

(b) Members of Congress may send, as franked mail, any part of, or a reprint of any part of, the Congressional Record, including speeches or reports contained therein, if such matter is mailable as franked mail under section 3210 of this title.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, §3, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 741.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated existing text in provisions designated as subsec. (a).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated existing text in provisions designated as subsec. (b), authorized sending, as franked mail, reprints of parts of Congressional Record, and authorized the mailing of Congressional Record if the listed matter is mailable as franked mail under section 3210 of this title.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

##### 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.

#### § 3213. Seeds and reports from Department of Agriculture

Seeds and agricultural reports emanating from the Department of Agriculture may be mailed—

- (1) as penalty mail by the Secretary of Agriculture; and
- (2) during the 90-day period immediately following the expiration of their terms of office, as franked mail by Members of Congress.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 97-69, §5(b), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1981—Par. (2). Pub. L. 97-69 substituted “during the 90-day period immediately” for “until the thirtieth day of June”.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### 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.

#### § 3214. Mailing privilege of former President; surviving spouse of former President

A former President and the surviving spouse of a former President may send nonpolitical mail within the United States and its territories and possessions as franked mail. Such mail of a former President and of the surviving spouse of a former President marked “Postage and Fees Paid” in the manner prescribed by the Postal Service shall be accepted by the Postal Service for transmission in the international mails.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, §4(a), Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 742; Pub. L. 103-123, title IV, §6(b), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1246; Pub. L. 105-61, title IV, §409(b), Oct. 10, 1997, 111 Stat. 1299.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1997—Pub. L. 105-61 struck out subsec. (a) designation, substituted “A former President” for “Subject to subsection (b), a former President”, and struck out subsec. (b) which read as follows: “Subsection (a) shall cease to apply—

“(1) 5 years after the effective date of this subsection, in the case of any individual who, on such effective date—

“(A) is a former President (including any individual who might become entitled to the mailing privilege under subsection (a) as the surviving spouse of such a former President); or

“(B) is the surviving spouse of a former President; and

“(2) 4 years and 6 months after the expiration of the period for which services and facilities are authorized to be provided under section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), in the case of an individual who becomes a former President after such effective date (including any surviving spouse of such individual, as described in the parenthetical matter in paragraph (1)(A)).”

1993—Pub. L. 103-123 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), substituted “Subject to subsection (b), a former” for “A former”, and added subsec. (b).

1973—Pub. L. 93-191 limited the mailing privilege to nonpolitical mail, extended the privilege to surviving spouse of former President and provided for acceptance of such mail marked “Postage and Fees Paid” by the Postal Service for transmission in the international mails.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-123, title IV, §6(c), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1247, provided that: “The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [amending this section and provisions set out as a note under section 102 of Title 3, The President] shall take effect on October 1, 1993.”

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 27, 1972, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

##### 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.

#### § 3215. Lending or permitting use of frank unlawful

A person entitled to use a frank may not lend it or permit its use by any committee, organization, or association, or permit its use by any person for the benefit or use of any committee, organization, or association. This section does not apply to any standing, select, special, or joint committee, or subcommittee thereof, or commission, of the Senate, House of Representatives, or Congress, composed of Members of Congress, or to the Democratic caucus or the Republican conference of the House of Representatives or of the Senate.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 93-191, § 10, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 746.)

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

1973—Pub. L. 93-191 substituted provision for non-application of section to “any standing, select, special, or joint committee, or subcommittee thereof, or commission, of the Senate, House of Representatives, or Congress, composed of Members of Congress, or to the Democratic caucus or the Republican conference of the House of Representatives or of the Senate” for such nonapplication to “any committee composed of Members of Congress”.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

#### 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.

### § 3216. Reimbursement for franked mailings

(a) The equivalent of—

(1) postage on, and fees and charges in connection with, mail matter sent through the mails—

(A) under the franking privilege (other than under section 3219 of this title), by the Vice President, Members of and Members-elect to Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, each of the elected officers of the House of Representatives (other than a Member of the House), the Legislative Counsels of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Legal Counsel; and

(B) by the survivors of a Member of Congress under section 3218 of this title; and

(2) those portions of fees and charges to be paid for handling and delivery by the Postal Service of Mailgrams considered as franked mail under section 3219 of this title;

shall be paid by appropriations for the official mail costs of the Senate and the House of Representatives for that purpose and then paid to the Postal Service as postal revenue. Except as to Mailgrams and except as provided by sections 733 and 907 of title 44, envelopes, wrappers, cards, or labels used to transmit franked mail shall bear, in the upper right-hand corner, the sender's signature, or a facsimile thereof.

(b) Postage on, and fees and charges in connection with, mail matter sent through the mails under section 3214 of this title shall be paid each fiscal year, out of any appropriation made for that purpose, to the Postal Service as postal revenue in an amount equivalent to the postage, fees, and charges which would otherwise be payable on, or in connection with, such mail matter.

(c) Payment under subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be deemed payment for all matter

mailed under the frank and for all fees and charges due the Postal Service in connection therewith.

(d) Money collected for matter improperly mailed under the franking privilege shall be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the general fund of the Treasury.

(e)(1) Not later than two weeks after the last day of each quarter of the fiscal year, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Postmaster General shall send to the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, the House Communications Standards Commission, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration a report which shall contain a tabulation of the estimated number of pieces and costs of franked mail, as defined in section 3201 of this title, in each mail classification sent through the mail for that quarter and for the preceding quarters in the fiscal year, together with separate tabulations of the number of pieces and costs of such mail sent by the House and by the Senate.

(2) Two weeks after the close of the second quarter of the fiscal year, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Postmaster General shall send to the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, the House Communications Standards Commission, the Committee on House Oversight, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, a statement of the costs of postage on, and fees and charges in connection with, mail matter sent through the mails as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection for the preceding two quarters together with an estimate of such costs for the balance of the fiscal year. As soon as practicable after receipt of this statement, the House Communications Standards Commission, the Committee on House Oversight, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration shall consider promulgating such regulations for their respective Houses as may be necessary to ensure that total postage costs, as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, will not exceed the amounts available for the fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 92-51, § 101, July 9, 1971, 85 Stat. 132; Pub. L. 93-191, § 7, Dec. 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 745; Pub. L. 93-255, § 2(a), Mar. 27, 1974, 88 Stat. 52; Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, § 714(b), Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1884; Pub. L. 97-69, § 6(a), Oct. 26, 1981, 95 Stat. 1043; Pub. L. 97-263, § 1(3), Sept. 24, 1982, 96 Stat. 1132; Pub. L. 101-163, title III, §§ 316(b), formerly § 316(c), 317, Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1067, renumbered § 316(b), Pub. L. 101-520, title III, § 311(h)(3)(B), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280; Pub. L. 102-90, title III, § 306, Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 466; Pub. L. 104-186, title II, § 220, Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1748; Pub. L. 116-260, div. I, title I, § 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 1637.)

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 116-260 substituted “House Communications Standards Commission” for “House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards” wherever appearing.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-186 substituted “Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representa-