
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1393

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives McEntire, Morgan, Stonier, Simmons, Thai, Bergquist, Taylor, Springer, Wylie, Pollet, Ormsby, Hill, and Santos

Read first time 01/20/25. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing public school students with
2 opportunities for cultural expression at commencement ceremonies;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that high
7 school graduation is a significant milestone in a young person's life
8 representing years of academic and personal growth made possible
9 through hard work, perseverance, and the support of family, friends,
10 and teachers.

11 In acknowledgment of students' accomplishments, and the
12 identities and traditions informing their success, the legislature
13 intends to provide public school students with the opportunity to
14 express their cultural heritage at high school commencements and
15 other official graduation ceremonies and events through the wearing
16 of items or objects of cultural significance. The legislature intends
17 also for this policy to bring parity to all cultural groups by
18 allowing them to express cultural pride at commencements and other
19 official graduation ceremonies and events.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) School districts shall permit students to wear an item or
4 object of cultural significance with or attached to their gown at
5 high school commencements and other official graduation ceremonies
6 and events. For the purposes of this section, "an item or object of
7 cultural significance" may include multiple items or objects if they
8 are traditionally worn or used together. Items or objects worn in
9 accordance with this section must be befitting of the ceremony or
10 event and adhere to applicable decorum requirements of the school
11 district.

12 (2) This section governs school operation and management under
13 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020 and applies to charter schools
14 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education
15 compact schools subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same extent as
16 it applies to school districts.

17 (3) Nothing in this section limits the discretion and authority
18 of a school district to prohibit items or objects that are likely to
19 cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, a
20 high school commencement or other official graduation ceremony or
21 event.

22 (4) Nothing in this section modifies or otherwise effects RCW
23 28A.600.500.

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