

Senator Karen Kwan proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **STUDENT GRADUATION ATTIRE MODIFICATIONS**

2 2023 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan**

5 House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

6 **LONG TITLE**

7 **General Description:**

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

9 **Highlighted Provisions:**

10 This bill:

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

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 None

17 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

18 **ENACTS:**

19 **53G-4-414**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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

22 **53G-4-414. Religious or cultural attire at school graduation ceremonies.**

23 **(1) As used in this section:**



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

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

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

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

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

34        (3) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), an LEA may prohibit a student from wearing  
35        an item of adornment that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference  
36        with, the graduation ceremony.

37        (b) Any prohibition imposed by an LEA on a student's item of cultural or religious  
38        significance worn as an adornment shall be by the least restrictive means necessary to  
39        accomplish a specifically identified compelling governmental interest.

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

42        (5) Nothing in this section shall limit or impair the rights of a qualifying student under  
43        Section 53G-4-412 to wear tribal regalia to a graduation ceremony.