

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1259 (Substitute for House Bill No. 255 by Representative Bayham)

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

CRIME: Provides relative to wearing masks in public

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:313.2, relative to wearing masks while committing felonies; to provide for
3 enhanced penalties; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 14:313.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 §313.2. Masked felony offense; enhanced penalty

7 A. Any person convicted of a felony offense or an offense punishable
8 pursuant to R.S. 14:329.7 and who, at the time of the commission of the offense, was
9 wearing a mask or other face covering with the intent to evade identification, shall
10 be subject to an enhanced penalty of up to two additional years of imprisonment with
11 or without hard labor.

12 B. The provisions of this Section do not apply to the exempted persons and
13 activities provided for in R.S. 14:313(C).

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1259 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Bayham

Abstract: Provides enhanced penalties for felonies committed while wearing a mask.

Proposed law provides that anyone who wears a mask with the intent to evade identification when committing a felony or other offense described in present law (R.S. 14:329.7) is subject to up to two additional years of imprisonment with or without hard labor.

Proposed law does not apply to the exempted persons and activities in present law (R.S. 14:313(C)), including but not limited to masquerade balls, religious head coverings, persons driving or riding a motorcycle, and persons wearing a helmet or mask for medical purposes.

(Adds R.S. 14:313.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the enhanced penalty applies upon conviction.