

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 20-0879.02 Michael Dohr x4347

**HOUSE BILL 20-1187**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Liston**, Sandridge, Carver, Larson, Will, McKean, Bird, Bockenfeld, Buentello, Catlin, Pelton, Rich, Snyder, Soper, Williams D.

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None)**,

---

**House Committees**  
Judiciary

**Senate Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING CREATING THE CRIME OF MAIL THEFT.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill criminalizes taking, holding, concealing, or destroying mail addressed to another person with the intent to defraud any person or deprive the person to whom the mail was addressed of the mail. The bill defines mail as a letter, postal card, package, bag, or any other article or thing contained therein, or other sealed article addressed to a person. A first violation is an unclassified misdemeanor and a second or subsequent violation is an unclassified felony.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 18-4-421 as  
3 follows:

4           **18-4-421. Mail theft - definitions.** (1) A PERSON SHALL NOT  
5 TAKE, HOLD, CONCEAL, OR DESTROY MAIL ADDRESSED TO ANOTHER  
6 PERSON WITH THE INTENT TO DEFRAUD ANY PERSON OR DEPRIVE THE  
7 PERSON TO WHOM THE MAIL WAS ADDRESSED OF THE MAIL.

8           (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF AN  
9 UNCLASSIFIED MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT  
10 MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR DAYS OR A FINE OF NOT MORE  
11 THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, OR BOTH. A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT  
12 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS AN UNCLASSIFIED FELONY PUNISHABLE BY  
13 IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OR A FINE OF NOT MORE  
14 THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS, OR BOTH.

15           (3) THIS SECTION APPLIES WHETHER A PERSON WHO IS AN  
16 INDIVIDUAL WHOSE MAIL IS OBTAINED OR ATTEMPTED TO BE OBTAINED IN  
17 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS ALIVE OR DECEASED AT THE TIME OF THE  
18 VIOLATION.

19           (4) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM BEING  
20 CHARGED WITH, CONVICTED OF, OR SENTENCED FOR ANY OTHER  
21 VIOLATION OF LAW COMMITTED BY THAT PERSON USING THE MAIL  
22 OBTAINED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION OR ANY OTHER VIOLATION OF  
23 LAW COMMITTED BY THAT PERSON WHILE VIOLATING OR ATTEMPTING TO  
24 VIOLATE THIS SECTION.

25           (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
26 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "MAIL" MEANS A LETTER, POSTAL CARD, PACKAGE, BAG, OR  
2 ANY OTHER ARTICLE OR THING CONTAINED THEREIN, OR OTHER SEALED  
3 ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO A PERSON.

4 (b) "PERSON" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, PARTNERSHIP,  
5 CORPORATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER  
6 LEGAL ENTITY.

7 **SECTION 2. Potential appropriation.** Pursuant to section  
8 2-2-703, C.R.S., any bill that results in a net increase in periods of  
9 imprisonment in state correctional facilities must include an appropriation  
10 of money that is sufficient to cover any increased capital construction, any  
11 operational costs, and increased parole costs that are the result of the bill  
12 for the department of corrections in each of the first five years following  
13 the effective date of the bill. Because this act may increase periods of  
14 imprisonment, this act may require a five-year appropriation.

15 **SECTION 3. Effective date - applicability.** This act takes effect  
16 July, 1, 2020, and applies to offenses committed on or after said date.

17 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.