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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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”.

1   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2       The Congress finds the following:

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

9           (2) Historical and structural complexities in  
10      Puerto Rico's local addressing conventions create inconsistencies  
11      between locally assigned addresses and  
12      those recognized by the United States Postal Service,  
13      Federal agencies, and major private platforms,  
14      resulting in recurring delivery and validation failures.  
15

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

21          (4) The preservation of accurate orthography  
22      and culturally specific characters in Federal data  
23      systems is essential to ensuring the integrity of official  
24      records, compliance with civil rights and language access  
25      standards, and the protection of identity and property rights.  
26

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 the subsection  
20 (a), the Postmaster General shall consult with the Bureau  
21 of 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.