



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: May 30, 2023

Re: SB 0429

Signed: Governor Veto Overridden May 25, 2023

Effective: July 1, 2023

Topic: Tribal Regalia

Summary: This bill creates a new law (70 O.S. § 24-160) permitting a student enrolled in a public school district, a public charter school, a technology center school or an institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to wear tribal regalia during the school's official graduation ceremonies, whether held at a public or private location.

Tribal regalia is defined as traditional garments, jewelry, other adornments such as an eagle feather, an eagle plume, a beaded cap, a stole, or similar objects of cultural and religious significance worn by members of a federally recognized Indian tribe or the tribe of another country. Tribal regalia does not include any firearm or other weapon. Tribal regalia does not include any object that is otherwise prohibited by federal law, except in compliance with an appropriate federal permit.

The new law further provides that a school district board of education may adopt a policy pursuant to the act specifying the characteristics of any garment, jewelry other adornment or object that the school or institution finds will endanger the safety of a student or others or interfere with graduation ceremonies if worn by a student. Nothing in the act limits or alters the authority of school personnel to regulate student behavior pursuant to the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act.

For more information on this Act, please visit the firm's website to view the signed Act.

Legal counsel at the firm is currently reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.