

Act of 19 April 1862

Statute I, Chapter XXXVII – An Act to repeal certain laws therein named and to declare other in full force, in relation to conveyance mailable matter outside the mail

Sources:

The Statutes at Large of the Confederate States of America Commencing with the First Session of the First Congress (Richmond, VA: 1862), page 35.

The Postal Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department [Regulations] (Washington, DC: 1859) page 123.

Repeals all acts governing the carriage of mail by express companies and reinstates the provisions of the 1859 *P&LR* regarding mail carried by express companies.

This law required all mail carried by express companies to be in a prepaid stamped envelope (postal stationary envelope). This effectively prohibited express companies from carrying mail because the Confederate Post Office Department never prepared prepaid stamped envelopes.

Confederate Statute

<p>CHAP. XXXVII.—<i>An Act to repeal certain laws therein named and to declare others in full force, in relation to conveyance of mailable matter outside of the mail.</i></p> <p><i>The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That</i> so much of the existing enactments of the Confederate States, as relates to the conveyance or transportation of letters or packages of letters or of mailable matter of any kind by express or other companies of any kind, their agents or employees, be and the same are hereby repealed, and the laws of the United States adopted by an act of the Provisional Congress entitled "An Act to continue in force certain laws of the United States of America," on the ninth day of February, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-one, relating to the conveyance or transportation of letters, packets, or packages of letters or other mailable matter by express or other companies, their agents or employees, be and the same are hereby declared to be in full force: <i>Provided</i>, That nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to declare that any portion of said laws of the United States, adopted as aforesaid, not inconsistent with the acts of the said Provisional Government was by said last named acts in any wise abrogated or repealed: <i>Provided, further</i>, That frauds upon the revenue of the Post Office Department and offences against and violations of the laws hereby repealed may be proceeded against and punished under the laws existing at the time of the commission of such fraud, offence or violation, and this act shall not be construed to have a retroactive operation so as to repeal or abrogate any law as to such frauds, offences or violations heretofore committed, but shall have a prospective operation only: <i>Provided, also</i>, That this act shall take effect from and after the first of June, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-two.</p> <p>APPROVED April 19, 1862.</p>	<p>April 19, 1862.</p> <p>Certain laws repealed and others declared in force, relating to the conveyance of mailable matter by express or other companies.</p> <p>1861, Feb. 9.</p> <p>Proviso.</p> <p>Frauds upon the revenue of the P. O. Department, how punished.</p> <p>How this act to be construed.</p> <p>When to take effect.</p>
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1859 United States PL&R

SEC. 437. Stage coaches, railroad cars, steamboats, packetboats, and all other vehicles or vessels performing regular trips at stated periods, on a post route between two or more cities, towns, or places, from one to the other, on which the United States mail is regularly conveyed under the authority of the Post Office Department, are prohibited from transporting or conveying, otherwise than in the mail, any letter, packet, or packets of letters, (except those sealed and addressed and prepaid by stamped envelopes, of suitable denominations,) or other mailable matter whatsoever, except such as may have relation to some part of the cargo of such steamboat, packetboat, or other vessel, or to some article at the same time conveyed by such stage, railroad car, or some vehicle, and excepting also, newspapers, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals. Letters prepaid by stamps cannot be lawfully carried out of the mails.