

REFERENCE TITLE: law enforcement; face coverings; prohibition..

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2977

Introduced by
Representatives Hernandez A: Cavero, Contreras L, Contreras P, Garcia,
Gutierrez, Hernandez C, Hernandez L, Luna-Nájera, Márquez, Simacek,
Travers, Tsosie

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 38, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 38-1121; RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 38, chapter 8, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 38-1121, to read:

4 38-1121. Law enforcement officers; face coverings; law
5 enforcement agency; policy; applicability;
6 definitions

7 A. A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY NOT WEAR A FACIAL COVERING THAT
8 CONCEALS OR OBSCURES THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S FACE WHILE ON DUTY.

9 B. A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THIS STATE SHALL MAINTAIN AND
10 PUBLICLY POST ON ITS WEBSITE A POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF FACIAL
11 COVERINGS BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S OFFICERS THAT INCLUDES BOTH OF
12 THE FOLLOWING:

13 1. A PURPOSE STATEMENT THAT AFFIRMS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S
14 COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC TRUST AND THAT
15 RESTRICTS THE USE OF FACIAL COVERINGS TO SPECIFIC AND LIMITED
16 CIRCUMSTANCES.

17 2. THAT SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MAY NOT USE A FACIAL
18 COVERING WHEN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES, EXCEPT FOR EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

19 (a) ACTIVE UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS OR ASSIGNMENTS THAT ARE AUTHORIZED
20 BY THE AGENCY OR A COURT ORDER.

21 (b) TACTICAL OPERATIONS WHERE PROTECTIVE GEAR IS REQUIRED FOR
22 PHYSICAL SAFETY.

23 C. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL
24 WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM UNITS WHILE ACTIVELY PERFORMING THE OFFICER'S
25 RESPONSIBILITIES.

26 D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

27 1. "FACIAL COVERING":

28 (a) MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AN OPAQUE MASK, GARMENT, HELMET,
29 HEADGEAR OR OTHER ITEM THAT CONCEALS OR OBSCURES THE FACIAL IDENTITY OF AN
30 INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING A BALACLAVA, TACTICAL MASK, GATOR OR SKI MASK OR ANY
31 SIMILAR TYPE OF FACIAL COVERING OR FACE-SHIELDING ITEM.

32 (b) DOES NOT INCLUDE:

33 (i) A TRANSLUCENT FACE SHIELD OR CLEAR MASK THAT DOES NOT CONCEAL
34 THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S FACIAL IDENTITY.

35 (ii) A MEDICAL MASK OR SURGICAL MASK THAT IS USED TO PROTECT
36 AGAINST THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE OR INFECTION.

37 (iii) ANY OTHER MASK, HELMET OR DEVICE, INCLUDING AIR PURIFYING
38 RESPIRATORS, FULL OR HALF MASKS OR A SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS,
39 THAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT AGAINST EXPOSURE TO ANY TOXIN, GAS, SMOKE,
40 INCLEMENT WEATHER OR OTHER HAZARDOUS OR HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION.

41 (iv) A MASK, HELMET OR DEVICE, INCLUDING A SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING
42 APPARATUS, THAT IS NECESSARY FOR UNDERWATER USE.

1 (v) A MOTORCYCLE HELMET WHEN WORN BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
2 USING A MOTORCYCLE OR OTHER VEHICLE THAT REQUIRES A HELMET FOR SAFE
3 OPERATIONS WHILE ON DUTY.

4 (vi) EYEWEAR THAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT FROM THE USE OF RETINAL
5 WEAPONS OR LASERS.

6 2. "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY":

7 (a) MEANS A MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT, A COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
8 A PUBLICLY FUNDED LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
9 SAFETY.

10 (b) INCLUDES ANY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR AGENT WHO HAS
11 THE POWER TO MAKE ARRESTS PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW.