

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2026 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** CB-008-2026

**Draft No.:** 1

**Committee:** COW

**Date:** March 3, 2026

**Action:** FAV (A)

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**REPORT:** Committee Vote: Favorably as amended, 10-0 (Council Members Ivey, Dernoga, Allen, Adams-Stafford, Fisher, Hunter, Olson, Oriadha, Burroughs, and Blegay)

The Prince George's County Council convened as the Committee of the Whole on March 3, 2026 to consider CB-008-2026, an emergency act concerning a Prohibition on Facial Coverings for Law Enforcement for the purpose of prohibiting certain law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings that conceal or obscure the face while interacting with the public in the performance of official duties in Prince George's County; providing definitions and exceptions; providing penalties and enforcement; stating that a public emergency exists and declaring the nature of that/emergency; and generally relating to transparency and public trust in law enforcement.

During the meeting, council staff provided an overview of the Emergency Act that is intended to ensure that law enforcement officers interacting with the public in Prince George's County are easily identifiable and transparent while performing their duties. The County Council has determined that there is a public emergency, and this emergency act shall address it. This bill generally prohibits officers from wearing face coverings that conceal their identities during routine public interactions. Clear exceptions are included for situations where masks are necessary for safety and effectiveness, such as undercover work, SWAT operations, medical protection, or hazardous conditions. The goal is to prevent impersonation and promote accountability with all law enforcement officials operating in Prince George's County.

Across the country, similar legislation has been enacted or is under consideration, including in California, New York, and Maryland.

A law enforcement officer in violation of the provisions of this proposed legislation would be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months and a fine of up to five thousand (\$5,000).

No direct fiscal impact is expected.

Council Member Fisher advised that Prince George's County law enforcement does not wear masks except under special circumstances. This would require ICE to follow our standards, and the State is expected to pass similar legislation. Two amendments were approved during the meeting. One which adds inclement weather and the second amendment on Page 4 to add missing language, noting that this is an emergency bill, will be added.

After further discussion, Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, voted favorably 10-0 as amended.