

# Legislative Analysis



## REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE POLICY

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4141 (proposed substitute H-2)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Mark A. Tisdell**

**Committee: Education and Workforce**

**Complete to 5-13-25**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 4141 would amend the Revised School Code to require the board of a school district or the board of a public school academy (PSA, also commonly referred to as a charter school) to implement a *wireless communications device* policy that governs device use on *school grounds*.

*Wireless communications device* would mean an electronic device capable of text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, sending and receiving photos and videos, or producing email. A *basic telephone* would not be considered a wireless communications device.

*Basic telephone* would mean a device primarily used for voice calling that cannot support third-party applications, except those preinstalled, and does not support access to internet platforms via applications or web browsers.

*School grounds* would mean a building, playing field, or property used for functions and events sponsored by a school, but would not include a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses.

For students enrolled in elementary or middle school, the policy would have to prohibit use of a wireless communications device on school grounds during all of the following:

- Instructional time.
- Breaks between instructional time.
- Lunch.
- Recess.

For students enrolled in high school, the policy would have to prohibit use of a wireless communications device during instructional time.

A school that enrolls students from multiple elementary, middle, and high school grades would meet the bill's requirements by implementing a policy that prohibits use on school grounds during instructional time. In addition to the above required limitations, boards could implement additional restrictions regarding the use of a wireless communications device.

The bill would require the following exemptions as part of a wireless communications device policy:

- Medically necessary devices.

- District-owned devices, such as school-issued tablets and laptops.
- Devices designated by the district to be used for instructional purposes.
- Devices used for special education programming or provided as an accommodation to students as required under section 504 of Title V of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794).
- Lesson-specific academic assignments, at the limited and direct discretion of a classroom teacher.

Finally, the bill would repeal section 1303 of the Revised School Code, which allows the board of a school district or PSA to adopt and implement its own local policy concerning whether or not a student can carry a pocket pager, electronic communication device, or other personal communication device in school.

Proposed MCL 380.1303a and MCL 380.1303 (repeal)

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state and could create costs for local school districts and public school academies. Districts and PSAs could incur costs to develop and implement cell phone policies, but these costs would likely be absorbed using existing staff time.

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