A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

State or Local Elected Officials and Governmental Entities – Face Covering Requirements – Prohibition

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a State or local elected official or governmental entity from requiring an individual to wear a face covering, subject to certain exceptions; and generally relating to requirements to wear face coverings.

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions
Section 9–101 and 9–102 to be under the new title “Title 9. Miscellaneous”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – General Provisions

TITLE 9. MISCELLANEOUS.

9–101.

(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “FACE COVERING” INCLUDES FACE MASKS, FACE SHIELDS, AND OTHER FACE COVERINGS.
(C) “GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY” MEANS:

(1) THE STATE;

(2) A COUNTY; OR

(3) A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

9–102.

(A) THIS TITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO A REQUIREMENT TO WEAR A FACE COVERING:

(1) INTENDED TO PROTECT AN INDIVIDUAL’S EYES, FACE, OR LUNGS FROM OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY HAZARDS; OR

(2) USED BY MEDICAL PERSONNEL OR A FIRST RESPONDER WHILE TREATING PATIENTS.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A STATE OR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL OR A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY NOT REQUIRE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WEAR A FACE COVERING, INCLUDING REQUIRING THE USE OF A FACE COVERING AS A CONDITION FOR ENTRY INTO:

(1) A PUBLIC BUILDING;

(2) AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY;

(3) A PLACE OF WORSHIP;

(4) A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT; OR

(5) A COMMERCIAL OR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT.

(C) IF A STATE OR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY ISSUES AN OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION THAT INDIVIDUALS WEAR FACE COVERINGS, THE STATE OR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE THAT THE RECOMMENDATION IS NOT MANDATORY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.