

1 S.212

2 Introduced by Senator Rodgers

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Crimes; possession of cell phones by persons under 21 years of age
6 prohibited

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
8 possession of cell phones by persons under 21 years of age.

9 An act relating to prohibiting the possession of cell phones by persons
10 under 21 years of age

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

13 The General Assembly finds:

14 (1) The use of cell phones while driving is one of the leading killers of
15 teenagers in the United States. According to the United States Department of
16 Transportation, cell phones are involved in 1.6 million automobile crashes
17 each year, causing half a million injuries and 6,000 deaths. Each day,
18 11 teenagers die in automobile crashes in this country.

19 (2) Young people frequently use cell phones to bully and threaten other
20 young people, activities that have been linked to many suicides.

1 (3) The Internet and social media, accessed primarily through cell
2 phones, are used to radicalize and recruit terrorists, fascists, and other
3 extremists.

4 (4) Cell phones have often been used by mass shooters of younger ages
5 for research on previous shootings.

6 (5) In light of the dangerous and life-threatening consequences of cell
7 phone use by young people, it is clear that persons under 21 years of age are
8 not developmentally mature enough to safely possess them, just as the General
9 Assembly has concluded that persons under 21 years of age are not mature
10 enough to possess firearms, smoke cigarettes, or consume alcohol.

11 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 1312 is added to read:

12 § 1312. POSSESSION OF CELL PHONES BY PERSONS UNDER 21
13 YEARS OF AGE PROHIBITED

14 A person under 21 years of age shall not possess, own, or use a cellular
15 telephone. A person who violates this subsection shall be imprisoned for not
16 more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

17 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.