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## DIGEST

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HB 161 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Seabaugh

**Abstract:** Provides for exceptions to the prohibition on wearing hoods, masks, and other facial disguises in public places.

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.
- (3) Persons wearing a mask or hood for the purpose of protection against the elements or weather.
- (4) Persons engaged in a sporting or recreational activity.

(Amends R.S. 14:313(D); Adds R.S. 14:313(C)(4), (5), (6), and (7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Amend the proposed law exception to the offense to provide that the offense shall not apply to persons riding or diving a motorcycle.
2. Add an exception for persons wearing a helmet for medical purposes or reasons.
3. Make technical corrections to citations in present law.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Amend the proposed law exception regarding helmets worn for medical purposes to include in the exception masks worn for medical purposes or reasons.
2. Add an exception for persons wearing a mask or hood for the purpose of protection against the elements or weather.
3. Add an exception for persons engaged in a sporting or recreational activity.