

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2746 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, MILLARD, DIAMOND, LEWIS DELROSSO,  
HENNESSEY AND WARNER, JULY 13, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JULY 13, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in pupils and attendance, providing  
6 for possession of cell phones.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1317.4. Possession of Cell Phones.--(a) Except as  
13 provided in subsection (b), a student of a public school entity  
14 may not possess or use a cell phone during the school day in a  
15 school building of the public school entity. The following  
16 apply:

17 (1) Upon entering the school building at the beginning of  
18 the school day, the student shall:

19 (i) deposit the cell phone in a lockbox or other secure  
20 location for the duration of the school day; or

1 (ii) secure the cell phone in a case or pouch with a locking  
2 mechanism, if the locking mechanism prohibits the student from  
3 accessing the cell phone during the school day, so that the  
4 student may carry the cell phone during the school day.

5 (2) At the end of the school day, the student may:

6 (i) retrieve the cell phone from the lockbox or other secure  
7 location; or

8 (ii) unlock the case or pouch with the locking mechanism.

9 (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a student if each of  
10 the following apply:

11 (1) The student:

12 (i) is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or  
13 rescue squad; or

14 (ii) has a need for the cell phone due to the medical  
15 condition of an immediate family member.

16 (2) The school authorities of the public school entity  
17 approve of the possession and use of the cell phone by the  
18 student during the school day in a school building of the public  
19 school entity.

20 (c) Each public school entity shall develop or update its  
21 written policies to implement this section. The written policies  
22 shall be subject to the approval of the Department of Education.

23 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
24 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

25 "Public school entity" means a school district, independent  
26 school, area career and technical school, intermediate unit,  
27 charter school or regional charter school.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.