

**Representative Steve Eliason** proposes the following substitute bill:

**STUDENT GRADUATION ATTIRE AMENDMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses cultural and religious attire requirements worn during a high school graduation ceremony.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ provides that students may wear recognized cultural or religious adornments during a high school graduation unless the adornment substantially disrupts or materially interferes with the graduation ceremony; and
- ▶ requires a local education agency to use the least restrictive means to prohibit items of adornment.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53G-4-414**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

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

**53G-4-414. Recognized cultural or religious adornment at high school graduation ceremonies.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Adornment" means something that a student attaches to, or wears with, but does not replace, graduation attire.

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

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

(d) "Graduation ceremony" means a high school graduation ceremony.

(2) A student may wear recognized items of cultural or religious significance as an adornment at a graduation ceremony.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), an LEA may prohibit a student from wearing an item of adornment:

(a) that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the graduation ceremony; and

(b) if an LEA uses the least restrictive means necessary to accomplish a specifically identified compelling governmental interest.

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

(5) Nothing in this section limits or impairs the rights of a qualifying student under Section [53G-4-412](#) to wear tribal regalia to a graduation ceremony.