

HB0692_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0692- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Mail and Package Theft (Porch Piracy Act)

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0692, **Criminal Law - Mail and Package Theft (Porch Piracy Act)**

This act addresses a growing problem in Maryland. In 2025, Maryland is actively addressing a 67% surge in porch piracy, particularly in the Baltimore area, which ranked fifth-worst nationally for package theft.¹

It clarifies in Maryland law that a person may not knowingly, and intentionally, open mail addressed to another without the permission of the other or the other's authorized representative or designee. It imposes significant penalties for acts of porch piracy.

The bill will accomplish these purposes by altering the prohibition against taking and breaking open a letter; prohibiting the theft of mail under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from possessing an arrow key under certain circumstances; and providing for concurrent jurisdiction in the District Court and circuit court to try a violation of the Act.

Despite actions being taken to catch these thieves *Baltimore City Sheriff uses GPS decoy packages to catch porch pirates*² this bill will add provisions to add greater definition to what the crime constitutes as well as penalties when caught doing it.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0692

¹ Google AI Search "porch piracy violations in maryland 2025"

² <https://foxbaltimore.com/newsletter-daily/porch-pirates-baltimore-city-sheriff-gps>