

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 284
3 entitled “An act relating to the use of electronic devices and digital and online
4 products in schools” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS; MODEL POLICY

8 (a) On or before December 31, 2024, the Secretary of Education shall
9 develop a model policy and accompanying guidance regarding student use of
10 cell phones and other personal electronic devices in schools. The guidance
11 shall address, at a minimum, the following:

12 (1) the specific circumstances or time periods during which students are
13 permitted to use cell phones or personal electronic devices, which shall include
14 use of such devices for approved academic purposes;

15 (2) the specific circumstances or time periods during which students are
16 prohibited from using cell phones or personal electronic devices;

17 (3) acceptable locations for cell phone and personal electronic device
18 storage during times when their use by students is prohibited;

19 (4) consequences for violation of the model policy, including options for
20 educators and staff to collect a cell phone or personal electronic device if a
21 student is found violating the policy; and

1 (5) a process for parents or guardians to get messages to students during
2 times when cell phone or personal electronic device use is prohibited.

3 (b) On or before January 15, 2026, the Agency of Education shall submit a
4 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education regarding the
5 prevalence and substance of cell phone use policies adopted by school districts
6 after the development of the Agency’s model policy pursuant to subsection (a)
7 of this section. The report shall include the following:

8 (1) information on how many school districts have adopted cell phone or
9 personal electronic device use policies and whether and how those policies
10 differ from the Agency’s model policy and guidance;

11 (2) information on how many school districts do not have a cell phone
12 or personal electronic device use policy and any information as to why such a
13 policy has not been adopted at the time of the report; and

14 (3) in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health,
15 recommendations for further legislative action regarding cell phone or personal
16 electronic device use in schools.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

19 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
20 relating to student use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices in
21 schools”

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE