

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 139

Short Title: American Indians Graduating with Honors Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Britt, McInnis, and Perry (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 22, 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, an object of cultural significance includes  
bird feathers and plumes."

**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

