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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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March 9, 2020

### 2019 Wisconsin Act 144 [2019 Assembly Bill 734]

### Theft of Mail

2019 Wisconsin Act 144 creates the crime of theft of mail, which it defines as taking a letter, postcard, or package from a residence or other building. The act imposes penalties that increase based on the number of pieces of mail the offender takes and imposes a higher penalty if the offender takes mail belonging to an adult at risk or an elder adult at risk.

A person who takes fewer than 10 pieces of mail is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and may be penalized by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment not to exceed nine months, or both. A person who takes at least 10 but fewer than 30 pieces of mail is guilty of a Class I felony and may be penalized by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment not to exceed three years and six months, or both. A person who takes 30 or more pieces of mail, or who takes mail belonging to an adult at risk or an elder adult at risk, is guilty of a Class H felony and may be penalized by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment not to exceed six years, or both.

**Effective date:** March 5, 2020

PJH:mca;jal