



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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Senate Bill 822 as passed the Senate  
First Analysis (6-9-88) **RECEIVED**

Sponsor: Sen. William Faust  
Senate Committee: Education and Mental Health  
House Committee: Education  
Mich. State Law Library

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

There are reports that some high school students wear electronic pagers while in school. Students who wear pagers are commonly identified as drug traffickers who need to be in contact with their suppliers or customers. Some school districts want to prohibit the carrying of pagers but are reluctant because there is no state policy to back them up in case of lawsuits.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the School Code to prohibit a school board from permitting any pupil to carry a pocket pager or electronic communication device in school, except for health or other unusual reasons approved by the board, and to allow a school board to develop penalties for violations. The bill would take effect 90 days after enactment.

MCL 380.1303

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

There is no information at present.

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The bill would put into statute a state policy against students carrying electronic pagers while in school. The practice is associated with drug trafficking, and the state should make life as difficult as possible for those engaged in the illegal drug trade. Local boards would have the discretion to make exceptions but would have the security of knowing their responsibilities regarding pagers.

***Against:***

Pagers are not the problem. Drug trafficking is. Students may have legitimate reasons for carrying pagers; they may have legitimate employment that requires them occasionally to check in. Some people fear there may be constitutional issues involved as well. Certainly, this is an issue local districts ought to be able to handle by themselves.

***POSITIONS:***

There are no positions at present.