

Tribal Regalia and Objects of Cultural Significance; HB 2498

HB 2498 prohibits state agencies and municipalities from prohibiting individuals from wearing tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at public events.

The bill defines the following terms:

- “Municipality” means any county, township, city, school district, or other political or taxing subdivision of the state, or any agency, authority, institution, or other instrumentality thereof;
- “Public event” means an event held or sponsored by a state agency or municipality, including, but not limited to, an award ceremony, a graduation ceremony, or a meeting of a governing body; and
- “State agency” means the State of Kansas and any department or branch of state government, or any agency, authority, institution, or other instrumentality thereof.

The bill requires the Secretary of State to send a copy of the bill to each tribal government on the four reservations in Kansas on the effective date of the bill.

The bill states the Kansas Legislature declares the purpose of the bill is to help further the State’s recognition of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of Native Americans and the State’s commitment to preserving Native Americans’ cultural integrity.