

SENATE BILL 1

E4

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0842

CF HB 155

By: **Senators Augustine, Love, Beidle, Brooks, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Hettleman, Kagan, King, Kramer, Lam, Lewis Young, Muse, Rosapepe, Smith, Sydnor, and Zucker**

Requested: September 15, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to
4 develop a certain model policy prohibiting the use of a face covering by a law
5 enforcement officer in the course of duty; requiring a law enforcement agency to
6 adopt a policy consistent with the model policy developed by the Commission;
7 prohibiting a certain law enforcement officer from wearing a certain face covering
8 while in the performance of duty in the State, with a certain exception; and generally
9 relating to law enforcement officers.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Public Safety

12 Section 3–201(a) and (b)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Public Safety

17 Section 3–207(p) and 3–535

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Public Safety**

23 3–201.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Commission" means the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

4 3-207.

5 (P) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
6 MEANINGS INDICATED.

9 (III) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED
10 IN § 3-535 OF THIS TITLE.

11 (IV) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" HAS THE MEANING STATED
12 IN § 3-535 OF THIS TITLE.

29 3-535.

1 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
2 INDICATED.

3 (2) (I) "FACE COVERING" MEANS ANY OPAQUE MASK, GARMENT,
4 HELMET, HEADGEAR, OR OTHER ITEM THAT CONCEALS OR OBSCURES THE FACE OF
5 AN INDIVIDUAL.

6 (II) "FACE COVERING" INCLUDES A BALACLAVA, SKI MASK,
7 NECK GAITER, OR TACTICAL MASK.

8 (III) "FACE COVERING" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

9 1. A TRANSLUCENT FACE SHIELD OR CLEAR MASK THAT
10 DOES NOT CONCEAL THE WEARER'S FACE;

11 2. A MEDICAL-GRADE OR SURGICAL MASK WORN TO
12 PROTECT AGAINST THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE OR INFECTION;

13 3. A MASK OR AN APPARATUS, SUCH AS A
14 SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS, NECESSARY TO PROTECT AGAINST
15 EXPOSURE TO ANY TOXINS, GAS, SMOKE, OR OTHER HAZARDOUS OR HARMFUL
16 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION;

17 4. A MASK, HELMET, SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING
18 APPARATUS, OR OTHER DEVICE NECESSARY FOR UNDERWATER USE;

19 5. A MOTORCYCLE HELMET WHEN WORN BY AN
20 INDIVIDUAL UTILIZING A MOTORCYCLE OR OTHER VEHICLE THAT REQUIRES A
21 HELMET FOR SAFE OPERATIONS;

22 6. EYEWEAR NECESSARY TO PROTECT AN INDIVIDUAL
23 FROM THE USE OF RETINAL WEAPONS AND LASERS;

24 7. A GARMENT WORN FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES;

25 8. PROTECTIVE GEAR WORN DURING TACTICAL
26 OPERATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PHYSICAL SAFETY; OR

27 9. ANY OTHER ITEM WORN TO FOLLOW APPLICABLE
28 LAWS ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OR REASONABLE WORKPLACE
29 ACCOMMODATIONS.

3 (I) THE STATE;

4 (II) ANOTHER STATE;

7 (IV) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(4) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" MEANS A SWORN MEMBER OF A
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

10 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
11 ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AN UNDERCOVER OPERATION.

12 (C) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY NOT WEAR A FACE COVERING
13 WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT AS AUTHORIZED IN A
14 POLICY ADOPTED UNDER § 3-207(P)(3) OF THIS TITLE.

19 (II) WAIVES ALL IMMUNITY IN A CIVIL ACTION BASED ON THE
20 VIOLATION.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2026.