

HB0788_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0788- 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#/0788, **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

The bill deals with the theft of delivered packages or packages awaiting collection. It places persons convicted of porch piracy restricted from being at certain locations due to that conviction. It establishes penalties for these crimes.

The Baltimore City Sheriff's Office is deploying GPS-enabled [decoy packages](#) to combat "porch pirate" thefts, leading to at least five arrests in late December 2025. These fake packages, placed in crime hotspots identified by community members, allow deputies to track suspects in real-time, resulting in immediate apprehension and, in some cases, the clearing of additional warrants. ²

As reported by WBAL TV *Baltimore sheriff's deputies place decoys to track thieves stealing packages during holiday season* ³

Updated: 6:37 PM EST Dec 23, 2025

[Barry Simms](#), [Reporter](#)

BALTIMORE —

While December marks the season of giving for most, some who have seen packages stolen from their front porch in Baltimore realize it's also the season for taking. In Baltimore, sheriff's deputies are trying to stop those thefts. The deputies are using decoy packages that they can track if someone illegally takes them.

This bill supports law enforcement by prohibiting the theft of mail or packages delivered or left to be collected by the United States Postal Service or a delivery service company; authorizing the court to order a person convicted of a certain crime to stay away from certain locations; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and is subject to imprisonment of up to 5 years.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0788.

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

² Google AI Search "baltimore police decoy packages for pickup thefts"

³ <https://www.wbalv.com/article/sheriffs-deputies-decoys-track-thieves-stealing-packages/69853182>