
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1207 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, ARGALL, MASTRIANO, SCHWANK, BREWSTER,
VOGEL AND SANTARSIERO, JUNE 21, 2024

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 21, 2024

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 school safety and security,
6 establishing the Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program.

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 1322-B. Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot
14 Program is established in the commission. The purpose of the
15 program shall be to provide funding to cover the costs of
16 purchasing secure cell phone lockable bags. The commission
17 shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this section and
18 subject to availability of funds, award grants to successful
19 applicants and ensure that grant funding under the program is
20 geographically dispersed throughout this Commonwealth. The

1 number of applicants chosen shall be contingent upon the amount
2 of funding allocated.

3 (b) Duties.--A school entity that participates in the
4 program must:

5 (1) Create a school entity policy that prohibits the use
6 of cell phones during school time and employs the use of cell
7 phone lockable bags. The policy shall provide for exemptions
8 for students who have a documented medical condition that
9 necessitates the use of the phone, such as diabetes. The
10 school entity's adopted policy shall be posted on the school
11 entity's publicly accessible Internet website.

12 (2) Track changes over the course of two school years in
13 student mental health, incidents of bullying, incidents of
14 violence and academic performance and submit that information
15 to the commission. The commission shall develop a uniform
16 report method for the school entity to use to track each of
17 the metrics.

18 (c) Report.--The commission shall submit to the Governor and
19 the General Assembly a report on the program utilizing the data
20 submitted to the commission. The report may not contain any
21 identifiable information regarding a student. Any information
22 submitted by school entities as part of the program, the
23 disclosure of which would be reasonably likely to result in a
24 substantial and demonstrable risk of physical harm or the
25 personal security of students or staff shall remain confidential
26 and shall not be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6,
27 No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law. The commission may
28 release aggregate data at its discretion.

29 (d) Expiration.--This section shall expire December 1, 2026.

30 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Cell phone lockable bag." A reusable, secure case, pouch,
4 or bag that has a locking mechanism and can be used to store
5 cell phones and other smart devices.

6 "Program." The Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program.

7 "School entity." Notwithstanding section 1301-B, a school
8 district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school,
9 charter school, regional charter school, approved private
10 school, nonpublic school, chartered school for the education of
11 the deaf or the blind or private residential rehabilitative
12 institution.

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