

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 208
3 entitled “An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

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

8 § 2373. STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION

9 (a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to exercise
10 the power of Vermont, as recognized by the 10th Amendment to the U.S.
11 Constitution, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and law
12 enforcement officers present in the State by codifying standards for law
13 enforcement identification

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

15 (1) “Law enforcement agency” has the same meaning as in section
16 2351a of this title.

17 (2) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in section
18 2351a of this title and includes any officer of a federal law enforcement agency
19 or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement
20 agency.

21 (c) Identification requirements.

1 (1) A law enforcement officer shall be clearly identified by:

2 (A) the officer's name or the officer's unique radio or badge number
3 on the officer's uniform; and

4 (B) the officer's agency on the officer's uniform.

5 (2) A law enforcement officer shall not wear any mask or personal
6 disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of the officer's
7 duties.

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

10 (A) an N95 respirator or medical grade mask worn with the intent to
11 prevent the transmission of airborne diseases;

12 (B) a mask designed to protect against exposure to smoke during a
13 fire-involved situation;

14 (C) a mask necessary to perform duties during a water rescue
15 operation;

16 (D) a mask related to protection against exposure to biological or
17 chemical agents during an incident where these agents may be present; or

18 (E) a mask designed to protect against exposure to cold between
19 December 1 and April 1 when the National Weather Service is forecasting a
20 duration of cold weather at or below -10 degrees Fahrenheit, which includes
21 wind chill.

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

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

6 (B) Law enforcement officers with the Vermont Drug Task Force
7 who participate in active undercover drug-related operations or assignments
8 may use a personal disguise when necessary to perform such operations or
9 assignments.

10 (d) Statewide policy. On or before January 1, 2027, the Vermont Criminal
11 Justice Council shall establish a statewide policy governing the standards for
12 law enforcement identification applicable to Vermont law enforcement
13 agencies to ensure consistent statewide application of the standards.

14 (e) Penalty. A law enforcement officer who violates subsection (c) of this
15 section shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.

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4 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE