

Sec.	
1698.	Prompt delivery of mail from vessel.
1699.	Certification of delivery from vessel.
1700.	Desertion of mails.
1701.	Obstruction of mails generally.
1702.	Obstruction of correspondence.
1703.	Delay or destruction of mail or newspapers.
1704.	Keys or locks stolen or reproduced.
1705.	Destruction of letter boxes or mail.
1706.	Injury to mail bags.
1707.	Theft of property used by Postal Service.
1708.	Theft or receipt of stolen mail matter generally.
1709.	Theft of mail matter by officer or employee.
1710.	Theft of newspapers.
1711.	Misappropriation of postal funds.
1712.	Falsification of postal returns to increase compensation.
1713.	Issuance of money orders without payment.
[1714.	Repealed.]
1715.	Firearms as nonmailable; regulations.
1716.	Injurious articles as nonmailable.
1716A.	Nonmailable locksmithing devices and motor vehicle master keys.
1716B.	Nonmailable plants.
1716C.	Forged agricultural certifications.
1716D.	Nonmailable injurious animals, plant pests, plants, and illegally taken fish, wildlife, and plants.
1716E.	Tobacco products as nonmailable.
1717.	Letters and writings as nonmailable.
[1718.	Repealed.]
1719.	Franking privilege.
1720.	Canceled stamps and envelopes.
1721.	Sale or pledge of stamps.
1722.	False evidence to secure second-class rate.
1723.	Avoidance of postage by using lower class matter.
1724.	Postage on mail delivered by foreign vessels.
1725.	Postage unpaid on deposited mail matter.
1726.	Postage collected unlawfully.
[1727.	Repealed.]
1728.	Weight of mail increased fraudulently.
1729.	Post office conducted without authority.
1730.	Uniforms of carriers.
1731.	Vehicles falsely labeled as carriers.
1732.	Approval of bond or sureties by postmaster.
1733.	Mailing periodical publications without prepayment of postage.
1734.	Editorials and other matter as "advertisements".
1735.	Sexually oriented advertisements.
1736.	Restrictive use of information.
1737.	Manufacturer of sexually related mail matter.
[1738.	Repealed.]

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-154, §3(b), Mar. 31, 2010, 124 Stat. 1109, added item 1716E.

2000—Pub. L. 106-578, §4, Dec. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 3076, struck out item 1738 "Mailing private identification documents without a disclaimer".

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXII, §320108(b)(2), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2113, added item 1716D.

1990—Pub. L. 101-647, title XII, §1210(b), (c), title XXXV, §3552(b), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4832, 4926, struck out item 1714 "Foreign divorce information as non-mailable", struck out ";; opening letters" after "non-mailable" in item 1717, and struck out item 1718 "Libelous matter on wrappers or envelopes".

1988—Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7090(d), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4410, inserted "locksmithing devices and" before "motor" in item 1716A.

Pub. L. 100-574, §§1(b)(2), 2(b), Oct. 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2893, added items 1716B and 1716C.

1982—Pub. L. 97-398, §4(b), Dec. 31, 1982, 96 Stat. 2011, added item 1738.

1970—Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(19)(B), (36)(B), (37)(B), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 778, 780, 781, substituted "officer" for

"postmaster" in item 1709 and "Mailing periodical publications without prepayment of postage" for "Affidavits relating to second class mail" in item 1733, and added items 1735 to 1737.

1968—Pub. L. 90-560, §2(2), Oct. 12, 1968, 82 Stat. 997, added item 1716A.

Pub. L. 90-384, §1(b), July 5, 1968, 82 Stat. 292, struck out item 1727 "Postage accounting".

1960—Pub. L. 86-682, §8, Sept. 2, 1960, 74 Stat. 706, added items 1733 and 1734.

§ 1691. Laws governing postal savings

All the safeguards provided by law for the protection of public moneys, and all statutes relating to the embezzlement, conversion, improper handling, retention, use, or disposal of postal and money-order funds, false returns of postal and money-order business, forgery, counterfeiting, alteration, improper use or handling of postal and money-order blanks, forms, vouchers, accounts, and records, and the dies, plates, and engravings therefor, with the punishments provided for such offenses are extended and made applicable to postal savings depository business and funds and related matters.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 776.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on section 765 of title 39, U.S.C., 1940 ed., The Postal Service (June 25, 1910, ch. 386, §15, 36 Stat. 818).

