

# HOUSE BILL 57

F1

5lr1002

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo**

Requested: September 30, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Student Cellular Phone Use Policy –**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to develop and implement a  
5 policy limiting the use of a cellular phone by a student during the school day except  
6 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of education  
7 and a student cellular phone use policy.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–136

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–136.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “INSTRUCTIONAL TIME” MEANS ANY TIME DURING**  
18 **THE SCHOOL DAY, EXCEPT A STUDENT’S LUNCH PERIOD.**

19 **(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY TO**  
20 **LIMIT THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES BY STUDENTS DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.**

21 **(C) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
22 **POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(1) PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM USING A CELLULAR PHONE DURING**  
2 **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME; AND**

3           **(2) REQUIRE A STUDENT TO STORE THE STUDENT'S CELLULAR**  
4 **PHONE IN A SECURE PLACE DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME, INCLUDING:**

5                   **(I) A LOCKER;**

6                   **(II) A CLOSED BACKPACK; OR**

7                   **(III) A STORAGE CONTAINER PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL.**

8           **(D) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A**  
9 **STUDENT FROM USING A CELLULAR PHONE:**

10                   **(1) FOR ANY PURPOSE DOCUMENTED IN THE STUDENT'S**  
11 **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM;**

12                   **(2) TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS A STUDENT'S DOCUMENTED HEALTH**  
13 **ISSUE; OR**

14                   **(3) WHEN DIRECTED BY AN EDUCATOR OR ADMINISTRATOR FOR**  
15 **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.**

16           **(E) A POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE**  
17 **APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE POLICY.**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2025.