

Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary

Committee Print

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember Phil Mendelson introduced the following bill, which was referred to the

Committee on _____.

To

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Mask Prohibition Act of 2009".

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) "Dwelling place" means any structure or building, or dwelling unit within a building, which is used as a residence.

(2) "Mask" means any mask, hood, device, attire, or temporary facial alteration whereby any portion of the face is hidden, concealed, or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer.

(3) “Targeted Picketing” means marching, congregating, standing, parading, demonstrating, or patrolling by one or more persons, with or without signs, with emphasis toward one dwelling, for the purposes of persuading the public or the dwelling’s occupant or to protest some action, attitude, or belief, without the implied or express consent of the occupant.

Sec. 3. Mask Prohibition.

(a) It is unlawful for a person or persons over 16 years of age to wear a mask while engaged in targeted picketing before or about the residence or dwelling place of any individual.

Sec. 4. Exceptions.

(a) This act shall not apply to conduct in connection with a masquerade party or like entertainment.

Sec. 5. Penalties.

A person who violates this act shall be fined not more than \$1,000, imprisoned for not more than 6 months.

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 60-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)) and publication in the District of Columbia Register.