



**AB-233 Pupils: right to wear religious, ceremonial, or cultural adornments at school graduation ceremonies.** (2017-2018)

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ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 08, 2017

PASSED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 05, 2017

PASSED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 07, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 28, 2017

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 03, 2017

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 23, 2017

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 08, 2017

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2017–2018 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**NO. 233**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Gloria**

**January 26, 2017**

An act to add Section 35183.1 to the Education Code, relating to pupils.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 233, Gloria. Pupils: right to wear religious, ceremonial, or cultural adornments at school graduation ceremonies.

Existing law authorizes the governing board of any school district to adopt or rescind a reasonable dress code policy that requires pupils to wear a schoolwide uniform or prohibits pupils from wearing gang-related apparel. Existing law authorizes these actions if the governing board of the school district approves a plan, which may be initiated by an individual school's principal, staff, or parents, and determines that the policy is necessary for the health and safety of the school environment. Existing law also authorizes individual schools to include the reasonable dress code policy as part of their school safety plans. Existing law prohibits a dress code policy adopted pursuant to this provision from precluding pupils who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization from wearing organization uniforms on days that the organization has a scheduled meeting.

This bill would declare that, notwithstanding any other law, a pupil has the right to wear religious, ceremonial, or cultural adornments, as defined, at school graduation ceremonies. The bill would also declare that nothing in its provisions shall be construed to limit a local educational agency's authority to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or

interference with, the ceremony or to expand or diminish any pupil rights established under specified provisions related to school dress codes and pupil freedom of speech.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

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## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Section 35183.1 is added to the Education Code, to read:

**35183.1.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil has the right to wear religious, ceremonial, or cultural adornments at school graduation ceremonies. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a local educational agency's authority to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or interference with, the ceremony or to expand or diminish any pupil rights established under Section 35183 or 48950.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (1) "Adornment" means something attached to, or worn with, but not replacing, the cap and gown customarily worn at school graduation ceremonies.
- (2) "Cultural" means relating to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people.
- (3) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.