

**ADRIAN BOAFO**  
*Legislative District 23*  
Prince George's County

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chair Atterbeary  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 130  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The increasing prevalence of smartphones and social media presents a significant challenge to student focus and academic achievement. While technology offers valuable educational resources, its constant accessibility can disrupt classroom learning and hinder cognitive development. HB630, the Maryland Phone Free School Act, provides a balanced and flexible approach to addressing this challenge.

Research demonstrates the negative impact of smartphone distractions on student attention spans, academic performance, and overall well-being. By minimizing these distractions during instructional time, HB630 creates a more conducive learning environment for all students.

HB630 recognizes the diverse needs of Maryland's counties. By empowering local school districts to develop and implement policies that best suit their specific contexts, this bill ensures a tailored and effective approach to managing student phone usage.

HB630 strikes a crucial balance, by ensuring that phones are utilized as educational tools, not as barriers to learning. It allows for students with individualized education plans or section 504 plans to use technology, ensures those with documentation can log or track health conditions digitally, and—of course—prioritizes student and community safety during emergencies.

By empowering local communities and prioritizing student learning, this legislation represents a critical step towards creating a more focused and effective education system for all Maryland students. I urge a favorable report on HB630.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Boafo".

Delegate Adrian Boafo