

15           An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification

16           It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17           Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2373 is added to read:

18           § 2373. STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION

19           (a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to exercise

20           the power granted to Vermont by the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

1 to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and law enforcement  
2 officers present in the State by codifying standards for law enforcement  
3 identification.

4 (b) Definitions. As used in this section:

5 (1) “Law enforcement agency” has the same meaning as in section  
6 2351a of this title.

7 (2) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in section  
8 2351a of this title and includes any officer of a federal law enforcement agency  
9 or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement  
10 agency.

11 (c) Identification requirements.

12 (1) A law enforcement officer shall be clearly identified by the officer’s  
13 name or badge number, or both, on the officer’s uniform.

14 (2) A law enforcement officer shall not wear any mask or personal  
15 disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of the officer’s  
16 duties.

17 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, a law  
18 enforcement officer may wear:

19 (A) a medical grade mask that is surgical;

20 (B) an N95 respirator designed to prevent the transmission of  
21 airborne diseases;

1                   (C) a mask designed to protect against exposure to smoke during a  
2                   fire-involved situation;

3                   (D) a mask necessary to perform duties during a water rescue  
4                   operation;

5                   (E) a mask related to protection against exposure to biological or  
6                   chemical agents during an incident where these agents may be present; or  
7                   (F) a mask designed to protect against exposure to cold during a  
8                   declared weather emergency.

9                   (4) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the following is  
10                   permitted:

11                   (A) Tactical Services Unit (TSU) team officers may use gear  
12                   necessary to protect their faces from physical harm while performing TSU  
13                   responsibilities.

14                   (B) Law enforcement officers who participate in active undercover  
15                   drug-related operations or assignments may use a personal disguise when  
16                   necessary to perform such operations or assignments.

17                   (d) Penalty. A law enforcement officer who violates subsection (c) of this  
18                   section shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or lose the officer's professional  
19                   licensure or certification, if applicable, or both.

20                   Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

21                   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.