

David J. TubioloLegislator, 14th District

Chair, Committee on Parks & Recreation

**Committee Assignments:**
Environment, Energy & Climate
Public Works & Transportation
Seniors & Youth**MEMORANDUM OF LEGISLATION****DATE:** March 15, 2023**TITLE:** Porch Pirate Deterrence Act of 2023**SPONSORS:** Legislator David Tubiolo (LD14); Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (LD13)**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:** To levy a flat-fine in the amount up to \$10,000 by Westchester County against those who purposely steal packages from private homes, apartment buildings, cooperative residences, or condominiums, regardless of the contents of the parcel that is stolen.**INTENT:** To deter package theft and operations enacted by individual thieves and organized crime rings.**JUSTIFICATION:** Known as “porch pirates,” thieves and organized crime rings have been stealing delivered packages from home porches and residences. Sometimes in broad daylight, individuals have been taking packages from residential homes that have been delivered but not yet taken inside by the recipient of the parcel. According to a report from SafeWise, front-door package theft accounted for 260 million stolen packages, thus resulting in an annual loss of \$19.5 billion. Taking into account the increasing dependence on the convenience of online shopping, and also being mindful of those who are dependent on home-delivery of life-saving prescription medications, we cannot presume to know or predict if package thieves already know what they are stealing in advance of their crime. Therefore, this law is to serve as a broader deterrent.**PRESENT LAW:** This fine would be analogous to the anti-package theft signed into law by Governor Murphy (D-NJ) of New Jersey as part of the state’s efforts to address the same issue; the bill was originally introduced by NJ Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak (D- NJ 18). On the Federal level, the “Porch Pirates Act of 2022,” was introduced by Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN-3).