

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6441

To require the Postmaster General update the systems of the Postal Service to accurately recognize and preserve address data, including the proper use of linguistic characters and place names, in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require the Postmaster General update the systems of the Postal Service to accurately recognize and preserve address data, including the proper use of linguistic characters and place names, in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Postal
5 Equity Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The accurate identification, formatting, and
2 integration of physical addresses are essential to the
3 efficient operation of the United States Postal Serv-
4 ice, the reliability of mail delivery, the facilitation of
5 e-commerce, and the equitable distribution of Fed-
6 eral programs and services.

7 (2) Historical and structural complexities in
8 Puerto Rico’s local addressing conventions create in-
9 consistencies between locally assigned addresses and
10 those recognized by the United States Postal Serv-
11 ice, Federal agencies, and major private platforms,
12 resulting in recurring delivery and validation fail-
13 ures.

14 (3) Such inconsistencies include the omission or
15 alteration of diacritical marks recognized in Spanish-
16 language place names, street names, and surnames,
17 which can lead to misidentification, delivery errors,
18 and data mismatches in official records.

19 (4) The preservation of accurate orthography
20 and culturally specific characters in Federal data
21 systems is essential to ensuring the integrity of offi-
22 cial records, compliance with civil rights and lan-
23 guage access standards, and the protection of iden-
24 tity and property rights.

1 (5) Strengthened coordination between the
2 United States Postal Service and the Department of
3 Commerce, including the Census Bureau, would en-
4 hance national data accuracy, support economic de-
5 velopment, and advance equity across Puerto Rico
6 by improving how the United States Postal Service
7 identifies and resolves recurrent address recognition
8 and delivery issues in Puerto Rico.

9 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCURACY OF PUERTO RICO**

10 **ADDRESS DATA.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Postmaster General
13 shall develop and implement improvements to the systems
14 of the United States Postal Service to improve the accu-
15 racy and recognition of addresses in Puerto Rico, includ-
16 ing—

17 (1) using existing operational indicators of the
18 United States Postal Service, including Undeliver-
19 able-As-Addressed codes, mail delivery exception
20 records, address quality data from the address man-
21 agement system of the United States Postal Service,
22 delivery point validation results, consumer complaint
23 information, and address validation outcomes data
24 from the websites of the United States Postal Serv-

1 ice, to identify locations in Puerto Rico with per-
2 sistent address recognition or mail delivery issues;

3 (2) updating the address records, routing infor-
4 mation, and validation tables of the United States
5 Postal Service for the locations identified under sub-
6 section (1);

7 (3) revising the relevant systems of the United
8 States Postal Service, including address matching,
9 address validation, and mail and delivery routing
10 systems, to support the use of diacritical marks and
11 other address elements used in Puerto Rico for ad-
12 dresses in Puerto Rico; and

13 (4) taking such other actions as determined ap-
14 propriate by the Postmaster General based on the
15 relevant data to improve the recognition by the sys-
16 tems of the United States Postal Service of and the
17 proper delivery of mail to properly assigned address-
18 es in Puerto Rico.

19 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),
20 the Postmaster General shall consult with the Bureau of
21 the Census, including the Census Open Innovation Lab,
22 the Puerto Rico Planning Board established by Puerto
23 Rico Act 75–1975 (23 L.P.R.A. 62 et seq.), and appro-
24 priate local governments in Puerto Rico, to obtain infor-
25 mation required to carry out such subsection.

1 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after en-
2 actment of this Act, and annually thereafter for three
3 years, the Postmaster General shall submit to Congress
4 a report detailing—

5 (1) the actions taken under this section;

6 (2) the progress of the United States Postal
7 Service in improving the recognition of and accuracy
8 of delivery to addresses in Puerto Rico; and

9 (3) any barriers to carrying out subsection (a)
10 and recommendations for legislative or administra-
11 tive action to address such barriers.

12 (d) DIACRITICAL MARK DEFINED.—In this Act, the
13 term “diacritical mark” means any accent, tilde, or other
14 orthographic sign used by the Spanish language to indi-
15 cate pronunciation or meaning in proper nouns and place
16 names within Puerto Rico.

17 **SEC. 4. CUTGO COMPLIANCE.**

18 No additional amounts are authorized to be appro-
19 priated to carry out this Act. The Postmaster General
20 shall carry out this Act using amounts otherwise appro-
21 priated or made available to United States Postal Service.

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