

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1317

4
5 By: Representatives L. Johnson, Richmond, M. Davis, Maddox, Vaught, Lundstrum, C. Fite, Wardlaw
6 By: Senator Hester

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE THEFT OF A POSTAL PACKAGE
10 DELIVERED TO A PERSON'S RESIDENCE AND LEFT WITHIN THE
11 CURTILAGE OF THE RESIDENCE; TO MAKE TECHNICAL
12 CORRECTIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16 CONCERNING THE THEFT OF A POSTAL PACKAGE
17 DELIVERED TO A PERSON'S RESIDENCE AND
18 LEFT WITHIN THE CURTILAGE OF THE
19 RESIDENCE; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS;
20 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25
26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-36-101, concerning definitions used in
27 regard to theft offenses, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read
28 as follows:

29 (22)(A) "Curtilage" means the land adjoining a residential
30 occupiable structure that is habitually used for residential purposes but is
31 not necessarily enclosed.

32 (B) "Curtilage" includes an outbuilding that is directly
33 connected with and in close proximity to the residential occupiable
34 structure;

35 (23) "Postal package" means a letter, package, parcel, bag, or
36 container used to ship goods or a sealed article that:



1 (A) Is addressed to a person and has been left for the
 2 person by a common carrier or delivery service; or

3 (B) Has been left by a consumer at his or her residence to
 4 be collected by a common carrier or delivery service; and

5 (24) "Residential occupiable structure" means a vehicle,
 6 building, or other structure in which a person lives or that is customarily
 7 used for overnight accommodation of a person whether or not a person is
 8 actually present.

9
 10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-36-103(b)(3), concerning the types of
 11 theft of property that constitute a Class D felony, is amended to read as
 12 follows:

13 (3) Class D felony if:

14 (A) The value of the property is five thousand dollars
 15 (\$5,000) or less but more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000);

16 (B) The property is a firearm valued at less than two
 17 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500);

18 (C) The property is a:

19 (i) Credit card or credit card account number; or

20 (ii) Debit card or debit card account number;

21 (D) The value of the property is at least one hundred
 22 dollars (\$100) or more but less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and the
 23 theft occurred in an area declared to be under a state of emergency pursuant
 24 to proclamation by the President of the United States, the Governor, or the
 25 executive officer of a city or county;

26 (E) The property is livestock and the value of the
 27 livestock is in excess of two hundred dollars (\$200);

28 (F) The property is an electric power line, gas line,
 29 water line, wire or fiber insulator, electric motor, or other similar
 30 apparatus connected to a farm shop, on-farm grain drying and storage complex,
 31 heating and cooling system, environmental control system, animal production
 32 facility, irrigation system, or dwelling;

33 (G) The property is a decorative or memorial item from a
 34 cemetery, graveyard, or a person's grave site and the offense is the actor's
 35 second or subsequent offense of theft of a decorative or memorial item from a
 36 cemetery, graveyard, or a person's grave site under this section; ~~or~~

1 (H) The property is oil and gas equipment, and the value
 2 of the ~~property~~ oil and gas equipment is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or
 3 less, and the person:

4 (i) Caused more than two hundred fifty dollars
 5 (\$250) in incidental damage to the owner of the oil and gas equipment during
 6 the commission of the offense; or

7 (ii) Transported the oil and gas equipment across
 8 state lines to sell or dispose of the oil and gas equipment; or

9 (I) The property is a postal package removed from the
 10 curtilage of a residential occupiable structure or from a delivery vehicle at
 11 any point throughout the delivery route; or

12
 13 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that due to the coronavirus 2019
 15 (COVID-19) pandemic and public health restrictions and advisories, more
 16 people are ordering household items and goods to be delivered to their
 17 residences; that instead of just luxury items and mail order items, vital
 18 household items such as disinfectants, masks, cleaners, food, and other vital
 19 and necessary supplies are being shipped directly to people's houses; and
 20 that this act is immediately necessary because the vital and necessary items
 21 are being stolen instead of just luxury items and mail order items are
 22 depended on by Arkansas families trying to stay safe from the pandemic.
 23 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
 24 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
 25 become effective on:

26 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

27 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 28 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 29 bill; or

30 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 31 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.