

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB4303 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by
inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Amendment submitted by: Trey Caldwell

Adopted: _____

Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4303

By: Caldwell (Trey)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to students; amending 51 O.S. 2021, Section 253, which relates to the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act; declaring certain policies to substantially burden a student's free exercise of religion; defining term; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2021, Section 253, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

1. Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and

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

3 C. Any order or rule issued by any governmental entity pursuant
4 to an emergency that requires closure of any place of worship
5 entitled to the religious exemption found in Section 501(c)(3) of
6 Title 26 of the United States Code shall be considered a substantial
7 burden even if the order or rule is one of general applicability.

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

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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18 58-2-10435 EK 02/10/22
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