

HB0792_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0792- 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#/0792, **Criminal Law - Mail and Package Theft (Porch Piracy Act)**

Mail theft in Maryland carries severe penalties, ranging from misdemeanor charges with up to 6 months in jail for small-scale theft to felony charges with up to 5 years in prison for using a stolen postal "arrow key". New state laws effective October 2025/2026 define specific penalties based on the number of items stolen, while federal mail fraud charges can result in up to 20–30 years in prison and \$250,000–\$1 million in fines.¹

The bill imposes financial penalties on a convicted thief who committed mail or package theft. A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years and, as a condition of sentencing, the court shall order the defendant to restore the mail or package taken to the person to whom the mail or package was addressed; or pay restitution for the value of the mail or package. The interest accrued for restitution ordered shall be distributed as follows: 50% to the person to whom the mail or package was addressed and 50% to the court.

This bill adds this restitution component on conviction of the crime to compensate for the loss of the item to theft.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0792.

¹ Google AI Search "financial penalties for mail thefts in Maryland"