



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2636/1  
FFK:skw

## 2023 SENATE BILL 199

April 3, 2023 - Introduced by JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. Referred to Committee on Education.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 118.335 of the statutes; **relating to:** pupils wearing traditional  
2 tribal regalia at a graduation ceremony or school-sponsored event.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

Wisconsin law contains some general protections for a pupil's religious beliefs, ancestry, creed, race, and national origin. Specifically, schools must provide for the reasonable accommodation of a pupil's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to all examinations and other academic requirements. Additionally, no student may be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity because of race, religion, national origin, ancestry or creed. However, current law does not explicitly address an American Indian student's right to wear traditional tribal regalia at a graduation ceremony or school-sponsored event.

This bill provides that school boards and charter schools may not prohibit a pupil who is a member of, a descendent of a member of, or eligible to be enrolled in, a federally recognized, whether currently or in the past, American Indian tribe or band from wearing traditional tribal regalia at a graduation ceremony or school-sponsored event. The bill defines "traditional tribal regalia" as a tribe's traditional dress or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance, including tribal symbols, beads, and feathers.

