

# HOUSE BILL 786

E1, E2  
HB 135/25 – JUD

6lr3174

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By: **Delegate Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## 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.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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 ANOTHER WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE OWNER OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE.

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

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

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

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

### Article – Criminal Procedure

11–616.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1                   **(2) THE CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT SHALL REPORT ANY OVERDUE**  
2 **RESTITUTION OWED IN RELATION TO A VIOLATION OF § 7–106.1 OF THE CRIMINAL**  
3 **LAW ARTICLE TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES, AS DEFINED IN § 14–1201 OF**  
4 **THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE.**

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.

10                   (2)   The Division or the Department of Juvenile Services shall contact the  
11 victim to determine whether the victim consents to compromise and settle a judgment of  
12 restitution.

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

19                           (2)   the last known employer of a restitution obligor to terminate an  
20 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:

25                                   1.    the date the Division or the Department of Juvenile  
26 Services directs the restitution obligor to pay restitution or make a restitution payment; or

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

28                   (2)    If restitution is overdue, the amount of the arrearage is the amount of  
29 restitution ordered and any interest allowed by law, minus any amount previously paid or  
30 received under the judgment of restitution.

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

