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AB-1248 Pupils: wearing of traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies. (2017-2018)

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Assembly Bill No. 1248

CHAPTER 804

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

[Approved by Governor September 27, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 27, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1248, Gloria. Pupils: wearing of traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment 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 provide that a pupil may wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment, 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 discretion and authority to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the ceremony.

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

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) A pupil may wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a local educational agency's discretion and authority to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the ceremony.

(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 recognized practices and traditions of a certain group of people.

(3) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.