

HOUSE BILL 767

E1
HB 177/25 – JUD

6lr3176

By: **Delegate Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Theft and Opening of Mail and Packages**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a court to notify the United States Postmaster General of
4 certain convictions; prohibiting the theft of mail or packages from intended
5 recipients; and generally relating to theft and opening of mail and packages.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Criminal Law
8 Section 3–905
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 7–106.1
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Criminal Law**

19 3–905.

20 (a) A person may not take and break open a letter that is not addressed to the
21 person without permission from the person to whom the letter is addressed or the personal
22 representative of the addressee's estate.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction:

(1) is subject to imprisonment for 6 days and a fine of \$15; AND

(2) SHALL PAY ANY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS RELATED TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(C) FOR A CONVICTION UNDER THIS SECTION INVOLVING THE OPENING OF A LETTER DELIVERED OR INTENDED FOR DELIVERY BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, THE COURT SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE UNITED STATES POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE CONVICTION.

7-106.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "MAIL OR PACKAGE" MEANS AN ITEM DELIVERED OR LEFT TO BE COLLECTED BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OR A DELIVERY SERVICE COMPANY THAT DELIVERS TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY OR WILLFULLY AND WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE OBTAIN OR EXERT CONTROL OVER MAIL OR A PACKAGE DELIVERED TO OR INTENDED FOR DELIVERY TO ANOTHER WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE OTHER OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE.

(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON CONVICTION:

(1) IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS; AND

(2) SHALL PAY ANY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS RELATED TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) FOR A CONVICTION UNDER THIS SECTION INVOLVING A LETTER OR PACKAGE DELIVERED OR INTENDED FOR DELIVERY BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, THE COURT SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE UNITED STATES POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE CONVICTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.