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SENATE BILL 6454

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Roach, Fairley, Eide, Regala, Winsley, Prentice, Shin, Kline, Thibaudeau, Johnson, Franklin, Keiser, Rasmussen, Zarelli, Jacobsen and B. Sheldon

Read first time 01/21/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

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

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