

HOUSE BILL 77

House Finance Presentation

By Representative Julie Coulombe

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MAIL THEFT TRENDS

Nationally

\$688 million in suspicious transactions tied to mail theft–related check fraud in just 6 months
(U.S. Treasury FinCEN, 2024 report using 2023 data)

Nasdaq found that in 2023, check fraud losses totaled \$21 billion in the Americas, representing nearly 80% of total global check fraud losses

In Alaska

1 in 10 Alaskans is a victim of package theft

74,010 Alaskans affected in 3 months

27,720 households impacted statewide
(Capital One Shopping Research, 2026)

Alaska Native and Indian Communities lost over \$12 million to fraud in 2023
Federal Trade Commission Report

ANOTHER TOOL IN THE BOX

Current Problem

- No specific state law for mail theft
- Officers must prove the monetary value of the stolen mail exceeds \$750
- Smaller, local cases often go uncharged
- Federal bench often has vacancies

Solution

- Establish mail theft as a state crime
- Gives law enforcement a clear tool to act
- Opens State resources to prosecute

OTHER STATES

- **California** – Mail theft/mailbox theft provisions (Penal Code 530.5(e), 484e context)
- **Texas** – Theft of mail/mail receptacle provisions (Penal Code 31.20)
- **Washington** – Mail theft statute (RCW 9A.56.370)
- **Oregon** – Mail theft (ORS 164.377)
- **Colorado** – Mail theft (C.R.S. 18-4-401(8))
- **Nevada** – Mail theft/possession of stolen mail (NRS 205.275)
- **Utah** – Mail theft (76-6-412)
- **Georgia** – Theft of mail/mailbox (O.C.G.A. 16-8-18)
- **North Carolina** – Mail theft (G.S. 14-100.1 variants)
- **Virginia** – Mail theft/mailbox offenses (18.2-98, 18.2-152.16)
- **Maryland** – Mail theft provisions (Criminal Law §7-104 + mail-specific provisions)
- **New Jersey** – Theft of mail (2C:20-2 / related provisions)
- **Illinois** – Mail theft (720 ILCS 5/16-25)
- **Ohio** – Mail theft provisions (ORC 2913 context)
- **Michigan** – Mail theft / unlawful possession statutes
- **Wisconsin** – Mail theft provisions (943.20 + mailbox-specific)
- **Massachusetts** – Mail theft/possession of stolen mail
- **Connecticut** – Mail theft provisions (53a-127b related)

HB 77: OVERVIEW

Establishes mail theft as theft in the second degree

Theft in the second degree (AS 11.46.130) is a class C felony in Alaska

State C Felony	Federal Punishment
Up to 5 Years	Up to 5 Years
Fine up to \$50,000	Fine up to \$250,000

COMPARISONS

State Felony Classification	No Prior Offenses	One Prior Felony	More than One Prior Felony
A Felony	4-7 years	10-14 Years	15-20 years
B Felony	1-3 years	3-7 years	6-10 Years
C Felony	0-2 years	2-4 years	3-5 years

Misdemeanor Classification	Setencing Range
A Misdemeanor	0-365 days
B Misdemeanor	0-90 days

Theft and Identity Fraud Statutes

AS 11.46.120 Theft in the Second Degree

- Currently includes theft of firearms, access devices, and property valued at \$750 or more
- C felony

AS 11.46.565 Criminal Impersonation in the First Degree

- Includes someone else's ID or credit card to open a bank account or new credit card, and it causes financial harm to that person
- B felony

AS 11.46.120 Theft in the First Degree

- Includes theft of property valued at \$25,000 or more
- B felony

AS 11.46.570 Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree

- Includes using a false identity to commit a crime or defraud someone
- A Misdemeanor

QUESTIONS?

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REFERENCES

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Check Theft is Surging and How to Stop It

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