

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 HOUSE BILL 2783

By: Walke

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to officers; amending 51 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 253, which relates to the Oklahoma Religious
9 Freedom Act; declaring certain policies to
10 substantially burden a person's free exercise of
11 religion; defining term; and providing an effective
12 date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2011, Section 253, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 253. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this
17 section, no governmental entity shall substantially burden a
18 person's free exercise of religion even if the burden results from a
19 rule of general applicability.

20 B. No governmental entity shall substantially burden a person's
21 free exercise of religion unless it demonstrates that application of
22 the burden to the person is:

23 1. Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and
24

1 2. The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling
2 governmental interest.

3 C. A school or school district policy prohibiting students from
4 wearing tribal regalia during high school graduations, if that
5 conduct is motivated by the student's religious beliefs, shall be
6 considered to substantially burden the student's free exercise of
7 religion. For purposes of this section, a "compelling governmental
8 interest" shall not include the school policy described in this
9 subsection if the interest is primarily a mere desire for aesthetic
10 uniformity.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

Comment [1]: BDERIV

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13 57-2-9208 AMM 11/21/19
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