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Senate Bill 234 (as introduced 4-22-25)
Sponsor: Senator Dayna Polehanki
Committee: Education

Date Completed: 4-22-25

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to require the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy (PSA) to create and implement a policy seeking to limit student cell phone use at its schools.

Specifically, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the bill would require the board of a school district or the board of directors of a PSA to develop and implement wireless communications device policies for the elementary, middle, and high schools operated by the district or PSA. "Wireless communication device" would mean an electronic device capable of, but not limited to, text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, or producing email.

Such a policy would have to seek to limit student cell phone use during school hours and reduce wireless communication device-related distractions in classroom settings. A wireless communications device policy could prohibit students from using a wireless communications device on school grounds during instructional time, breaks between instructional time, lunch, and recess.

"School grounds" would mean a building, playing field, or property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by a school. The term would not include a building used primarily for adult education or college extension.

The board of a school district or the board of directors of a PSA could implement additional restrictions regarding the use of wireless communications devices; however, a policy implemented under the bill would have to provide exceptions for emergency situations, devices necessary for medical use, and devices included in an individualized education program. A policy also would have to allow for the principal or chief administrator of a public school to implement further exceptions at the principal's or chief administrator's discretion.

Lastly, the bill would require the board or board of directors to post its wireless communications device policy on the school district's or PSA's website.

Proposed MCL 380.1304

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan

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