

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SCANLON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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:

1 **“§ 1738. Limitation on use of mail covers**

2 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR COURT ORDER.—

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

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

16 “(b) REQUIREMENT TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE.—

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

22 “(2) PERIOD OF RETENTION.—Records referred  
23 to in paragraph (1) shall be retained for a period of  
24 90 days, which shall be extended for an additional  
25 90-day period upon a renewed request by the gov-  
26 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.”.