

## H.R. 22 Passes House as One Year Bill.

Yesterday, September 15, 2009, H.R. 22 was amended to provide one year of relief to the Postal Service and then passed the House of Representatives 388 to 32. The amendment taking H.R. 22 to a one year bill was necessary to avoid a multibillion dollar “score” that the Congressional budget office had given the original H.R. 22, despite the fact that the bill was designed not to score and no taxpayer monies were involved. Members of the National League of Postmasters have been working the bill very hard for months, urging the House to pass it.

Bob Brinkmann, League legislative counsel, call the passage of the bill “an extremely important development to help the Postal Service through this economic crisis, without spending any taxpayer monies.”{

H.R. 22 now goes to the Senate where the Senate can take it up. The Senate has its own bill, S 1507, which would provide similar multi-year relief to the Postal Service. When the bill was passed out of Committee, however, a very controversial amendment was added as a “poison pill” to kill the bill. The Senate bill also has a substantial “score.” Whether the Senate will take up its own bill ,or whether it will adopt the House bill is unknown at this point.

Given that legislation must pass before the end of September, it is expected that the National League of Postmasters and other postal employee groups will be urging the Senate to adopt the House bill.