

SENATE BILL NO. 319

INTRODUCED BY J. GROSS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING A STATE AGENCY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM PROHIBITING AN INDIVIDUAL FROM WEARING TRADITIONAL TRIBAL REGALIA OR OBJECTS OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AT CERTAIN PUBLIC EVENTS; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance -- allowed at public events. (1) The purpose of this section is to help further the state's recognition of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and the state's commitment to preserving the American Indians' cultural integrity as provided in Article X, section 1(2), of the Montana constitution.

(2) A state agency or a local government may not prohibit an individual from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a public event.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Individual" means a human being regardless of age.

(b) "Local government" has the meaning provided in 2-2-102.

(c) "Public event" means an event held or sponsored by a state agency or a local government, including but not limited to an award ceremony, a graduation ceremony, or a public meeting.

(d) "State agency" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, and the provisions of Title 2 apply to [section 1].

