

HB 1637 -- MAIL THEFT

SPONSOR: Schwadron

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention by a vote of 6 to 1.

A person commits the offense of mail theft if the person purposefully takes mail from another person's mailbox or premises without the consent of the addressee and with intent to deprive the addressee of the mail. The offense of mail theft is a class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a class E felony for a second or subsequent offense.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this would help ensure clarity and consistency in application of the law. Law enforcement pointed out inconsistencies and issues with current law so there are unfortunately lots of these cases that are left unprosecuted. It also depends on what statute is used to prosecute. There are a several states that are now passing laws similar laws. The United States Postal Service does not have jurisdiction and they do not consider theft of other carriers' packages to be mail theft under federal law.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schwadron; Missouri Fraternal Order of Police; Kansas City Fraternal Order of Police; St. Louis Police Officers Association; Amazon Services; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Arnie C. Ac Dienoff; and the Missouri Retailers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.