



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

Date: 3/11/2020

Subject: **HB1049 – Package Theft (Defense Against Porch Pirates Act)**

Position: **Oppose**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Opposes HB1049 – Package Theft (Defense Against Porch Pirates Act)**.

This bill creates a new offense for the theft of packages left on a porch by a delivery service, making violation a felony punishable by up to five years incarceration and a \$5,000 fine.

While the theft of packages left by deliver services is a matter of serious concern, as well as an infringement on the right of victims to be safe and secure in their homes and property, we believe this bill goes too far.

Current laws relating to theft of property already provide for punishment of this kind of criminal activity, albeit at a much lower level than proposed in this bill. We do not believe that creation of a new felony offense is required to address this problem.

For the reasons stated, we **Opposes HB1049 – Package Theft (Defense Against Porch Pirates Act)**.

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@verizon.net.

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410)-269-6464 / (410)-685-7878 ext: 3066 or at Richard@MSBA.org and Parker@MSBA.org.