



HOUSE BILL 34: Establish Larceny of Mail Offense.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 3, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Lambeth, Zenger, K. Hall, Cotham	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze Hannah Kendrick Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Second Edition		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 34 would enhance the punishment for larceny of mail.*

CURRENT LAW:

The offense of larceny is addressed in G.S. 14-72. A person is guilty of larceny as a Class 1 misdemeanor if that person takes personal property in the possession of another and carries it away without the consent of the possessor and with the intent to deprive the possessor of its use permanently, knowing that the person was not entitled to it.

A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by a minimum of a fine to a maximum of 120 days of active punishment, depending on prior conviction level.

Larceny of property is a Class H felony if the property is worth more than \$1,000 or if the larceny is any of the following:

- From a person.
- Committed pursuant to a violation of G.S. 14-51, G.S. 14-53, G.S. 14-54, G.S. 14-54.1, or G.S. 14-57.
- Of any explosive or incendiary device or substance.
- Of any firearm.
- Of any record or paper in the custody of the North Carolina State Archives.
- Committed after the defendant has been convicted of larceny or a substantially similar offense at least four times.

A Class H felony is punishable by a minimum of 4 months of community punishment to a maximum of 39 months of active punishment, depending on prior conviction level.

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 34 would require a person convicted of larceny to be sentenced at one class level higher than the principal offense if the larceny is of mail.

For a Class 1 misdemeanor, the person would be sentenced at a Class A1 misdemeanor.

- Class A1 misdemeanors are punishable by a minimum of a fine or a maximum of an active sentence of 150 days, depending on prior conviction level.

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For a Class H felony, the person would be sentenced at a Class G felony.

- Class G felonies are punishable by a minimum of 8 months of intermediate punishment to a maximum of 47 months of active punishment, depending on prior conviction level.

Mail would be defined as "a letter, package, bag, or other item of value sent or delivered to another by any method of delivery."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.