

Whoever consults, combines, confederates, or corresponds with any pirate or robber upon the seas, knowing him to be guilty of any piracy or robbery; or

Whoever, being a seaman, confines the master of any vessel—

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 775; Pub. L. 101-647, title XXV, §2527(b), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4877; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

#### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §498 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §307, 35 Stat. 1148).

Mandatory punishment provisions were rephrased in the alternative.

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$1,000” in last par.

1990—Pub. L. 101-647, which directed insertion of “section 11, 12, or 13 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act” after “consideration of any action brought under”, could not be executed because the words “consideration of any action brought under” did not appear.

### § 1658. Plunder of distressed vessel

(a) Whoever plunders, steals, or destroys any money, goods, merchandise, or other effects from or belonging to any vessel in distress, or wrecked, lost, stranded, or cast away, upon the sea, or upon any reef, shoal, bank, or rocks of the sea, or in any other place within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

(b) Whoever willfully obstructs the escape of any person endeavoring to save his life from such vessel, or the wreck thereof; or

Whoever holds out or shows any false light, or extinguishes any true light, with intent to bring any vessel sailing upon the sea into danger or distress or shipwreck—

Shall be imprisoned not less than ten years and may be imprisoned for life.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 775; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

#### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §488 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §297, 35 Stat. 1146).

Mandatory punishment provision in subsection (a) was rephrased in the alternative.

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000”.

### § 1659. Attack to plunder vessel

Whoever, upon the high seas or other waters within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States, by surprise or open force, maliciously attacks or sets upon any vessel belonging to another, with an intent unlawfully to plunder the same, or to despoil any owner thereof of any moneys, goods, or merchandise laden on board thereof, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 775; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

#### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §489 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §298, 35 Stat. 1147).

Mandatory punishment provisions were rephrased in the alternative.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000”.

### § 1660. Receipt of pirate property

Whoever, without lawful authority, receives or takes into custody any vessel, goods, or other property, feloniously taken by any robber or pirate against the laws of the United States, knowing the same to have been feloniously taken, shall be imprisoned not more than ten years.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 775.)

#### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §552 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §334, 35 Stat. 1152).

Provision relating to concealment of pirate and words “is an accessory after the fact to such robbery or piracy” were omitted in view of definitive section 3 of this title.

### § 1661. Robbery ashore

Whoever, being engaged in any piratical cruise or enterprise, or being of the crew of any piratical vessel, lands from such vessel and commits robbery on shore, is a pirate, and shall be imprisoned for life.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 775.)

#### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §493 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §302, 35 Stat. 1147).

Transposition of several words was made.

## CHAPTER 83—POSTAL SERVICE

Sec.	
1691.	Laws governing postal savings.
1692.	Foreign mail as United States mail.
1693.	Carriage of mail generally.
1694.	Carriage of matter out of mail over post routes.
1695.	Carriage of matter out of mail on vessels.
1696.	Private express for letters and packets.
1697.	Transportation of persons acting as private express.
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.

- Sec.  
 [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 "Labeling 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 deprecation 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.)