Changes of phraseology were made without change of substance.

§ 1692. Foreign mail as United States mail

Every foreign mail, while being transported across the territory of the United States under authority of law, is mail of the United States, and any depredation thereon, or offense in respect thereto, shall be punishable as though it were United States mail.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 776.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §359 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §229, 35 Stat. 1134).

Minor changes were made in phraseology and obvious surplusage omitted.

§ 1693. Carriage of mail generally

Whoever, being concerned in carrying the mail, collects, receives, or carries any letter or packet, contrary to law, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 776; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(A), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2146.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §303 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §180, 35 Stat. 1123).

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of "principal" in section 2 of this title.

Minor verbal changes were made.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted "fined under this title" for "fined not more than \$50".

§ 1694. Carriage of matter out of mail over post routes

Whoever, having charge or control of any conveyance operating by land, air, or water, which

regularly performs trips at stated periods on any post route, or from one place to another between which the mail is regularly carried, carries, otherwise than in the mail, any letters or packets, except such as relate to some part of the cargo of such conveyance, or to the current business of the carrier, or to some article carried at the same time by the same conveyance, shall, except as otherwise provided by law, be fined under this title.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 776; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(A), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2146.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 307 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 184, 35 Stat. 1124).

Words “by land, air, or water” were substituted for “stagecoach, railway car, steamboat” with necessary minor changes in phraseology.

Enumeration of persons having charge was omitted as unnecessary.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$50”.

STUDY OF PRIVATE CARRIAGE OF MAIL; REPORTS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

Congressional findings of need for study and reevaluation of restrictions on private carriage of letters and packets contained in this section and submission by United States Postal Service of reports to President and Congress for modernization of law, regulations, and administrative practices, see section 7 of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note under section 601 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1695. Carriage of matter out of mail on vessels

Whoever carries any letter or packet on board any vessel which carries the mail, otherwise than in such mail, shall, except as otherwise provided by law, be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 777; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(A), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2146.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 308 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, § 185, 35 Stat. 1124).

The words “thirty days” were substituted for “one month,” to make the term of imprisonment more definite and to conform to other comparable sections. (See section 1693 of this title.)

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$50”.

STUDY OF PRIVATE CARRIAGE OF MAIL; REPORTS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

Congressional findings of need for study and reevaluation of restrictions on private carriage of letters and packets contained in this section and submission by United States Postal Service of reports to President and Congress for modernization of law, regulations, and administrative practices, see section 7 of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note under section 601 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1696. Private express for letters and packets

(a) Whoever establishes any private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, or in any

manner causes or provides for the conveyance of the same by regular trips or at stated periods over any post route which is or may be established by law, or from any city, town, or place to any other city, town, or place, between which the mail is regularly carried, shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

This section shall not prohibit any person from receiving and delivering to the nearest post office, postal car, or other authorized depository for mail matter any mail matter properly stamped.

(b) Whoever transmits by private express or other unlawful means, or delivers to any agent thereof, or deposits at any appointed place, for the purpose of being so transmitted any letter or packet, shall be fined under this title.

(c) This chapter shall not prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters or packets by private hands without compensation, or by special messenger employed for the particular occasion only. Whenever more than twenty-five such letters or packets are conveyed or transmitted by such special messenger, the requirements of section 601 of title 39, shall be observed as to each piece.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 777; Pub. L. 91-375, § 6(j)(14), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 778; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(A), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2146.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §§ 304, 306, 309 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §§ 181, 183, 186, 35 Stat. 1123, 1124; June 22, 1934, ch. 716, 48 Stat. 1207).

Section consolidates sections 304, 306, and 309 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed. Reference to persons causing, procuring, aiding or assisting was omitted as such persons are principals under section 2 of this title.

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$50”.

1970—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 91-375 substituted “section 601 of title 39” for “section 500 of title 39”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

STUDY OF PRIVATE CARRIAGE OF MAIL; REPORTS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

Congressional findings of need for study and reevaluation of restrictions on private carriage of letters and packets contained in this section and submission by United States Postal Service of reports to President and Congress for modernization of law, regulations, and administrative practices, see section 7 of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note under section 601 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1697. Transportation of persons acting as private express

Whoever, having charge or control of any conveyance operating by land, air, or water, knowingly conveys or knowingly permits the conveyance of any person acting or employed as a pri-