



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Support HB940
Criminal Law – Package Theft
(Defense Against Porch Pirates Act)
House Judiciary Committee

- This bill is a reprint of HB1049 from the 2020 Session
- This bill heightens penalties for those who steal delivered packages from the residence of the intended recipient.
- Currently, there are no state laws to deter package theft.
- The appeal for package theft is that it can really be classified as a low-entry crime, it requires almost no skills to do and there is no substantial punishment to deter those from initially stealing and continuing to steal.
- There has been a spike in package theft significantly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic due to consumers getting more items delivered in order to avoid crowded stores, pharmacies, etc.
- In today's world where we are able to have the convenience of our groceries and pharmaceuticals among other things shipped to our house, there is no reason to not have some form of deterrent in our law for those stealing packages (and repeat offending in some cases)

States that currently have similar provisions and penalties for package theft:
Arkansas, Georgia, Michigan, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas