

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 250(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/9/26

Referred: Judiciary

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HANNAN, Fields, Mina

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the crime of wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace**
2 **officer; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 11.56 is amended by adding a new section to article 6 to read:

5 **Sec. 11.56.880. Wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace officer.**

6 (a) A peace officer commits the crime of wearing a mask in public while acting as a
7 peace officer if, while interacting with the public in the peace officer's official
8 capacity, the peace officer knowingly conceals the peace officer's face with a mask or
9 disguise.

10 (b) This section does not apply to a peace officer who

11 (1) is on an undercover assignment that is authorized by the officer's
12 supervisor or by a court order;

13 (2) is wearing

14 (A) a shield that does not obscure the peace officer's face that is

1 designed to protect the peace officer's face from harm;

2 (B) a medical mask or surgical mask designed to protect
3 against transmission of disease or infection or any other mask or device,
4 including an air-purifying respirator, a full or half mask, or a self-contained
5 breathing apparatus, necessary to protect against exposure to a toxin, gas,
6 smoke, inclement weather, or another hazardous or harmful environmental
7 condition;

8 (C) a mask for protection against exposure to smoke;

9 (D) a mask while outdoors when the temperature is at or below
10 32 degrees Fahrenheit;

11 (E) a helmet if the officer is using a motorcycle or other vehicle
12 that requires a helmet for safe operation while in the performance of the
13 officer's duties;

14 (3) is participating in a tactical operation for which protective gear is
15 required for immediate physical safety; in this paragraph, "tactical operation" means a
16 planned or emergent law enforcement activity

17 (A) involving the elevated risk of death or serious physical
18 injury, specialized operational methods, or hazardous environmental
19 conditions; and

20 (B) for which a peace officer's use of protective equipment that
21 partially or fully covers the face is reasonably necessary for officer safety or
22 mission execution and is not intended to conceal the officer's identity;

23 (4) is assigned to a special weapons and tactics team and is actively
24 performing responsibilities of that team.

25 (c) Wearing a mask in public while acting as a peace officer is a class B
26 misdemeanor.

27 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
28 read:

29 **APPLICABILITY.** AS 11.56.880, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to offenses
30 committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

31 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).