

“(B) to ensure that residents of rural and isolated communities in Alaska continue to have affordable, reliable, and safe passenger service;

“(C) to ensure that residents of rural and isolated communities in Alaska continue to have affordable, reliable, and safe nonmail freight service;

“(D) to encourage that intra-Alaska air carriers move toward safer, more secure, and more reliable air transportation under the Federal Aviation Administration’s guidelines and in accordance with part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, where such operations are supported by the needs of the community; and

“(E) that Congress, pursuant to the authority granted under Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution to establish Post Offices and post roads, make changes to ensure that the Intra-Alaska Bypass Mail system continues to be used to support substantial passenger and nonmail freight service and to reduce costs for the Postal Service.”

**ACTIONS OF AIR CARRIERS TO QUALIFY AS BUSH PASSENGERS OR NONMAIL FREIGHT CARRIERS**

Pub. L. 107-206, title III, §3002(d), Aug. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 923, provided that: “Beginning 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 2, 2002], if the Secretary determines, based on the Secretary’s findings and recommendations of the Postal Service, that an air carrier being tendered nonpriority bush bypass mail is not taking actions to attempt to qualify as a bush passenger or nonmail freight carrier under section 5402 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this title), the Postal Service shall immediately cease tender of all nonpriority bypass mail to such carrier.”

**REPORTS TO CONGRESS**

Pub. L. 107-206, title III, §3002(f), Aug. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 924, provided that, not later than 18 months after Aug. 2, 2002, the Postal Service and the Secretary of Transportation were to submit a report to the Committee on Government Reform (now Committee on Oversight and Government Reform) of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the progress of implementing title III of Pub. L. 107-206.

**§ 5403. Fines**

The Postal Service may impose or remit fines on carriers transporting mail by air on routes extending beyond the borders of the United States for—

- (1) unreasonable or unnecessary delay to mail; and
- (2) other delinquencies in the transportation of the mail.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

**CHAPTER 56—TRANSPORTATION OF MAIL BY VESSEL**

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5601.	Sea post service.
5602.	Termination of contracts for foreign transportation.
5603.	Transportation of mail by vessel as freight or express.
5604.	Fines on ocean carriers.
5605.	Contracts for transportation of mail by vessel.

**§ 5601. Sea post service**

The Postal Service may maintain sea post service on ocean vessels conveying mail to and from the United States.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

**§ 5602. Termination of contracts for foreign transportation**

Contracts for the transportation of mail by vessel between the United States and a foreign port shall be made subject to cancellation by the Postal Service or the Congress.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

**§ 5603. Transportation of mail by vessel as freight or express**

The Postal Service may require that mail be transported by freight or express when—

- (1) there is no competition on a water route and the rate or compensation asked is excessive; or
- (2) no proposal is received.

A common carrier by water that fails or refuses to transport the mail when required to do so under this section shall be fined not more than \$500 for each day of refusal.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

**§ 5604. Fines on ocean carriers**

The Postal Service may impose or remit fines on carriers transporting mail by vessel on routes extending beyond the borders of the United States for—

- (1) unreasonable or unnecessary delay to the mails; and
- (2) other delinquencies in the transportation of mail.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

**§ 5605. Contracts for transportation of mail by vessel**

The Postal Service may contract for the transportation of mail by vessel without advertising for bids.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773; Pub. L. 109-435, title X, §1002(b)(3), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3255.)

AMENDMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE

2006—Pub. L. 109-438 struck out “for periods of not in excess of 4 years” before period at end.

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.