



Congressman

John M. McHugh

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McHUGH'S POSTAL MODERNIZATION BILL SET FOR PANEL CONSIDERATION

WASHINGTON – Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Postal Service, said today his Subcommittee will take its final action on H.R. 22, his bill to fundamentally modernize and reform the laws governing the U.S. Postal Service, Thursday, April 29, 12:00 p.m. in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building.

Rep. McHugh, the bill's author, today released revised legislative language for H.R. 22. Changes made to the bill are based on extensive feedback the Subcommittee received during the most recent round of hearings on the measure.

"Clearly, we must modernize our nation's outdated postal laws so we can assure the American people of a viable postal system well into the next century," said Rep. McHugh. "We have established the need for postal reform and I am pleased with the support the bill has received. Now is the time to move it forward."

H.R. 22 would update the nation's postal laws for the first time since the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which created the current structure of the Postal Service and ended the taxpayer-subsidized government entity known as the Post Office Department. The Postal Service currently operates in a competitive and dynamic communications marketplace that did not exist when it was created nearly three decades ago. The legislation will give the Postal Service greater freedom to compete while establishing rules to ensure fair competition and protect the public interest.

The Subcommittee has focused on postal reform issues for nearly four years, including an in-depth examination of Rep. McHugh's legislation, which was originally introduced in June 1996.

"There has been no shortage of debate on this bill. We've held some 15 hearings where we had the benefit of hearing from more than 60 witnesses who testified on H.R. 22 and the challenges facing our outdated postal system," Rep. McHugh said.

"The most recent revisions represent further fine-tuning to address many of the issues raised during this year's hearings," said Rep. McHugh. "The result is a well-refined proposal that provides a new regulatory framework to give the Postal Service both the tools and the incentive to adapt to the future, while stabilizing rate changes, and promoting fair competition."

In addition to a sectional analysis and summary, the text of Rep. McHugh's revised legislative language for H.R. 22 is available in Room B-349C of the Rayburn House Office Building, or on the Subcommittee's website, (<http://www.house.gov/reform/postal/hearings/hr22.htm>).

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