

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 161

2017 Regular Session

Seabaugh

CRIME: Provides certain exceptions to the prohibition on wearing hoods, masks, and other facial disguises in public places

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes the following proposed law exceptions to the present law prohibition on wearing hoods, masks, and other facial disguises in any public place:
 - (a) The exception for persons wearing a mask or hood for the purpose of protection against the elements or weather.
 - (b) The exception for persons engaged in a sporting or recreational activity.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law prohibits any person from wearing hoods, masks, and other facial disguises in any public place, and provides that whoever violates present law shall be imprisoned for not less than six months nor more than three years.

Present law further provides that this present law prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- (1) To activities of children on Halloween, to persons participating in any public parade or exhibition of an educational, religious, or historical character given by any school, church, or public governing authority, or to persons in any private residence, club, or lodge room.
- (2) To persons participating in masquerade balls or entertainments, to persons participating in carnival parades or exhibitions during the period of Mardi Gras festivities, to persons participating in the parades or exhibitions of minstrel troupes, circuses, or other dramatic or amusement shows, or to promiscuous masking on Mardi Gras which are duly authorized by the governing authorities of the municipality in which they are held or by the sheriff of the parish if held outside of an incorporated municipality.
- (3) To persons wearing head covering or veils pursuant to religious beliefs or customs.

Proposed law retains present law and adds exceptions to this prohibition for the following:

- (1) Persons driving or riding a motorcycle.
- (2) Persons wearing a helmet or mask for medical purposes or reasons.

(Amends R.S. 14:313(D); Adds R.S. 14:313(C)(4) and (5))