

SENATOR FOR A DAY MOCK LEGISLATION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

NO. 1
Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY _____ March 26, 2026

REFERRED TO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Cell Phone Use in Schools

This legislation would require public schools to adopt policies limiting student access to cell phones during the school day. The goal is to reduce distractions and improve learning environments while allowing flexibility for schools to determine how best to implement the policy.

Section 1. Definitions

The following word when used in this act shall have the meanings given to it in this section:

"Cell phone." Any personal electronic device capable of sending or receiving calls, messages, or accessing the internet.

Section 2. Policy Requirements

1. Each school district shall create a bell-to-bell phone-free policy for students during instructional hours.
2. Exceptions may be allowed for:
 - a. Medical needs or documented educational plans.
 - b. Instructional use approved by a teacher or administrator.

Section 3. Implementation

1. Policies must be adopted and in effect by the start of the 2027–2028 school year.
2. Schools may determine enforcement methods, such as:
 - a. Lockable pouches
 - i. Designated storage areas
 - ii. Other reasonable approaches

Section 4. Penalties

1. Schools may set consequences for violations, which could include:
 - a. Warnings
 - b. Detention
 - c. Other disciplinary actions as determined by the district

This act shall take effect in 60 days.