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.
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8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:
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11 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
12 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
13 section to read:
14
15 Section 1322-B. Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program.
16
17 (a) Establishment.--The Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot
18 Program is established in the commission COMMITTEE. The purpose
19 of the program shall be to provide funding to cover the costs of
20 purchasing secure cell phone lockable bags. The commission
21 COMMITTEE shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this
22 section and subject to availability of funds, award grants to
23 successful applicants and ensure that grant funding under the
24 program is geographically dispersed throughout this
Commonwealth. The number of applicants chosen shall be contingent upon the amount of funding allocated.

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

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

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

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

(d) Expiration.--This section shall expire December 1, 2026.
(e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

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

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

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