

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2559**

By Delegates Crouse, Willis, Mallow, Kump, Forsht,  
Heckert, Mazzocchi, Miller, Hillenbrand, Kirby, and  
Chiarelli

[Introduced January 16, 2023; Referred to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §16-1-22; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated  
 3 §16-2-18, all relating to prohibiting mask mandates by the State of West Virginia; and  
 4 prohibiting local health departments in West Virginia from instituting any type of mandatory  
 5 mask mandate or face covering requirement.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 1. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.**

**§16-1-22. Face covering and mask mandates prohibited.**

1 The Governor and the state health officer may not implement any sort of mandatory face  
 2 covering or mask requirement. The requirements of §61-6-22 of this code relating to the wearing of  
 3 masks, hoods or face coverings shall still apply.

**ARTICLE 2. LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH.**

**§16-2-18. Prohibition on face coverings and mask mandates.**

1 Local boards of health in West Virginia shall not implement any mandatory face covering or  
 2 mask requirement, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic or otherwise. The requirements of §61-  
 3 6-22 of this code relating to the wearing of masks, hoods or face coverings shall still apply.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a mask or face covering requirement by the State of West Virginia or by local boards of health in West Virginia.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.