

HB0786_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0786- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Packages (Porch Piracy Act of 2026)

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#/0786, **Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Packages (Porch Piracy Act of 2026)**

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

This bill not only criminalizes this conduct, the theft of mail or packages delivered or left to be collected by the U.S. Postal Service or a delivery service company, but instructs the Central Collection Unit on reporting to certain consumer reporting agencies.

The Central Collection Unit of Maryland mission is to collect delinquent debts owed to the State of Maryland in the most cost-effective manner while employing the highest professional standards.²

This bill will prohibit the theft of mail or packages delivered or left to be collected by the U.S. Postal Service or a delivery service company; requiring the Central Collection Unit to report certain overdue restitution to certain consumer reporting agencies; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and is subject to imprisonment of up to 5 years.

This bill affirms that this piracy is a felony crime with significant punishment on conviction. It also instructs the state's CCU on reporting overdue restitution to the state.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0786.

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

² <https://dbm.maryland.gov/ccu/pages/ccuhome.aspx>