

Introduced by Senator Leyva

**(Principal coauthors: Senators Hall, Hancock, Lara, Leno, Liu,
McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Pavley, and Wolk)**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cooper and Dodd)

May 26, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution No. 11—Relative to the United States Postal Service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 11, as introduced, Leyva. United States Postal Service.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to require the United States Postal Service to take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012, urge Congress to place a moratorium on planned shutdowns of mail sorting centers, and urge Congress to oppose any postal reform legislation that does not continue the mandate for 6-day delivery service or protect door-to-door delivery as it currently exists. The measure would also urge the Secretary of State to publicly oppose changes in the United States Postal Service that negatively impact the rights of California voters who vote by an absentee ballot.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, On January 5, 2015, the United States Postal
2 Service implemented lower “service standards” to virtually
3 eliminate overnight delivery of first class mail and periodicals,
4 and further delay most other mail; and

5 WHEREAS, Delayed mail negatively impacts businesses, hurts
6 residents, communities, and the economy, and drives customers

1 away, resulting in lower revenue and damaging the financial
2 situation of the United States Postal Service; and

3 WHEREAS, Robust service standards implemented by the
4 United States Postal Service are essential to providing prompt and
5 timely delivery of all mail, including online purchases, local
6 newspapers, newsletters, bill payments, letters, invitations,
7 packages, and medicines; and

8 WHEREAS, Planned shutdowns of mail sorting centers would
9 seriously affect hundreds of employees, over 22 percent of whom
10 are United States military veterans, many with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, At least one of these mail sorting facilities, located
12 in Eureka, California, is planning on shifting its mail distribution,
13 including absentee ballots, to Oregon, which contradicts the
14 obligation of the United States Postal Service to protect voting by
15 mail throughout California, which is now commonplace and will
16 remain essential to our democracy; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has the authority
18 to reinstate overnight delivery standards to hasten mail delivery
19 and prevent shutdowns of mail sorting centers; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
22 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the United States
23 Congress to require the United States Postal Service to restore
24 service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012, and place a
25 moratorium on planned shutdowns of mail sorting centers, and
26 further urges the United States Congress to oppose any postal
27 reform legislation that does not continue the mandate for six-day
28 delivery service or does not protect door-to-door delivery as it
29 currently exists; and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the Secretary of State to
31 publicly oppose changes in the United States Postal Service that
32 negatively impact the rights of California voters who vote by an
33 absentee ballot; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
35 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California
36 in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of State, to
37 the United States Postmaster General, and to the author for
38 appropriate distribution.

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