

HOUSE BILL 569

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2000 Regular Session
0lr1774
CF SB 99

By: **Delegates Hecht, Rawlings, Barkley, Bobo, Boutin, Cadden, Conroy, D. Davis, Dobson, Donoghue, Franchot, Fulton, Goldwater, Healey, Heller, Howard, Hubers, Hurson, V. Jones, Leopold, Marriott, Montague, Patterson, Petzold, Pitkin, Sher, Shriver, Snodgrass, Sophocleus, and Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Masks and Hoods - Prohibitions**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons from wearing, in certain locations, a
4 mask, hood, or other device which covers a substantial portion of the face with
5 the intent to conceal identity; establishing certain exceptions; establishing a
6 certain penalty; and generally relating to prohibiting the wearing of masks,
7 hoods, or other devices.

8 BY adding to
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
10 Section 580B
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 580B.

17 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON
18 MAY NOT, WITH THE INTENT TO CONCEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON, WEAR A
19 MASK, HOOD, OR OTHER DEVICE THAT COVERS A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE
20 FACE, IN A PUBLIC PLACE OR ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT
21 OF THE PROPERTY OWNER.

22 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO:

23 (1) IS UNDER THE AGE OF 17 YEARS;

24 (2) WEARS A TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY COSTUME;

1 (3) WEARS A PROTECTIVE MASK, HOOD, OR OTHER DEVICE IN THE
2 COURSE OF A PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, OR SPORTS ACTIVITY;

3 (4) ENGAGES IN A BONA FIDE THEATRICAL PRODUCTION OR
4 MASQUERADE BALL;

5 (5) WEARS A MASK, HOOD, OR OTHER DEVICE FOR A BONA FIDE
6 MEDICAL REASON; OR

7 (6) WEARS A MASK, HOOD, OR OTHER DEVICE AS:

8 (I) PROTECTION FROM THE COLD;

9 (II) AN EXPRESSION OF GRIEF; OR

10 (III) A PART OF THE PRACTICE OF A RELIGION.

11 (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND, ON
12 CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR A FINE
13 NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500 OR BOTH.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2000.