

2020 -- H 7543

=====  
LC004390  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- DISORDERLY CONDUCT - PROTECTIVE  
EQUIPMENT AND DISGUISED MASKS PROHIBITED

Introduced By: Representatives Corvese, Ucci, Jacquard, Johnston, and Canario

Date Introduced: February 12, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11-11 of the General Laws entitled "Disorderly Conduct" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **11-11-8. Protective equipment and masks prohibited.**

4 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to carry, possess or wear any of the following  
5 devices during parades, demonstrations, rallies and assemblies:

6 (1) A gas mask or similar device designed to filter all air breathed and that would protect  
7 the respiratory tract and face against chemical irritants commonly deployed by law enforcement;

8 (2) Any protective clothing or equipment, designed in which or in part to minimize the  
9 risk of injury from deadly weapons, including, but not limited to: riot helmets, face visors, body  
10 armor, vests, neck protection, knee pads, and riot shields and any other apparel or equipment  
11 worn for the purpose of defeating law enforcement tactics to control crowds;

12 (3) A mask or disguise with the specific intent to intimidate or threaten another person.

13 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person who is engaged in conduct prohibited by law, to  
14 wear a mask, hood, makeup, robe, helmet, disguises of any type or facial alteration with the intent  
15 of avoiding their identification.

16 (c) Anyone who violates this section shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or  
17 shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

18 (d) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any federal, state or

1 [city law enforcement officer performing their official duties.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004390  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- DISORDERLY CONDUCT - PROTECTIVE  
EQUIPMENT AND DISGUISED MASKS PROHIBITED

\*\*\*

1           This act would make it a misdemeanor for persons to carry, possess, or wear masks or  
2 protective clothing or equipment designed to minimize the risk of injury from deadly weapons,  
3 for the purposes of hindering law enforcement crowd control actions. It would also outlaw  
4 persons who are engaged in conduct prohibited by law, from wearing disguises with the intent of  
5 avoiding their identification.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004390  
=====