



## People on the Go of Maryland

SB 373 (cross-filed with HB 318)

Criminal Law - Safe Carrier Act

*Prohibiting the theft of mail from a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of a device used to open a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of mail with intent to commit identity theft; prohibiting the theft of mail from an elderly person or a vulnerable adult with intent to commit identity theft; and establishing penalties for violations of the Act.*

Position: Support

Hearing February 2, 2024, 10:30 am

Sponsored by Senator Waldstreicher

Assigned to Judiciary

Written by Mat Rice

Executive Director - People On the Go of Maryland

Honorable chairperson, and distinguished members of the House Judiciary Committee:

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), and our mission is to promote self advocacy throughout the state.

POG respectfully offers this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 373 (SB 373).

This bill would increase the penalties for unlawfully accessing a mail depository, stealing a mail depository key, and stealing mail with the intent to commit identity theft against elderly persons, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable adults.

We support this legislation because:

- Many of our members still rely on traditional postal mail to get access to the information they need, to pay their bills, and more.
- People with disabilities are more likely to be victims of identity theft, than our peers without disabilities.
- Due to forced reliance on SSI, Medicaid, and other means-tested programs, if a person with a disability has their identity stolen, they most likely will not have the financial means to track down or prosecute any individual(s) who stole their private, personal information.
- They may not even know how to do so, or where to begin to find out how.
- Many police departments lack the resources and time to pursue criminals who engage with this type of activity.
- When individuals with disabilities attempt to report such a crime, they may not even be taken seriously, due to social stigma against them.

For these reasons, we support any measure which cracks down on crimes of this type, to protect persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Therefore, we support this legislation, and respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 373. Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

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