

STUDENT GRADUATION ATTIRE REVISIONS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill allows individuals to wear cultural attire during graduation ceremonies.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ allows all public school students to wear items of religious or cultural significance as part of their graduation attire.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53G-4-414, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53G-4-414** is enacted to read:

53G-4-414. Religious or cultural attire at school graduation ceremonies.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Adornment" means something attached to, or worn with, but not replacing, the cap and gown customarily worn at school graduation ceremonies.



28 (b) "Cultural" means recognized practices and traditions of a certain group of people.

29 (2) An LEA governing board may not prohibit a student from wearing traditional
30 recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at school graduation
31 ceremonies.

32 (3) In determining whether an adornment is a recognized object of religious or cultural
33 significance, the LEA governing board shall seek input from parents that are reflective of the
34 members of the religious or cultural group that the object is associated with.

35 (4) This section does not:

36 (a) limit an LEA governing board's discretion and authority to prohibit adornment that
37 is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the graduation
38 ceremony;

39 (b) limit an LEA's authority related to student expression under applicable federal and
40 state law; or

41 (c) limit or impair the rights of a qualifying student under Section [53G-4-412](#) to wear
42 tribal regalia to a graduation ceremony.