

**PROTECTING STUDENT RELIGIOUS AND MORAL
BELIEFS REGARDING ATHLETIC UNIFORM
REQUIREMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses requirements for uniforms worn while participating in certain school athletic activities.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ provides that certain associations and educational organizations may not prohibit a student athlete from wearing religious clothing, or other clothing consistent with the student athlete's beliefs, while participating in an athletic activity; and
- ▶ requires certain associations and educational organizations to provide the clothing described in the preceding paragraph if the association or educational organization requires that the clothing be a certain material, style, or color.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:



53G-7-801, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 223

ENACTS:

53G-7-804, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section 53G-7-801 is amended to read:

53G-7-801. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Association" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-1101.

(2) "Athletic activity" means physical education instruction or a sports event that is:

(a) sponsored or regulated by an association or educational organization; or

(b) authorized to take place in an association's or educational organization's facilities.

(3) "Athletic uniform" means clothing, headwear, shoes, or other items worn for participation in an athletic activity that are required to be:

(a) a specified style, length, material, or color;

(b) worn in a specified manner; or

(c) worn with or without other items of clothing or headwear.

(4) "Educational organization" means:

(a) the state board;

(b) an LEA; or

(c) a school sports team.

[~~(1)~~] (5) "Principal" includes the chief administrator of a school that does not have a principal.

[~~(2)~~] (6) "School" means a public school, including a charter school.

[~~(3)~~] (7) "School official" means the principal of a school or the local school board for a school district.

(8) "School sports team" means a team on which the student represents the student's school in competition against another school or in competition against other students within the same school.

[~~(4)~~] (9) "School uniform" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-501.

Section 2. Section **53G-7-804** is enacted to read:

53G-7-804. Requirements for uniforms for students participating in an athletic activity.

(1) An association or educational organization that requires a student to wear an athletic uniform for participation in an athletic activity may not prohibit the student from:

(a) wearing religious clothing with the athletic uniform; or

(b) wearing clothing under, or with, but not substantially covering, the athletic uniform to, consistent with the student's religious or moral beliefs, cover or conceal parts of the student's body that are not covered or concealed by the athletic uniform.

(2) (a) A student has the right to, while participating in an athletic activity that an association or educational organization sponsors or regulates, wear clothing as described in Subsection (1).

(b) The prohibition described in Subsection (1) and the right described in Subsection (2)(a) apply regardless of whether the student wears, or is required to wear, an athletic uniform while participating in the athletic activity.

(3) If an association or educational organization places requirements on religious clothing or other clothing described in Subsection (1) or (2), other than the material, style, or color of the uniform itself, the association or organization:

(a) shall provide the clothing at the association's or educational organization's expense; and

(b) may not impose a requirement in relation to the clothing, including the material, color, style, or manner of wearing the clothing, that violates the student's religious or moral beliefs.

Section 3. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2023.