

# HOUSE BILL 792

E1, E2  
HB 126/25 – JUD

6lr3157

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By: **Delegate Conaway**  
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Theft – Mail and Packages**  
3 **(Porch Piracy Act of 2026)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the theft of mail or packages; providing for the disposition  
5 of interest accrued for overdue restitution payments under certain circumstances;  
6 and generally relating to theft of mail and packages.

7 BY adding to  
8 Article – Criminal Law  
9 Section 7–106.1  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Criminal Procedure  
14 Section 11–616  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2025 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Criminal Law**

20 **7–106.1.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “MAIL OR PACKAGE” MEANS AN ITEM DELIVERED OR**  
22 **LEFT TO BE COLLECTED BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OR A DELIVERY**  
23 **SERVICE COMPANY THAT DELIVERS TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY OR WILLFULLY AND WITHOUT**  
2 **PERMISSION OF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE OBTAIN OR**  
3 **EXERT CONTROL OVER MAIL OR A PACKAGE DELIVERED TO ANOTHER WITH THE**  
4 **INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE OWNER OF THE MAIL OR PACKAGE.**

5           **(C) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY**  
6 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS.**

7           **(2) AS A CONDITION OF SENTENCING, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE**  
8 **DEFENDANT TO:**

9                       **(I) RESTORE THE MAIL OR PACKAGE TAKEN TO THE PERSON TO**  
10 **WHOM THE MAIL OR PACKAGE WAS ADDRESSED; OR**

11                      **(II) PAY RESTITUTION FOR THE VALUE OF THE MAIL OR**  
12 **PACKAGE UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE.**

### 13                                       **Article – Criminal Procedure**

14 11–616.

15           (a) The Division or the Department of Juvenile Services:

16                       (1) in addition to other actions authorized under Part I of this subtitle, may  
17 refer an overdue restitution account for collection to the Central Collection Unit; and

18                       (2) if probation or other supervision is terminated and restitution is still  
19 owed, shall refer the overdue restitution account for collection to the Central Collection  
20 Unit.

21           (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Central Collection Unit may:

22                       (1) collect overdue restitution in accordance with Title 3, Subtitle 3 of the  
23 State Finance and Procurement Article; and

24                       (2) certify a restitution obligor who is in arrears on restitution payments  
25 exceeding \$30 under the judgment of restitution to:

26                               (i) the Comptroller for income tax refund interception in accordance  
27 with Title 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of the Tax – General Article; and

28                               (ii) the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency for State lottery  
29 prize and video lottery facility prize payout interception in accordance with § 11–618 of this  
30 subtitle.

1 (c) (1) The Central Collection Unit may not compromise and settle a judgment  
2 of restitution unless:

3 (i) the Division or the Department of Juvenile Services obtains the  
4 consent of the victim; or

5 (ii) the court orders otherwise because a victim cannot be located.

6 (2) The Division or the Department of Juvenile Services shall contact the  
7 victim to determine whether the victim consents to compromise and settle a judgment of  
8 restitution.

9 (d) If complete restitution and interest have been paid or a judgment of restitution  
10 has been compromised and settled as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the Division,  
11 the Department of Juvenile Services, or the Central Collection Unit immediately shall  
12 notify:

13 (1) the court that issued the judgment by filing the statement as provided  
14 under § 11-608(c) of this subtitle that the judgment has been satisfied; and

15 (2) the last known employer of a restitution obligor to terminate an  
16 earnings withholding order issued under § 11-617 of this subtitle.

17 (e) (1) Restitution is overdue if the restitution or a restitution payment is not  
18 paid:

19 (i) by the date that the court orders; or

20 (ii) if no date is ordered, by the later of:

21 1. the date the Division or the Department of Juvenile  
22 Services directs the restitution obligor to pay restitution or make a restitution payment; or

23 2. 30 days after the court enters a judgment of restitution.

24 (2) (I) If restitution is overdue, the amount of the arrearage is the  
25 amount of restitution ordered and any interest allowed by law, minus any amount  
26 previously paid or received under the judgment of restitution.

27 (II) INTEREST ACCRUED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS  
28 PARAGRAPH FOR RESTITUTION ORDERED UNDER § 7-106.1 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW  
29 ARTICLE SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

30 1. 50% TO THE PERSON TO WHOM THE MAIL OR  
31 PACKAGE WAS ADDRESSED; AND

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**2. 50% TO THE COURT.**

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
3 October 1, 2026.