

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 142

5 By: Senators Dees, Hester, J. Boyd, B. Davis, J. English, Flippo, Gilmore, K. Hammer, Irvin, B. Johnson,
6 M. Johnson, M. McKee, R. Murdock, J. Petty, Stone
7 By: Representatives Eubanks, Evans, N. Burkes, R. Burkes, Crawford, Duke, Gramlich, Hall, Lundstrum,
8 McAlindon, B. McKenzie, Puryear, R. Scott Richardson, Torres, Underwood
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For An Act To Be Entitled

10
11 AN ACT TO CREATE THE BELL TO BELL, NO CELL ACT; TO
12 AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISCIPLINE
13 POLICIES WITH REGARD TO STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL
14 ELECTRONIC DEVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO CREATE THE BELL TO BELL, NO CELL ACT;
19 AND TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC
20 SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICIES WITH REGARD
21 TO STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC
22 DEVICES.
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

27 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Bell to Bell, No Cell
28 Act".
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30 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

31 (a) The General Assembly finds:

32 (1) The rise of cell phone and social media use by young people
33 is leading to unintended and, at times, harmful consequences to the academic
34 and mental well-being of young people; and

35 (2) Students, parents, teachers, and education leaders are
36 grappling with the tension between protecting students' safety, well-being,



1 and learning experiences while allowing safe and reasonable access to new,
 2 innovative tools for communication.

3 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to offer solutions to the
 4 challenges posed by the use of cell phones and social media by young people
 5 in order to provide safe school environments that are conducive to learning
 6 while also protecting the rights of students and parents to freely and openly
 7 communicate.

8
 9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-515 is amended to read as follows:
 10 6-18-515. Use of personal electronic devices – ~~Definition~~ Definitions.

11 (a) As used in this section, ~~“personal electronic device”~~:

12 (1) "Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and dangerous
 13 situation that requires immediate action, including without limitation:

14 (A) An active fire;

15 (B) An active tornado or earthquake;

16 (C) An active shooter;

17 (D) An evacuation of school grounds; or

18 (E) A medical emergency;

19 (2) "Personal electronic device" means without limitation a:

20 ~~(1)-(A)~~ Cellular telephone;

21 ~~(2)-(B)~~ Paging device;

22 ~~(3)-(C)~~ Beeper;

23 ~~(4)-(D)~~ Mobile telephone that offers advanced computing and
 24 internet accessibility;

25 ~~(5)-(E)~~ Digital media player;

26 ~~(6)-(F)~~ Portable game console;

27 ~~(7)-(G)~~ Tablet, notebook, or laptop computer;

28 ~~(8)-(H)~~ Digital camera; ~~and~~

29 ~~(9)-(I)~~ Digital video or audio recorder;

30 (J) Smart watch; and

31 (K) Device that can connect and transmit data through
 32 Bluetooth technology; and

33 (3) "School day" means from the time students are required to be
 34 at school until the time students are dismissed from school.

35 (b)(1) A By the 2025-2026 school year, each public school district may
 36 and open-enrollment public charter school shall establish a ~~written student~~

1 ~~discipline~~ policy and exemptions concerning the possession and use by a
 2 student of a personal electronic device during the school day:

3 ~~(1)(A)~~ On school property; and

4 ~~(2) At an after school activity; or~~

5 ~~(3)(B)~~ At a school-related function.

6 (2) Each public school district and open-enrollment public
 7 charter school shall submit its policy and exemptions concerning the
 8 possession and use by a student of a personal electronic device required
 9 under subdivision (b)(1) of this section to the Division of Elementary and
 10 Secondary Education for review and approval or disapproval.

11 (c) The policy ~~may~~ shall, without limitation:

12 (1) ~~Allow or restrict~~ Restrict the possession ~~and use~~ of a
 13 personal electronic device during the school day;

14 (2) ~~Allow the use of a personal electronic device in school for~~
 15 ~~instructional purposes at the discretion of a teacher or administrator~~
 16 Prohibit the use of a personal electronic device during the school day;

17 (3) ~~Limit the times or locations in which a personal electronic~~
 18 ~~device may be used to make telephone calls, send text messages or emails, or~~
 19 ~~engage in other forms of communication;~~

20 (4) ~~Allow or prohibit the use of any photographic, audio, or~~
 21 ~~video recording capabilities of a personal electronic device while in school;~~

22 (5) Exempt the possession or use of a personal electronic device
 23 by a student who is required to use such a device for health ~~or another~~
 24 ~~compelling reason~~ reasons;

25 (6)(4) Exempt the possession or use of a personal electronic
 26 device after ~~normal~~ a school hours day for extracurricular activities; and

27 (7) ~~Include other relevant provisions deemed appropriate and~~
 28 ~~necessary by the school district~~ (5) Exempt the possession or use of a
 29 personal electronic device during an emergency.

30 (d) A policy adopted and implemented under this section shall not
 31 prohibit a student from using a personal electronic device during the school
 32 day if the use of the personal electronic device is included in the
 33 student's:

34 (1) Individualized education program developed under the
 35 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it
 36 existed on January 1, 2025; or

1 (2) Plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
2 of 1973, 29 U.S.C § 794, as it existed on January 1, 2025.

3 (e) Each public school district and open-enrollment public charter
4 school shall publish on its website its personal electronic device policy
5 required under this section before the first day of the school year each
6 year.

7 (f) A public school district or an open-enrollment public charter
8 school that fails to adopt or enforce the personal electronic device policy
9 required under this section, as determined by the division, shall be cited
10 for a violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools
11 and School Districts.

12 (g) A public school district or an open-enrollment public charter
13 school shall not be liable for a personal electronic device that is
14 confiscated under the public school district's or open-enrollment public
15 charter school's personal electronic device policy required under this
16 section if the personal electronic device is lost, stolen, or damaged.

17 (h) The division shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this
18 section, including without limitation rules that:

19 (1) Govern the process for monitoring compliance with this
20 section; and

21 (2) Establish the process for approving or disapproving a policy
22 submitted to the division by a public school district or an open-enrollment
23 public charter school as required under subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

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