
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6454

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Roach, Fairley, Eide, Regala, Winsley, Prentice, Shin, Kline, Thibaudeau, Johnson, Franklin, Keiser, Rasmussen, Zarelli, Jacobsen and B. Sheldon)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of portable or cellular phones or paging
2 telecommunications devices by students; amending RCW 28A.320.135; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is essential
6 to provide a safe and secure learning environment within the public
7 schools. While recognizing that cellular or portable phones may be
8 used for inappropriate activities during school hours and on school
9 property and may, on occasion, cause disruption in the classroom
10 environment, the legislature also recognizes that the use of cellular
11 or portable phones can decrease the response time of officials to
12 emergency situations. In addition, cellular or portable phones allow
13 parents an additional and timely method of contacting their children in
14 the event of an emergency.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.135 and 1997 c 266 s 10 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 School district boards of directors may adopt policies that limit
18 the ((possession)) use by a student while in school, on school

1 property, on public school transportation, or during school-sponsored
2 activities of (1) paging telecommunication devices by students that
3 emit audible signals, vibrate, display a message, or otherwise summons
4 or delivers a communication to the possessor, and (2) portable or
5 cellular telephones. A school district board of directors shall not
6 adopt policies and shall amend current policies prohibiting students
7 from possessing paging telecommunication devices or portable or
8 cellular phones. However, district policies may be adopted that
9 prohibit an individual student from possessing a paging
10 telecommunication device or portable or cellular phone if the student
11 violates the policies adopted by the board.

--- END ---