AN ACT relating to public protests.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 525 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A person is guilty of disruption of a public protest if, while engaging in a public protest, demonstration, or march, he or she, while within five hundred (500) feet of the protest site, conceals his or her identity by wearing a mask, hood, helmet, or other facade that hides, conceals, or covers any portion of his or her face.

(2) Disruption of a public protest is a Class B misdemeanor.

(3) Disruption of a public protest is a Class A misdemeanor if, while disrupting a public protest under subsection (1) of this section, the person possesses, carries, or is outfitted with any protective gear, including shields and armor, or with any deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.

(4) This section does not apply to first responders or military personnel acting in an official capacity.

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 525 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A person is guilty of obstruction of traffic if he or she obstructs or interferes with the regular flow of vehicular traffic on a public road, street, or highway during a public protest, demonstration, or march in an area not specifically designated for demonstrating in a permit, or for which a permit has not been granted.

Obstruction of traffic is a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) A motor vehicle operator may not be held criminally or civilly liable for causing injury or death to a person who is obstructing or interfering with the regular flow of traffic on a public street, road, or highway during a public protest, demonstration, or march for which a permit has not been granted, unless the infliction of the injury or death was intentional.
SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 522 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

If a person, including a public servant, prohibits or prevents a peace officer from exercising official duties during a public protest, demonstration, or march and that public protest, demonstration, or march results in physical injury or destruction of property, the person is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.