

## CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Legislators  
**FROM:** Representative Rob Hutton and Senator David Craig  
**DATE:** Thursday, December 12, 2019  
**RE:** Co-sponsorship of LRB-3729 - **relating to:** “Porch Pirates” and mail theft.



**DEADLINE: Friday, December 20, 2019**

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More shoppers than ever before are shopping online to have packages delivered to their homes. Consumers spent \$7.4 billion on Black Friday this year alone, amounting to the second largest internet-shopping day in history. In 2019, online sales are up 20% over last year. Online shopping as an economic sector will only continue to grow in the coming years.

Unfortunately, this trend has also led to the rise of so-called “porch pirates” – thieves who steal delivered packages from a person’s doorstep. According to a recent study, as many as one in four people have had a package stolen from their residence. These crimes cost money, time, and even the feeling of security. This is especially true of seniors and at-risk adults.

Our laws should keep up with the shift in consumer trends and the resulting criminal trends. Under current law, it is illegal to steal mail or any other item. However, while the act of theft is in current statute, the act of stealing multiple items from multiple residences cannot be considered under the same charge. Repeat criminals are often released after paying a small court fee because the value of the packages stolen falls below the threshold of more serious theft offenses.

LRB-3729 would create a penalty for individuals who steal several items from more than one residence or building. An individual would be charged with a class A misdemeanor for stealing less than 10 pieces of mail, a class I felony for stealing between 10 and 30 pieces of mail, and a Class H felony for stealing over 30 pieces of mail. An individual would also be charged with a class H felony for stealing from an adult at risk or elder adult at risk. Further the bill also clarifies that this crime could be charged under the current theft statute if the property was stolen from one or more owners during a course of conduct.

**If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please reply to this e-mail or contact Representative Hutton’s office at 237-9113 or Senator Craig’s office at \_\_\_\_\_ by Friday, December 20, 2019. Co-sponsors will be added to both the Assembly and Senate versions of the bill unless specified otherwise.**