

MAIL THEFT BILL
HB77
REP. COULOMBE



THE PROBLEM

Mail theft is on the rise in the United States and in Alaska.

Mail theft is a precursor to identity theft resulting in financial hardship.

Senior citizens particularly fall victim.

Alaska does not currently have a way to prosecute mail theft as it is not codified in statute.

The US Attorney's office has an incredible back log of cases, due in part to a lack of District Court Judges on the bench. Meaning, they cannot prosecute these cases in a timely manner.

Alaskan courts need the legal backing (HB77) to prosecute these cases of mail and identify theft; attaching a REAL punishment to the crime.



FACTS AND FIGURES *OF THE PROBLEM*

~23 million persons (~9% of all U.S. residents age 16 or older) experience identity theft annually (DOJ)

~59% of identity-theft victims had financial losses; which totaled \$16.4 billion in 2021 (DOJ)

1 in 5 persons (22%) will experience identity theft in their lifetime (DOJ)

Alaska ranks 10th highest (out of 50 states) in Fraud (FTC)

DOJ released a PSA alerting the public to the rise of mail fraud on 01/27/25

USPS Check fraud has nearly doubled since 2021 to 2023 (DOJ)

2024 PORCH PIRACY IMPACT ESTIMATES



58 million

American
package theft
victims



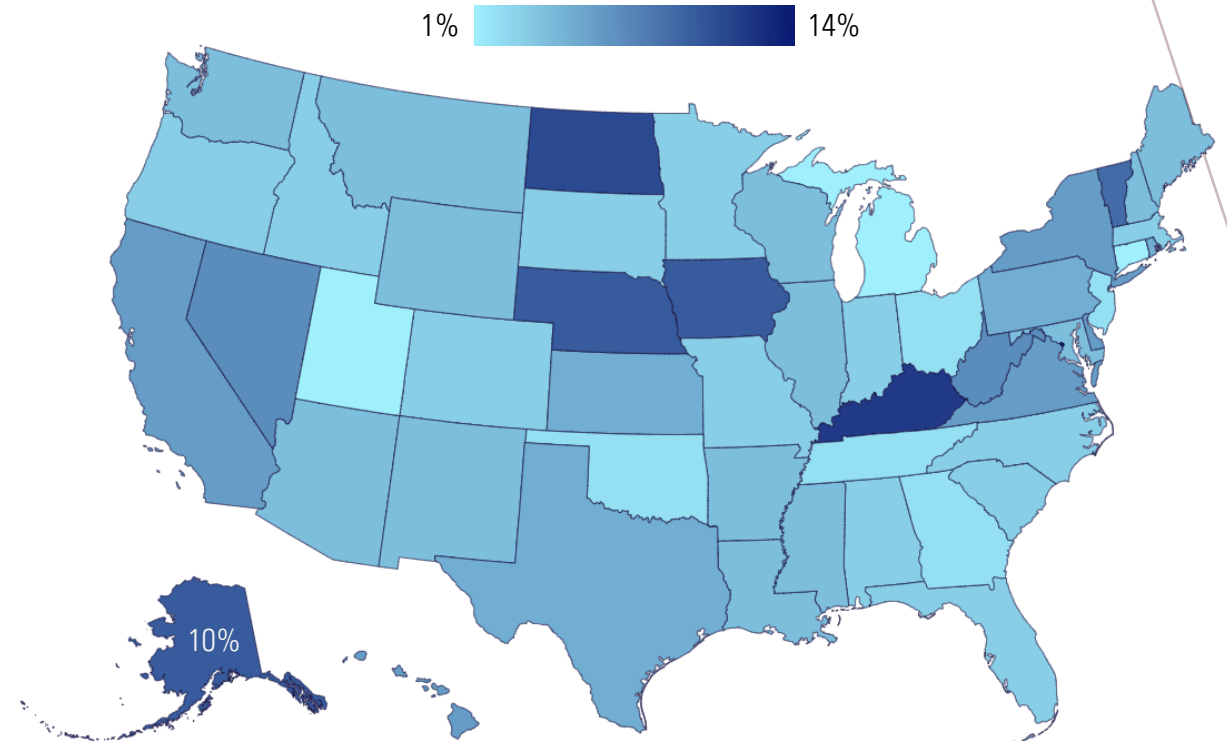
\$204

Average value
of stolen
packages



\$12 billion

Total value
of stolen
packages



Percentage of residents who've had a
package stolen in the past three months

THE SOLUTION

You can help protect our at-risk citizens by passing HB77

Stop mail & identity theft



MECHANICS OF THE BILL

DEFINITION OF THE CRIME

Classifies mail theft as theft in the second degree via:

- Mail or mail items obtained by fraud
 - Ex: stealing mail
 - Ex: purchasing stolen mail
 - Ex: depriving someone of their mail

DEFENSES AGAINST & SAFEGUARDS OF MAIL THEFT CHARGES

HB77 provides specific legal “affirmative” defenses to avoid wrongful convictions, including:

- The defendant reasonably believed they were entitled to the mail.
- The stolen mail belonged to a household member if dwelling together.
- The accused had power of attorney for the recipient.
- The recipient explicitly gave permission to collect their mail.
- Officials in juvenile treatment/detention facilities protected



MECHANICS OF THE BILL (CONT.)

LEGAL CLASSIFICATION AND PENALTIES

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

A class C felony carries penalties such as:

- Up to 5 years in prison
- A fine of up to \$50,000
- Probation (in lieu of incarceration)
- Restitution to victims

CONCURRENCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

Federal law labels mail theft as a Class C felony with harsher penalties

- Up to \$250,000 fine
- Up to 5 years in prison
- Restitution





THANK YOU COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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