

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023**

**SESSION LAW 2023-43
HOUSE BILL 166**

**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.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 12th day of June, 2023.

s/ Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Erin Paré
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved 1:40 p.m. this 14th day of June, 2023