

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 166

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

Sponsors: Representatives Lowery, Gillespie, B. Jones, and Clampitt (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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 regalia  
13 at any graduation ceremony for a school within a public school unit in which the student is a  
14 graduating participant. For purposes of this section, an object of cultural significance includes  
15 bird feathers and plumes."

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

