

Senator Karen Kwan proposes the following substitute bill:

STUDENT GRADUATION ATTIRE MODIFICATIONS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan

House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

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:



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) An individual may bring a violation of this section to the state board in accordance
41 with the process described in Subsection [53E-3-401](#)(8)(d).

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

44 (6) Nothing in this section shall limit or impair the rights of a qualifying student under
45 Section [53G-4-412](#) to wear tribal regalia to a graduation ceremony.