

## 2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

Offered January 26, 2022

*Relating to the wearing of masks and other COVID-19 precautions during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.*

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Patron—Locke

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Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Virginia continues to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased infections, a hospitalization crisis, and deaths; and

WHEREAS, certain populations remain particularly vulnerable to severe illness from the pandemic, including the elderly, immunocompromised, and unvaccinated; and

WHEREAS, well-documented research establishes the wearing of masks as the principal means of personal protection that substantially reduces the transmission of COVID-19 between persons; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2022, the Clerk of the Senate promulgated "Senate of Virginia COVID Guidelines" to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the operation of the Senate of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in order to operate effectively and conduct public business, the members of the Senate of Virginia are required to be in close proximity to each other and to third parties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the President, all Senators, and all staff of the Senate of Virginia wear a mask covering the nose and mouth, or other protective facial shield, when present in the Senate Chamber or at a meeting of any committee or subcommittee during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly, except while eating or drinking or speaking to the body during the process of debate. The Clerk of the Senate shall place protective screening in the Senate Chamber around any member who specifically requests such screening or who advises the Clerk of the Senate that the member is not willing to comply with the provisions of this resolution regarding the wearing of a mask or protective shield.

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