

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 166
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H166-CSCI-4 [v.4]
03/01/2023 04:23:54 PM

Short Title: American Indians Graduating with Honors Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 23, 2023

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

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "Article 29D. ~~Student Prayer and Religious Activity~~. Activity and Cultural Expression."

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

10 "**§ 115C-407.40. Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies.**

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

16 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 "(k) Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies. – A charter school shall comply with
18 G.S. 115C-407.40 at all graduation ceremonies."

19 **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

20 "(19) Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies. – A regional school shall
21 comply with G.S. 115C-407.40 at all graduation ceremonies."

22 **SECTION 3.(c)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

23 "(22) Cultural expression at graduation ceremonies. – A laboratory school shall
24 comply with G.S. 115C-407.40 at all graduation ceremonies."

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

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

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

