

HOUSE BILL 786

E1, E2
HB 135/25 – JUD

6lr3174

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 – Mail and Packages**
3 **(Porch Piracy Act of 2026)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the theft of mail or packages; requiring the Central
5 Collections Unit to take certain actions on certain overdue restitution; and generally
6 relating to theft of mail and packages.

7 BY adding to
8 Article – Criminal Law
9 Section 7–106.1
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Criminal Procedure
14 Section 11–616
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

19 **Article – Criminal Law**

20 **7–106.1.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “MAIL OR PACKAGE” MEANS AN ITEM DELIVERED OR**
22 **LEFT TO BE COLLECTED BY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE OR A DELIVERY SERVICE**
23 **COMPANY THAT DELIVERS TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY OR WILLFULLY AND WITHOUT**
2 **PERMISSION OF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE OBTAIN OR**
3 **EXERT CONTROL OVER MAIL OR A PACKAGE DELIVERED TO ANOTHER WITH THE**
4 **INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE OWNER OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE.**

5 **(C) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY**
6 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS.**

7 **(2) AS A CONDITION OF SENTENCING, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE**
8 **DEFENDANT TO:**

9 **(I) RESTORE THE MAIL OR PACKAGE TAKEN TO THE PERSON TO**
10 **WHOM THE MAIL OR PACKAGE IS ADDRESSED; OR**

11 **(II) PAY RESTITUTION FOR THE VALUE OF THE MAIL OR**
12 **PACKAGE UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE.**

13 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

14 11–616.

15 (a) The Division or the Department of Juvenile Services:

16 (1) in addition to other actions authorized under Part I of this subtitle, may
17 refer an overdue restitution account for collection to the Central Collection Unit; and

18 (2) if probation or other supervision is terminated and restitution is still
19 owed, shall refer the overdue restitution account for collection to the Central Collection
20 Unit.

21 (b) **(1)** Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Central Collection Unit
22 may:

23 **[(1)] (I)** collect overdue restitution in accordance with Title 3, Subtitle 3
24 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; and

25 **[(2)] (II)** certify a restitution obligor who is in arrears on restitution
26 payments exceeding \$30 under the judgment of restitution to:

27 **[(i)] 1.** the Comptroller for income tax refund interception in
28 accordance with Title 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of the Tax – General Article; and

29 **[(ii)] 2.** the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency for State
30 lottery prize and video lottery facility prize payout interception in accordance with §
31 11–618 of this subtitle.

5 (c) (1) The Central Collection Unit may not compromise and settle a judgment
6 of restitution unless:

7 (i) the Division or the Department of Juvenile Services obtains the
8 consent of the victim; or

9 (ii) the court orders otherwise because a victim cannot be located.

13 (d) If complete restitution and interest have been paid or a judgment of restitution
14 has been compromised and settled as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the Division,
15 the Department of Juvenile Services, or the Central Collection Unit immediately shall
16 notify:

17 (1) the court that issued the judgment by filing the statement as provided
18 under § 11–608(c) of this subtitle that the judgment has been satisfied; and

(2) the last known employer of a restitution obligor to terminate an earnings withholding order issued under § 11-617 of this subtitle.

21 (e) (1) Restitution is overdue if the restitution or a restitution payment is not
22 paid:

23 (i) by the date that the court orders; or

24 (ii) if no date is ordered, by the later of:

27 2. 30 days after the court enters a judgment of restitution.

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

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