classification Act of 1949.

Postal employees of the Canal Zone Government

Sec. 804. The Governor of the Canal Zone is authorized and directed to adopt applicable provisions of this act for postal employees of the Canal Zone Government, as of the respective effective dates of such applicable provisions.

References in other laws with respect to Public Law 134, 79th Congress

Sec. 805. (a) Whenever reference is made in any other law to the act of July 6, 1945 (39 Stat. 435), as amended, such reference shall be held and considered to mean this act. Whenever reference is made in any other law to a "grade" of such act of July 6, 1945, such reference shall be held and considered to mean the corresponding basic salary step in any schedule contained in this act.

(b) The application of this act to any position or employee shall not be affected by reason of the enactment of subsection (a).

Applicability of act to Guam

Sec. 806. This act shall have the same force and effect within Guam as within other possessions of the United States.

Regulations of Postmaster General

Sec. 807. The Postmaster General is hereby authorized to issue such regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this act.

Civil Service Act and Rules, Veterans' Preference Act of 1944

Sec. 808. This act shall not be construed to modify the application of the Civil Service Act and Rules or the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944 to the postal field service.

Authorization of appropriations

Sec. 809. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Effective dates

Sec. 810. (a) This section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this act.

(b) This act, except title VII, section 607 (d) and this section, shall take effect on such date as may be specified by the Postmaster General, but not later than 120 days after the date of its enactment.

(c) Title VII and section 607 (d) shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period which begins after the date of enactment of this act.

(d) For the purpose of determining the amount of insurance for which an individual is eligible under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Act of 1954, changes in the rate of contribution which result from

first pay period which begins on or after the date of enactment of this act.

The SPEAKER. Is a second demanded?

Mr. REES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

Mr. MURRAY of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that a second be considered as ordered.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURRAY of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, it is the purpose of this legislation to provide an increase in the compensation of postal employees and, at the same time, bring about correction of serious inequities in the salary schedule by the adoption of an improved method of classifying postal employees for salary purposes.

Under this bill, all postal employees will receive a minimum increase of 6 percent on their basic salaries, effective March 1, 1955, and within 180 days after enactment will then be fitted into a salary schedule providing for a pay scale establishing a more realistic relationship between the various positions—particularly with reference to their duties and responsibilities—and the salaries of such positions. The adjustment to the new salary schedule will result in a payroll increase of approximately 2 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time that the House has considered postal pay legislation this session. The bill that we are considering today is Senate 2061, which was introduced by the chairman of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee. This bill passed the Senate unanimously, and I hope it will meet with the same approval in the House today.

Your Committee on Post Office and Civil Service reported out this bill unanimously with two amendments. These two amendments are minor clarifying amendments. The first amendment merely affirms the view of the committee that the simple distribution of parcel post packages by mail handlers is an incidental or occasional rather than a primary function of mail handlers. The second amendment clarifies the status of special delivery messengers under the bill.

The committee was concerned that under the bill as passed by the other body the position of special delivery messenger might be eliminated or completely prohibited. This amendment will continue the present status of special delivery messengers presently on the rolls and will permit additional appointments to the position of special delivery messenger.

Mr. Speaker, there are very few major changes in the bill before you compared with H. R. 4611, the bill originally reported out by your Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. The changes made are not too substantial. The Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee in its report on the bill before you, S. 2061, had this to say: