

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 166
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/2/23

Short Title: American Indians Graduating with Honors Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 23, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ALLOW AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS TO WEAR CULTURAL OBJECTS
AT PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The title of Article 29D of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes reads
as rewritten:

"Article 29D.

~~"Student Prayer and Religious Activity~~Activity and Cultural Expression."

SECTION 2. Article 29D of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
adding a new section to read:

"§ 115C-407.40. Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies.

A student that is, or is eligible to be, enrolled as a member of a State or federally recognized
Indian Tribe shall be allowed to wear objects of cultural significance as part of the student's
regalia at any graduation ceremony for a school within a public school unit in which the student
is a graduating participant. For purposes of this section, objects of cultural significance are
defined as bird feathers and plumes."

SECTION 3.(a) G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
"**(k) Cultural Expression at Graduation Ceremonies. – A charter school shall comply with
G.S. 115C-407.40 at all graduation ceremonies.**"

SECTION 3.(b) G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
"**(19) Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies. – A regional school shall
comply with G.S. 115C-407.40 at all graduation ceremonies.**"

SECTION 3.(c) G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
"**(22) Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies. – A laboratory school shall
comply with G.S. 115C-407.40 at all graduation ceremonies.**"

SECTION 3.(d) Section 6(d)(22) of S.L. 2018-32 reads as rewritten:

"(22) Article 29D, ~~Student Prayer and Religious Activity~~Activity and Cultural
Expression."

SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.

