

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HM 1511 Establishment of a New Zip Code for the Town of Miami Lakes

SPONSOR(S): Fabricio

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee	15 Y, 0 N	Mwakyanjala	Miller
2) State Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has used Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Codes since the 1960s to ensure more efficient mail delivery and operations. Municipalities and community groups who want a ZIP Code change may file a request with USPS. USPS uses the ZIP Code Boundary Review Process in order to facilitate these requests. The general policy of USPS is to support only those changes that result in more efficient mail processing and distribution.

Miami Lakes, located in northwest Miami-Dade County, for years has sought to attain a new ZIP Code that is exclusive to its area. Currently, Miami Lakes shares a ZIP Code with neighboring cities and communities. USPS has denied the municipality's requests, stating that creating a new ZIP Code for Miami Lakes would be both cost prohibitive and not operationally feasible.

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart has filed H.R. 462 to establish a new ZIP code for Miami Lakes. The memorial urges the United States Congress to recognize the need to establish a new ZIP Code for the town of Miami Lakes and pass H.R. 462.

Legislative memorials are not subject to the Governor's veto powers and are not presented to the Governor for review. Memorials have no force of law, as they are mechanisms for formally petitioning the federal government to act on a particular subject.

This memorial does not have a fiscal impact on the state or local governments.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

ZIP Codes

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is responsible for the collection, handling, and delivery of mail across the United States.¹ Since 1963, the USPS has used Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Codes for efficient mail delivery and operations. ZIP Codes are 5-digit geographic codes that identify postal delivery areas within the United States and its possessions and territories to simplify distribution and delivery of mail.² The first three-digits of a ZIP Code direct mail to regional sorting facilities, from which mail is sorted and distributed to specific delivery post offices, identified by the fourth and fifth digits.³

Boundary Review Process

The USPS uses the Boundary Review Process (Review Process) to evaluate requests for changes in ZIP Codes. Municipalities and community groups who desire a ZIP Code change may submit a written request to the USPS district manager. Upon receiving a request, the district manager for the area must identify all relevant issues and potential solutions. Factors to be considered include changes in delivery volume, operational impacts, and delivery growth projections.⁴ The district manager must quantify the feasibility of the request, meet with proponent groups to discuss issues, explain potential alternatives, and provide a determination within 60 days from receiving the petition.⁵ The general policy of USPS is to support only those changes that result in more efficient mail processing and distribution.⁶

New ZIP Code for Miami Lakes

Miami Lakes is a municipality in northwest Miami-Dade County with an estimated population of 31,367.⁷ For a number of years the town has sought a new ZIP Code for its area. Miami Lakes seeks a new ZIP Code to differentiate itself from neighboring municipalities. The USPS has denied these requests, stating that creating a new ZIP Code for Miami Lakes would be both cost prohibitive and not operationally feasible.⁸

As part of H.R. 462 filed with the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart seeks to establish a new ZIP Code for the Town of Miami Lakes.⁹ Rep. Diaz-Balart has stated the main reasons for wanting a new ZIP Code are to reduce election and census confusion, help with community branding, lower automobile insurance rates, and facilitate economic development.¹⁰ There is no

¹ 39 U.S.C. s. 404.

² Postal Operations Manual Issue 9, July 2002 (Updated with Revisions through July 31, 2020).

³ Nye Stevens, *Changing Postal ZIP Code Boundaries*, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress (June 23, 2006), at 1. Hereafter cited as "*Changing Postal ZIP Code Boundaries*."

⁴ Janet M. Sorensen. "Management Alert – ZIP Code Review Process." United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (November 27, 2015), at 1. Hereafter cited as "ZIP Code Review Process."

⁵ *Changing Postal ZIP Code Boundaries* at pg. 5.

⁶ "ZIP Code Review Process," at 1.

⁷ See at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/miamilakestownflorida> (last visited on March 23, 2021).

⁸ *Vice Mayor offers alternative plan to achieve an independent Zip Code for town*. Miami Laker (January 22, 2014), <https://miamilaker.com/vice-mayor-offers-alternative-plan-to-achieve-an-independent-zip-code-for-town> (last visited on March 23, 2021).

⁹ In addition to Miami Lakes, FL, H.R. 462 establishes new ZIP Codes for Ocoee, FL, Oakland, FL, Village of Estero, FL, Glendale, NY, and Flanders, Northampton, and Riverside in the Town of Southampton, NY.

¹⁰ *Mario Diaz-Balart Brings Back his Bill to Give Miami Lakes Its Own ZIP Code*. Florida Daily (January 13, 2019), <https://www.floridadaily.com/mario-diaz-balart-brings-back-his-bill-to-give-miami-lakes-its-own-zip-code/> (last visited on March 23, 2021).

economic study available discussing the economic impact or effect on insurance rates a new ZIP Code would have on Miami Lakes.

New ZIP Codes require significant investment by the USPS. When a new ZIP Code is established, a delivery post office is usually established in the area as well. A new delivery post office requires a physical location, such as the construction or rehabilitation of a building or utilizing vacant retail space. A delivery post office requires loading docks, sorting equipment, and access to major transportation routes. The USPS also would have to negotiate with unions over work assignments.¹¹

The Mayor of Miami Lakes has suggested the town could divide postage revenue with the USPS so that Miami Lakes could create and pay for its own mail distribution system through a Contract Delivery Service.¹² Contract Delivery Services are independent contractors performing the regular duties of the USPS but existing outside the scope and authority of the USPS. The USPS has not publically responded to this proposal.

Effect of the Memorial

The memorial urges the United States Congress to recognize the need to establish a new ZIP Code for the Town of Miami Lakes and pass H.R. 462.

Copies of the memorial will be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

Legislative memorials are not subject to the Governor's veto power and are not presented to the Governor for review. Memorials have no force of law, as they are mechanisms for formally petitioning the federal government to act on a particular subject.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Not applicable.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

¹¹ *Changing Postal ZIP Code Boundaries* at pg. 6.

¹² *Supra* note 8.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The USPS has stated creating a new ZIP Code for Miami Lakes would not be economically feasible. Miami Lakes has offered to offset the costs of creating a new ZIP Code by dividing postage revenue with the USPS which would allow for the municipality to create and pay for its own mail distribution system through a Contract Delivery Service. USPS's response to Miami Lake's suggestion is currently unknown.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The memorial neither authorizes nor requires executive branch rulemaking.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES