

HOUSE BILL 147

F1

5lr1207

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Wu, Boafu, Fraser-Hidalgo, Grammer, T. Morgan, Pasteur, and Patterson**

Requested: October 14, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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~~ on the use of a personal electronic device during the school day except under
7 ~~certain circumstances;~~ school hours; requiring that the policy limit the use of a
8 smartphone and a device connected to a smartphone during instructional time,
9 except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of
10 education and a student technology use policy ~~for elementary and middle schools~~
11 during school hours.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 7–136

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 7-136.

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE" MEANS ANY
3 PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE FOR INDIVIDUAL USE, INCLUDING A SMARTPHONE,
4 TABLET, LAPTOP, ~~OR SMARTWATCH, OR SMARTGLASSES.~~

5 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A COUNTY BOARD THAT HAS AN
6 EXISTING POLICY ~~LIMITING THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND~~ ON THE USE OF
7 PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE
8 SCHOOLS DURING SCHOOL HOURS DURING SCHOOL HOURS THAT INCLUDES A
9 LIMITATION ON THE USE OF A SMARTPHONE OR A DEVICE CONNECTED TO A
10 SMARTPHONE DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

11 (C) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT A POLICY
12 ~~THAT PROHIBITS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OR A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT FROM~~
13 ~~USING A CELLULAR PHONE OR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING SCHOOL~~
14 ~~HOURS~~ ON THE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

15 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION,
16 THE POLICY SHALL INCLUDE A LIMITATION ON THE USE OF A SMARTPHONE OR A
17 DEVICE CONNECTED TO A SMARTPHONE DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

18 (D) A POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A
19 STUDENT FROM USING A ~~CELLULAR PHONE OR PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE~~
20 SMARTPHONE OR A DEVICE CONNECTED TO A SMARTPHONE:

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

23 (2) TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS A STUDENT'S DOCUMENTED HEALTH
24 ISSUE; OR

25 (3) WHEN DIRECTED BY AN EDUCATOR OR ADMINISTRATOR FOR
26 EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

27 (E) A POLICY ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE
28 PUBLISHED:

29 (1) ON THE WEBSITE OF EACH COUNTY BOARD; AND

30 (2) IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.