

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1362 (Charles County Delegation)  
Ways and Means

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**Education - Public Schools - Authorizing Cellular Telephones**

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This bill allows a student who drives to school to keep a cellular telephone inside the motor vehicle for the purpose of facilitating communication between the student and the student's parent or guardian. A school principal may grant permission to use a cellular telephone on school property in other circumstances. The bill specifies certain penalties for violations against the use of cellular telephones on school property.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. School officials are already required to report individuals who bring cellular telephones onto school property to a law enforcement officer. In addition, students who violate the prohibition against possessing cellular telephones can already be charged with a misdemeanor offense.

**Small Business Effect:** None. Small businesses are not directly affected.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Additional Comments:** Under current law, students are prohibited from possessing a portable pager on public school property, except under certain circumstances. Portable pagers are defined as any device carried, worn, or transported by an individual to receive or communicate messages. This definition includes cellular telephones.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Maryland State

Department of Education, Department of Fiscal Services

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