References in text to other sections do not include definitive sections. Only those susceptible of violation are cited.

Mandatory punishment provision was rephrased in the alternative.

Minor changes were made in arrangement, translation, and phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103–322 substituted ''fined under this title'' for ''fined not more than $5,000''.

1990—Pub. L. 101–647 struck out ''; opening letters'' after ''nonmailable'' in section catchline.

1970—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 91–375 struck out ''of the United States'' after ''Postal Service''.

1960—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 86–682 repealed subsec. (c) which related to the opening of letters, effective Sept. 1, 1960.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91–375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91–375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

[§ 1718. Repealed. Pub. L. 101–647, title XII, § 1210(c), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4832]

Section, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 782; Aug. 12, 1970, Pub. L. 91–375, § 6(j)(28), 84 Stat. 780, provided that libelous matter on wrappers or envelopes was nonmailable.

§ 1719. Franking privilege

Whoever makes use of any official envelope, label, or indorsement authorized by law, to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his private letter, packet, package, or other matter in the mail, shall be fined under this title.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645. 62 Stat. 783; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(F), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 357 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 227, 35 Stat. 1134).

Minor verbal change was made. Section 746(f) of title 8, U.S.C., 1940 ed., Aliens and Nationality, providing same penalty for misuse of franking privilege in naturalization service, should be repealed as covered by this section. The proviso in section 337 of title 39, U.S.C., 1940 ed., The Postal Service, should also be repealed for the same reason.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103–322 substituted ''fined under this title'' for ''fined not more than $300''.

§ 1720. Canceled stamps and envelopes

Whoever uses or attempts to use in payment of postage, any canceled postage stamp, whether the same has been used or not, or removes, attempts to remove, or assists in removing, the canceling or defacing marks from any postage stamp, or the superscription from any stamped envelope, or postal card, that has once been used in payment of postage, with the intent to use the same for a like purpose, or to sell or offer to sell the same, or knowingly possesses any such postage stamp, stamped envelope, or postal card, with intent to use the same or knowingly sells or offers to sell any such postage stamp, stamped envelope, or postal card, or uses or attempts to use the same in payment of postage; or

Whoever unlawfully and willfully removes from any mail matter any stamp attached thereto in payment of postage; or

Whoever knowingly uses in payment of postage, any postage stamp, postal card, or stamped envelope, issued in pursuance of law, which has already been used for a like purpose—

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; but if he is a person employed in the Postal Service, he shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 783; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(G), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 328 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 205, 35 Stat. 1127).

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of ''principal'' in section 2 of this title.

Minor verbal changes were made.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103–322 substituted ''fined under this title'' for ''fined not more than $500'' in two places in last par.

§ 1721. Sale or pledge of stamps

Whoever, being a Postal Service officer or employee, knowingly and willfully: uses or disposes of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, or postal cards entrusted to his care or custody in the payment of debts, or in the purchase of merchandise or other salable articles, or pledges or hypothecates the same or sells or disposes of them except for cash; or sells or disposes of postage stamps or postal cards for any larger or less sum than the values indicated on their faces; or sells or disposes of stamped envelopes for a larger or less sum than is charged therefor by the Postal Service for like quantities; or sells or disposes of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, or postal cards at any point or place outside of the delivery of the office where such officer or employee is employed; or for the purpose of increasing the emoluments, or compensation of any such officer or employee, inflates or induces the inflation of the receipts of any post office or any station or branch thereof; or sells or disposes of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, or postal cards, otherwise than as provided by law or the regulations of the Postal Service; shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 783; Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 818, 70 Stat. 784; Pub. L. 91–375, § 6(j)(29), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 780; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(G), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on section 331 of title 18 and section 364 of title 39, The Postal Service, both U.S.C., 1940 ed. (R.S. § 3920; Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 208, 35 Stat. 1128).

Said sections were consolidated with only minor changes in phraseology.

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of ''principal'' in section 2 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103–322 substituted ''fined under this title'' for ''fined not more than $500''.

1970—Pub. L. 91–375 substituted ''Postal Service officer or employee'' for ''postmaster or postal service employee'', ''Postal Service'' for ''Post Office Department'' in two places, ''officer or employee'' for ''postmaster or other person'', and ''any such officer or employee'' for ''the postmaster or any employee of a post office or station or branch thereof'', respectively.

1956—Act Aug. 1, 1956, broadened the class of postal employees subject to penalties prescribed by this section and broadened the prohibition to include the inflation of receipts by means other than the disposing of stamps, stamped envelopes, or postal cards.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91–375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91–375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1722. False evidence to secure second-class rate

Whoever knowingly submits to the Postal Service or to any officer or employee of the Postal Service, any false evidence relative to any publication for the purpose of securing the admission thereof at the second-class rate, for transportation in the mails, shall be fined under this title.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 783; Pub. L. 91–375, § 6(j)(30), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 780; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(G), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 353 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 223, 35 Stat. 1133).

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of ''principal'' in section 2 of this title.

Minor verbal change was made.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103–322 substituted ''fined under this title'' for ''fined not more than $500''.

1970—Pub. L. 91–375 substituted ''the Postal Service or to any officer or employee of the Postal Service'' for ''any postmaster or to the Post Office Department or any officer of the Postal Service''.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91–375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91–375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1723. Avoidance of postage by using lower class matter

Matter of the second, third, or fourth class containing any writing or printing in addition to the original matter, other than as authorized by law, shall not be admitted to the mails, nor delivered, except upon payment of postage for matter of the first class, deducting therefrom any amount which may have been prepaid by stamps affixed, unless by direction of a duly authorized officer of the Postal Service such postage shall be remitted.

Whoever knowingly conceals or incloses any matter of a higher class in that of a lower class, and deposits the same for conveyance by mail, at a less rate than would be charged for such higher class matter, shall be fined under this title.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 784; Pub. L. 91–375, § 6(j)(31), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 780; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(B), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2146.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 351 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 221, 35 Stat. 1132).

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of ''principal'' in section 2 of this title.

Minor verbal changes were made.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103–322 substituted ''fined under this title'' for ''fined not more than $100'' in second par.

1970—Pub. L. 91–375 substituted ''a duly authorized officer of the Postal Service'' for ''Postmaster General'' in first par.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91–375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91–375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1724. Postage on mail delivered by foreign vessels

Except as otherwise provided by treaty or convention the Postal Service may require the transportation by any steamship of mail between the United States and any foreign port at the compensation fixed under authority of law. Upon refusal by the master or the commander of such steamship or vessel to accept the mail, when tendered by the Postal Service or its representative, the collector or other officer of the port empowered to grant clearance, on notice of the refusal aforesaid, shall withhold clearance, until the collector or other officer of the port is informed by the Postal Service or its representative that the master or commander of the steamship or vessel has accepted the mail or that conveyance by his steamship or vessel is no longer required by the Postal Service.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 784; Sept. 25, 1951, ch. 413, § 1(4), 65 Stat. 336; Pub. L. 91–375, § 6(j)(32), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 780.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 326 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 203, 35 Stat. 1127; Feb. 6, 1929, ch. 157, 45 Stat. 1153).

AMENDMENTS

1970—Pub. L. 91–375 substituted ''Postal Service'' and ''Postal Service or its representative'' for ''Postmaster General'' and ''Postmaster General or his representative'', respectively, in two places.

1951—Act Sept. 25, 1951, repealed former first paragraph relating to penalties for failure to pay postage on or unlawful conveyance of mail to or from any part of the United States by foreign vessels.