

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 255

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

CRIMINAL/PENALTIES: Provides relative to wearing masks in public

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:313(F), relative to wearing of masks; to provide for increased penalties for
3 certain crimes committed while masked; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 14:313(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 §313. Wearing of masks, hoods, or other facial disguises in public places prohibited;
7 penalty; exceptions; permit to conduct Mardi Gras festivities; wearing of
8 hoods, masks, or disguises by sex offenders

9 * * *

10 F. The court may, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, sentence
11 any person who is convicted of any of the following to an additional two years of
12 imprisonment, with or without hard labor, when, at the time of the commission of the
13 crime, the offender was wearing a mask, hood, or other facial disguise with the intent
14 to conceal or hide his identity:

- 15 (1) R.S. 14:28 (Inciting a felony)
- 16 (2) R.S. 14:34.2 (Battery of a police officer)
- 17 (3) R.S. 14:34.6 (Disarming of a peace officer)
- 18 (4) R.S. 14:37.2 (Aggravated assault upon a peace officer)
- 19 (5) R.S. 14:37.3 (Unlawful use of a laser on a police officer)

- 1 (6) R.S. 14:37.6 (Aggravated assault with a motor vehicle upon a peace
- 2 officer)
- 3 (7) R.S. 14:51 (Aggravated arson)
- 4 (8) R.S. 14:51.1 (Injury by arson)
- 5 (9) R.S. 14:52 (Simple arson)
- 6 (10) R.S. 14:52.1 (Simple arson of a religious building)
- 7 (11) R.S. 14:52.2 (Negligent arson)
- 8 (12) R.S. 14:55 (Aggravated criminal damage to property)
- 9 (13) R.S. 14:56 (Simple criminal damage to property)
- 10 (14) R.S. 14:56.4 (Criminal damage to property by defacing with graffiti)
- 11 (15) R.S. 14:56.5 (Criminal damage to historic buildings or landmarks by
- 12 defacing with graffiti)
- 13 (16) R.S. 14:57.1 (Vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying a crime
- 14 camera system)
- 15 (17) R.S. 14:59 (Criminal mischief)
- 16 (18) R.S. 14:61 (Unauthorized entry of a critical infrastructure)
- 17 (19) R.S. 14:61.1 (Criminal damage to a critical infrastructure)
- 18 (20) R.S. 14:62.5 (Looting)
- 19 (21) R.S. 14:63.3 (Entry on or remaining in places or on land after being
- 20 forbidden)
- 21 (22) R.S. 14:63.4 (Aiding and abetting others to enter or remain on premises
- 22 where forbidden)
- 23 (23) R.S. 14:96 (Aggravated obstruction of a highway of commerce)
- 24 (24) R.S. 14:97 (Simple obstruction of a highway of commerce)
- 25 (25) R.S. 14:100.1 (Obstructing public passages)
- 26 (26) R.S. 14:102.8 (Injuring or killing of a police animal)
- 27 (27) R.S. 14:103 (Disturbing the peace)
- 28 (28) R.S. 14:108 (Resisting an officer)
- 29 (29) R.S. 14:108.1 (Flight from an officer; aggravated flight from an officer)

- 1 (30) R.S. 14:108.2 (Resisting a police officer with force or violence)
- 2 (31) R.S. 14:109 (Approaching a peace officer lawfully engaged in law
- 3 enforcement duties)
- 4 (32) R.S. 14:115 (Criminal anarchy)
- 5 (33) R.S. 14:116 (Flag desecration)
- 6 (34) R.S. 14:116.1 (Flag burning)
- 7 (35) R.S. 14:128.1 (Terrorism)
- 8 (36) R.S. 14:128.2 (Aiding others in terrorism)
- 9 (37) R.S. 14:225 (Institutional vandalism)
- 10 (38) R.S. 14:327 (Obstructing a fireman)
- 11 (39) R.S. 14:329.1 (Riot)
- 12 (40) R.S. 14:329.2 (Inciting to riot)

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 255 Original

2026 Regular Session

Bayham

Abstract: Enhances criminal penalties for certain crimes when committed while wearing a mask.

Present law prohibits wearing a mask in certain situations.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes a court to increase a criminal sentence by two years with or without hard labor if the offender was wearing a mask with the intent to hide his identity during the commission of the crime.

Proposed law provides a list of crimes for which the court may increase the penalty when the offender was wearing a mask.

(Adds R.S. 14:313(F))