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A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To prohibit the wearing of ski masks on property owned or controlled by the District, and to prohibit the wearing of ski masks on private property without the consent of the owner.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Ski Mask Prohibition Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2.

(a) “Ski mask” means a balaclava or similar head covering which is worn in such a manner that only the eyes, nose, and mouth are exposed, and the identity of the wearer is concealed.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to wear a ski mask, balaclava, or similar head covering on:

(1) any lane, walk, alley, street, road, highway, or other public way in the District of Columbia,

(2) any property owned or controlled by the District of Columbia, and

(3) private property without prior written permission from the owner or occupant of the property.

34 (c) The prohibitions contained in section (b) shall not apply if the person is wearing a ski  
35 mask, balaclava, or similar head covering pursuant to:

- 36 (1) observance of a religious requirement or practice,
- 37 (2) a public health emergency declared by the Mayor,
- 38 (3) the written advice of a physician or medical professional,
- 39 (4) attendance at a masquerade party, costume ball, or theatrical event,
- 40 (5) the safety of persons involved in a trade, profession, or activity where such  
41 protection is required or recommended.

42 (e) Penalty. A person who violates this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable  
43 by a fine not to exceed \$500.

44 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

45 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
46 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
47 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

48 Sec. 4. Effective date.

49 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
50 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
51 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
52 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
53 Columbia Register.