



NALC Fact Sheet

Department of Legislative and Political Affairs — National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
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USPS Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3721)

Under current law, the Postal Service is prohibited from shipping alcoholic beverages. The USPS Shipping Equity Act would change that, allowing the Postal Service to ship beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages directly from licensed producers and retailers to legal customers.

Missed revenue opportunity

The bill would generate an estimated \$190 million annually in new revenue for the Postal Service. Due to this Prohibition-era ban, USPS is missing out on tens of millions in revenue, while private shippers, like UPS and FedEx, are the only option for wineries, breweries and other producers to have goods delivered directly to consumers. This bill would level the playing field and allow the Postal Service to compete in an existing and profitable marketplace.

Universal service and consumer choice

While USPS delivers to every address in the nation six and sometimes seven days a week, private carriers do not.

The current ban on alcoholic beverage shipments limits affordable access to these products for many Americans, especially in rural areas. This bill would fix that, providing equal access to competitively priced alcoholic shipments for customers and shippers. As the Postal Service reconfigures its network to meet the public's changing expectations, it is time for the Postal Service to be a shipping option for alcoholic beverages.

Regulations and state law

The bill would give USPS two years to develop regulations and processes to ensure that the agency is prepared to safely deliver these goods to adult consumers with appropriate identification checks. The legislation does not supersede any state or local laws, rather it works in conjunction with them without inhibiting state or local authority in regulating alcoholic beverages. It also does not make any changes to federal excise tax collection.

NALC supports the USPS Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3721), which would generate revenue for the Postal Service, meet the growing expectations of customers, expand USPS's service opportunities, and support small businesses and consumers nationwide.

Sponsored by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA)