

# SENATE BILL 79

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr1072  
CF HB 163

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By: **Senator Benson**

Requested: October 2, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Student Technology Use Policy – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a county board of education to develop and adopt a policy on  
4 the use of personal electronic devices during school hours; requiring the policy to  
5 restrict or limit the use of personal electronic devices by students during school  
6 hours, except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to county boards  
7 of education and a student technology use policy.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–137

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 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 **7–137.**

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

20 (B) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT A POLICY  
21 PROHIBITING OR LIMITING THE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY  
22 STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE POLICY SHALL INCLUDE:**

**(I) FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, A PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING SCHOOL HOURS; AND**

**(II) FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, A LIMITATION ON THE USE OF A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING SCHOOL HOURS.**

**(C) A POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM USING A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE:**

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

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

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

**(D) A POLICY ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE:**

**(1) PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COUNTY BOARD;**

**(2) PUBLISHED IN THE SCHOOL'S STUDENT HANDBOOK; AND**

**(3) REVIEWED EVERY 2 YEARS:**

**(I) FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND**

**(II) FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, BY THE COUNTY BOARD.**

**(E) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ENFORCE THE POLICY ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS.**

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