

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-422 of the Code of Virginia, relating to prohibition of wearing*  
3 *masks; public health emergency exception.*

4 [S 532]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 18.2-422 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 18.2-422. Prohibition of wearing of masks in certain places; exceptions.

9 It shall be unlawful for any person over sixteen years of age while wearing any mask, hood or other  
10 device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the  
11 wearer, to be or appear in any public place, or upon any private property in this Commonwealth without  
12 first having obtained from the owner or tenant thereof consent to do so in writing. However, the  
13 provisions of this section shall not apply to persons (i) wearing traditional holiday costumes; (ii)  
14 engaged in professions, trades, employment or other activities and wearing protective masks which are  
15 deemed necessary for the physical safety of the wearer or other persons; (iii) engaged in any bona fide  
16 theatrical production or masquerade ball; or (iv) wearing a mask, hood or other device for bona fide  
17 medical reasons upon (a) the advice of a licensed physician or osteopath and carrying on his person an  
18 affidavit from the physician or osteopath specifying the medical necessity for wearing the device and the  
19 date on which the wearing of the device will no longer be necessary and providing a brief description of  
20 the device, or (b) the declaration of a disaster or state of emergency by the Governor in response to a  
21 public health emergency where the emergency declaration expressly waives this section, defines the mask  
22 appropriate for the emergency, and provides for the duration of the waiver. The violation of any  
23 provisions of this section shall constitute a Class 6 felony.

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