

US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Year: 1852

Postmasters

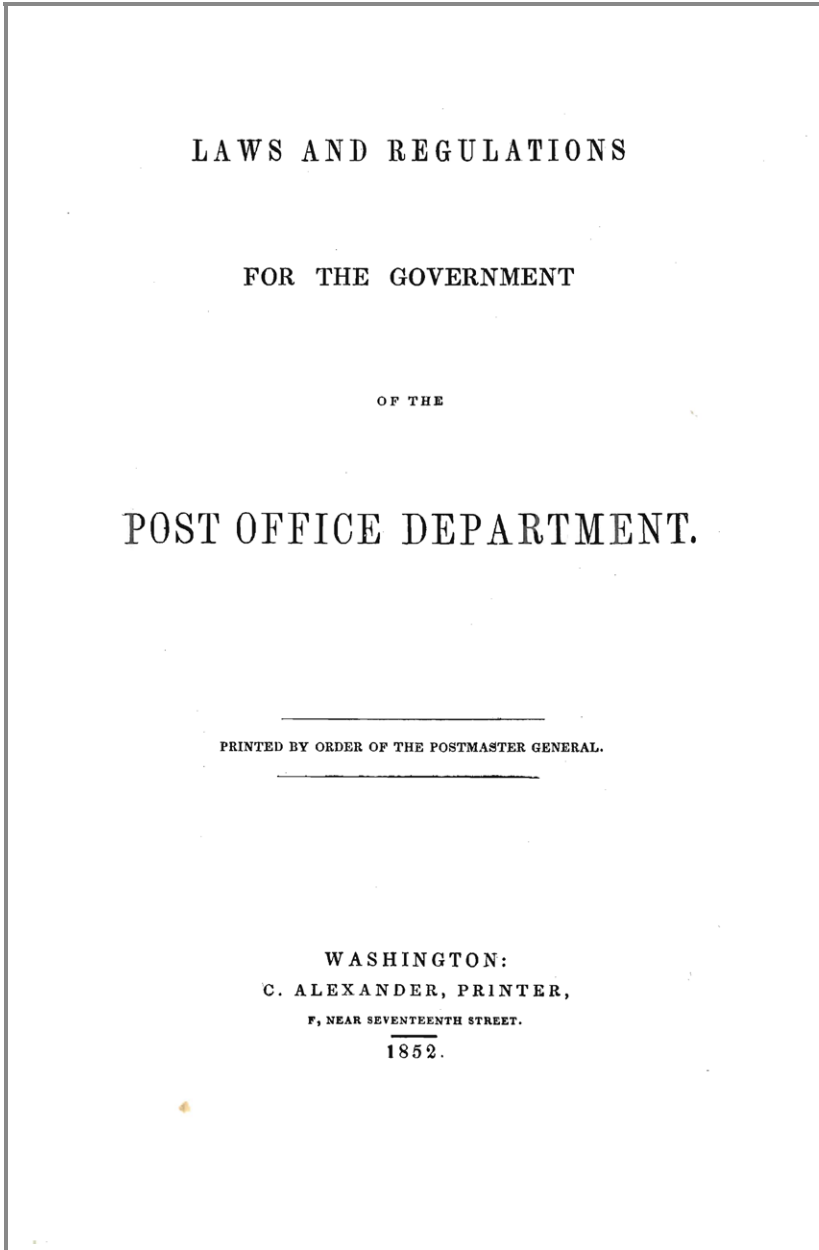


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SEC. 22. There should be but one route bid for in a proposal.

SEC. 23. The route, the service, the yearly pay, the bidder's name and residence, and the name of each member of the firm, where a company offers, should be distinctly stated; also the mode of conveyance, if a higher mode than on horseback is intended.

SEC. 24. The bid should be sent enclosed under seal, and addressed to the ~~First~~ Assistant Postmaster General, with the words "Mail proposals in the State of _____," written on the letter; and should be despatched in time to be received by or before the time specified in the advertisement. *Sec*

SEC. 25. Under the act of 3d March, 1845, the route is to be let to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guaranties for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security of such transportation. When the lowest bid proposes a mode of conveyance that is inadequate for the route, in respect to the certainty, security, and celerity of the mails, aside from an accommodation for travel, it will not be entitled to the route.

SEC. 26. When the bid does not name a mode of conveyance, it will be taken and understood to be for the lowest mode of conveyance, to wit: on horseback. When it proposes to carry according to the advertisement, and no mode of conveyance is stated for the route in the advertisement, it will be considered as offering only for horseback conveyance.

SEC. 27. Since the passage of the act of March 3, 1845, a new description of bid has been received. It specifies no mode of conveyance, but engages to carry the mail with certainty, celerity, and security, using the terms of the law. These bids are called, from the manner in which they are designated on the books of the Department, "*Star bids.*" A bid proposing a specific mode of conveyance of as high a grade as two-horse coach transportation at the same, or a slightly increased, rate of compensation, is to be preferred to a star bid, unless the size of the mail requires a grade of transportation higher than that proposed in the specific bid. When the mail on the route is not so large as to require two-horse coach conveyance, a star bid, if the lowest, will be preferred to the specific bid.

SEC. 28. A modification of a bid, in any of its essential terms, is tantamount to a new bid, and cannot be received, so as to interfere with regular competition, after the last hour set for receiving bids.

SEC. 29. Postmasters should not certify the sufficiency of guarantors or sureties without knowing that they are persons of sufficient responsibility to meet the liability assumed.

CHAPTER 5.

Appointment of Postmasters.

SEC. 30. At all post offices where the compensation of the postmaster exceeded one thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1835, or for any subsequent fiscal year, a deputy postmaster is to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and can be removed by the President only.—*33d sec. act of 2d July, 1836.* At all other offices, the Postmaster General has the sole power of appointment and removal.—*1st sec. act 3d March, 1825.*

SEC. 31. Upon the appointment of a postmaster, he is furnished with a letter of appointment and a blank bond. Upon executing the bond, as required, taking the oath of office, enclosing them in a letter directed to the Appointment Office and depositing such letter in the post office, and not before, he is authorized to take charge of the office.

SEC. 32. No person can be appointed postmaster who cannot legally execute an official bond.—*3d sec. act 3d March, 1825.*

SEC. 33. No person can hold the office of postmaster, who is not an actual resident of the city or town wherein the post office is situated, or within the delivery of the office.—*Sec. 36 of act of 1836.*

CHAPTER 6.

Steps to be taken on receiving the Appointment.

SEC. 34. Every person who receives the appointment of postmaster, must take and subscribe, before a magistrate, the following oaths, viz :

“I, _____, do swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the Post Office and post roads within the United States.”

“I do solemnly swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will support the Constitution of the United States.”—*Act of 1825, sec. 2.—Constitution of the United States, art. 6.*

SEC. 35. These oaths should be certified by the magistrate who administers them.

SEC. 36. The person appointed will then execute the bond forwarded to him by the Department. It must be signed in the presence of suitable witnesses, by himself and at least two sureties,