



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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DATE: **January 17, 2025**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 291**

POSITION: **Favorable**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports House Bill 291 and urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

HB 291 is one of a number of bills introduced this session – including HB 64, HB 126, HB 135, HB 143, HB 177, HB 210, and HB 280 – that deal with the theft of mail. This bill simply increases the maximum fine, from \$15 to \$500, for unlawfully opening a letter without permission.

This bill represents a modest step towards accounting for the disruptive effects of unlawfully interfering with another's mail – the increase provided for in HB 291, in conjunction with the other statutes available in cases where this conduct results in more serious harm, allow prosecutors better seek justice for victims and hold perpetrators accountable.