

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 3114 and 3216

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 19, 2026

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SYNOPSIS

Requires law enforcement officer to reveal facial identity during certain public interactions and to present sufficient identification prior to arresting or detaining person.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement officers and supplementing
2 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Law
8 Enforcement Officer Protection Act.”

9

10 2. As used in this act, “law enforcement officer” means a
11 member of any federal, State, county, or municipal law enforcement
12 agency, department, or division of those governments who is
13 statutorily empowered to act for the detection, investigation, arrest,
14 conviction, detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating the laws
15 of this State or of the United States.

16

17 3. a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, a law
18 enforcement officer shall not wear a mask or disguise when interacting
19 with the public while in the performance of the officer’s official duties.

20 b. Subsection a. of this section shall not apply to a law
21 enforcement officer who is:

22 (1) engaged in an undercover assignment or other tactical
23 operation, including violent-crime or organized-crime suppression;

24 (2) the subject of a threat of retaliation resulting from the
25 performance of the officer’s official duties;

26 (3) wearing a shield that does not conceal the officer’s face to
27 protect the officer’s face from harm;

28 (4) wearing a medical grade mask or N95 respirator designed to
29 prevent the transmission of disease;

30 (5) wearing a mask for protection against exposure to smoke
31 during a State of Emergency;

32 (6) wearing a mask designed to protect against exposure to cold
33 during a weather emergency; or

34 (7) wearing a mask to protect against exposure to biological or
35 chemical agents during an incident where these agents may be present.

36

37 4. a. Every law enforcement officer shall provide sufficient
38 identification prior to detaining or arresting an individual. A law
39 enforcement officer shall be deemed to have provided sufficient
40 identification if the officer, prior to detaining or arresting an
41 individual, satisfies one of the following conditions:

42 (1) the officer is dressed in a department-issued uniform bearing
43 the agency insignia;

44 (2) the officer demonstrates a department-issued identification
45 card bearing the officer’s photograph and identifying information;

46 (3) the officer demonstrates a badge, tag, label, or other
47 department-issued identification which identifies the officer by
48 number; or

- 1 (4) the officer verbally discloses, in a clear and audible manner,
2 the officer's name and the official name of the law enforcement
3 agency by which the officer is employed.
- 4 b. The provisions of subsection a. of this section shall not
5 apply to a law enforcement officer when:
- 6 (1) the release of sufficient identification may compromise the
7 integrity of an authorized investigation;
- 8 (2) a supervisor determines stealth is necessary; or
- 9 (3) a law enforcement officer reasonably believes the officer's
10 personal safety is at risk.
- 11 c. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a law
12 enforcement officer in plain clothes or operating an unmarked
13 vehicle from intervening in urgent matters of public safety.
- 14
- 15 5. The Attorney General shall issue guidelines or a directive
16 necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.
- 17
- 18 6. This act shall take effect immediately.