

# SENATE BILL 130

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5lr0757

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Benson**

Requested: September 5, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Student Cellular Device Use Policy – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to develop and implement a  
4 policy that prohibits students from using a cellular device during the school day  
5 except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of  
6 education and student cellular device use policy.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Education

9 Section 4–147

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 **4–147.**

16 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
17 INDICATED.

18 (2) “CELLULAR DEVICE” MEANS ANY PORTABLE, WIRELESS  
19 COMMUNICATION DEVICE, INCLUDING A SMARTPHONE, TABLET, OR WEARABLE  
20 DEVICE.

21 (3) “INSTRUCTIONAL TIME” MEANS ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL  
22 DAY, EXCEPT A STUDENT’S LUNCH PERIOD.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1       **(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY TO**  
2 **PROHIBIT THE USE OF A CELLULAR DEVICE BY STUDENTS DURING INSTRUCTIONAL**  
3 **TIME.**

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

6               **(1) PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM USING A CELLULAR DEVICE DURING**  
7 **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME; AND**

8               **(2) REQUIRE A STUDENT TO STORE THE STUDENT'S CELLULAR**  
9 **DEVICE IN A SECURE STORAGE CONTAINER.**

10       **(D) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A**  
11 **STUDENT FROM USING A CELLULAR DEVICE:**

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

14               **(2) TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS A STUDENT'S HEALTH ISSUE THAT HAS**  
15 **BEEN DOCUMENTED BY A LICENSED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL; OR**

16               **(3) FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES WHEN DIRECTED BY AN EDUCATOR**  
17 **OR ADMINISTRATOR.**

18       **(E) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE**  
19 **APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE POLICY.**

20       **(F) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL NOTIFY STUDENTS, PARENTS AND**  
21 **GUARDIANS, AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL OF THE POLICY DEVELOPED AND**  
22 **IMPLEMENTED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

23       **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**  
24 **1, 2025.**