

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9076

To require a court order for use of a mail cover.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 29, 2026

Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. JACOBS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require a court order for use of a mail cover.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Postal Data Privacy
5 Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. MAIL COVERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 83 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1737
9 the following:

10 **“§ 1738. Limitation on use of mail covers**

11 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR COURT ORDER.—

1 “(1) LIMITATION.—A governmental entity may
2 not use a mail cover, unless the governmental entity
3 obtains a court order pursuant to paragraph (2).

4 “(2) COURT ORDER.—A court order authorizing
5 the use of a mail cover may be issued by any court
6 that is a court of competent jurisdiction and shall
7 issue only if a governmental entity offers specific
8 and articulable facts showing that there are reason-
9 able grounds to believe that mail covers are relevant
10 and material to an ongoing criminal investigation. In
11 the case of a State governmental authority, such a
12 court order shall not issue if prohibited by the law
13 of such State.

14 “(b) REQUIREMENT TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Postal Inspector,
16 upon the request of a governmental entity, shall take
17 all necessary steps to preserve records and other evi-
18 dence in its possession pending the issuance of a
19 court order or other process.

20 “(2) PERIOD OF RETENTION.—Records referred
21 to in paragraph (1) shall be retained for a period of
22 90 days, which shall be extended for an additional
23 90-day period upon a renewed request by the gov-
24 ernmental entity.

1 “(c) MAIL COVER DEFINED.—The term ‘mail cover’
2 has the meaning given that term in section 233.3 of title
3 39, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-
4 tion).”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 for chapter 83 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
7 by inserting after the item related to section 1737 the fol-
8 lowing:

“1738. Limitation on use of mail covers.”.

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