

# HOUSE BILL 755

F1

6lr1886

---

By: **Delegate Wolek**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Student Personal Electronic Device Use Policy –**  
3 **Establishment**  
4 **(Phones Away for the School Day Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to develop and implement,  
6 not later than a certain school year, a policy prohibiting the use of a personal  
7 electronic device by a student during school day hours except under certain  
8 circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of education and a student  
9 personal electronic device use policy.

10 BY adding to  
11 Article – Education  
12 Section 7–137  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **7–137.**

19 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
20 **INDICATED.**

21 **(2) (I) “PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE” MEANS ANY PORTABLE**  
22 **ELECTRONIC DEVICE CARRIED OR TRANSPORTED BY A STUDENT TO RECEIVE, SEND,**  
23 **OR RECORD VOICE, IMAGE, OR TEXT CONTENT.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(II) "PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE PROVIDED BY A COUNTY BOARD FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES OR A MEDICAL DEVICE PROVIDED BY A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL FOR A STUDENT'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

(3) "SCHOOL DAY HOURS" MEANS ALL THE HOURS OF THE SCHOOL DAY FROM THE START OF THE DAY UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY.

(4) "STORE" MEANS TO SECURE IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY BOARD TO ENSURE THE PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS NOT CARRIED ON THE STUDENT'S PERSON.

(B) NOT LATER THAN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL DAY HOURS.

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

(1) PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM USING A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING SCHOOL DAY HOURS; AND

(2) REQUIRE A STUDENT TO STORE THE STUDENT'S PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING SCHOOL DAY HOURS.

(D) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM USING A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE FOR ANY PURPOSE DOCUMENTED IN THE STUDENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR 504 PLAN.

(E) EACH SCHOOL SHALL DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE TELEPHONES IN THE SCHOOL TO BE USED BY STUDENTS TO CONTACT A STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT DURING SCHOOL DAY HOURS IF NECESSARY.

(F) (1) A POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE POLICY.

(2) A DISCIPLINARY MEASURE ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT INCLUDE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION SOLELY FOR A VIOLATION OF THE POLICY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

