STUDENT TRIBAL REGALIA USE AMENDMENTS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill permits qualifying students to wear tribal regalia during a high school graduation ceremony.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

• provides that:
  • a student who is enrolled, or is eligible to be enrolled, as a member of a tribe (qualifying student) may wear tribal regalia during a high school graduation ceremony; and
  • a local education agency may not prohibit a qualifying student from wearing tribal regalia during a high school graduation ceremony; and
• defines terms.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53G-4-412, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 53G-4-412 is enacted to read:

53G-4-412. Tribal regalia at high school graduation ceremonies.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Graduation attire" means attire that an LEA requires a student to wear as part of the dress code for a graduation ceremony.

(b) "Graduation ceremony" means a high school graduation ceremony.
(c) "Qualifying student" means a student who is:
   (i) enrolled as a member of a tribe; or
   (ii) eligible to be enrolled as a member of a tribe.

(d) (i) "Tribal regalia" means a tribe's:
   (A) traditional dress; or
   (B) recognized objects of religious or cultural significance.
   (ii) "Tribal regalia" includes the following items of cultural significance:
   (A) tribal symbols;
   (B) beads; and
   (C) feathers.

(e) "Tribe" means a tribe, band, nation, or Alaskan Native village that:
   (i) federal law recognizes; or
   (ii) a state formally acknowledges.

(2) (a) A qualifying student may wear tribal regalia during a graduation ceremony.
   (b) Wearing tribal regalia includes decorating graduation attire with tribal regalia.
   (3) An LEA may not prohibit a qualifying student from wearing tribal regalia as
   described in Subsection (2).

   (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit an LEA's authority related to
   student expression under applicable federal and state law.