

HOUSE BILL 147

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5lr1207

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Wu, Grammer, T. Morgan, Pasteur, and Patterson**

Requested: October 14, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Elementary and Middle Schools – Student**
3 **Technology Use Policy**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain county boards of education to develop and adopt a
5 policy that prohibits elementary and middle school students from using a cellular
6 phone or personal electronic device during the school day except under certain
7 circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of education and a student
8 technology use policy for elementary and middle schools.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–136

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–136.**

18 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE” MEANS ANY**
19 **PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE FOR INDIVIDUAL USE, INCLUDING A SMARTPHONE,**
20 **TABLET, LAPTOP, OR SMARTWATCH.**

21 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A COUNTY BOARD THAT HAS AN**
22 **EXISTING POLICY LIMITING THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND PERSONAL**
23 **ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

2 (C) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT A POLICY THAT
3 PROHIBITS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OR A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT FROM USING
4 A CELLULAR PHONE OR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

5 (D) A POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A
6 STUDENT FROM USING A CELLULAR PHONE OR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE:

7 (1) FOR ANY PURPOSE DOCUMENTED IN THE STUDENT'S
8 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR SECTION 504 PLAN;

9 (2) TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS A STUDENT'S DOCUMENTED HEALTH
10 ISSUE; OR

11 (3) WHEN DIRECTED BY AN EDUCATOR OR ADMINISTRATOR FOR
12 EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2025.