

SB0001 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

**Position: Favorable**

Submitted: Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

I was adopted during infancy from Taiwan and I received my Certificate of Citizenship in 1995 and I grew up in Montgomery County for the majority of my life where I still reside. I believe it is important for all law enforcement agents and officers while in Maryland, absent exigent circumstances, not conceal their identity and identify themselves.

Maryland statute Criminal Procedure §2-109, states that unless there are exigent circumstances, a police officer is required to identify themselves during a traffic stop.

(<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gcp&section=2-109>) I agree with the proposed definition of “face covering”. A law enforcement official not wearing a face covering should be part of their identification protocol.

As someone who was not born in this country, I have been carrying my passport card in my wallet ever since the first term of Donald Trump as President. (The passport card is also helpful in situations where I need to prove my age and identity without revealing my address, for safety purposes.)

Immigration Enforcement agents have operated in a very aggressive manner and without compliance and respect for due process and basic human dignity - regardless of color, ethnicity, race, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

Passing this bill and prohibiting wearing of face coverings to conceal an officer’s identity is important to minimizing the trauma that is being carried out and inflicted by many law enforcement officials, especially immigration enforcement.

I ask for a favorable report.

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