

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1078

Introduced by Hansen, B., 16.

Read first time January 18, 2022

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to state findings; to define
- 2 terms; and to prohibit possession of personal electronic devices by
- 3 students in public schools as prescribed.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that unrestricted use of
2 personal electronic devices by students at elementary and secondary
3 schools during the school day interferes with the educational mission of
4 the schools, lowers student performance, and promotes cyberbullying.

5 (2) For purposes of this section:

6 (a) Accessory means any electronic device that is not the property
7 of the school district and that can be connected, whether through a wired
8 connection or wirelessly, to a personal electronic device;

9 (b)(i) Personal electronic device means a device that is not the
10 property of the school district and that:

11 (A) Can be used to access the Internet, and includes, but is not
12 limited to, a smart phone, tablet, or virtual reality device; or

13 (B) Can be used to listen to audio recordings or watch video
14 recordings.

15 (ii) Personal electronic device does not include a student-owned
16 laptop or other device approved for use in the classroom by the school;

17 (c) School means any elementary or secondary school operated by a
18 school district; and

19 (d) Storage compartment means a storage container or a
20 compartmentalized portion of a storage container which:

21 (i) Holds only the personal electronic device or accessory of a
22 single student;

23 (ii) Is clear or translucent; and

24 (iii) Separates each student's property so as to provide for easy
25 identification and to maintain privacy.

26 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section:

27 (a) Upon entering a classroom, a student shall place any personal
28 electronic device and accessory into a storage compartment. While in the
29 storage compartment, the personal electronic device and accessory shall
30 be turned off, placed on do not disturb mode, or otherwise configured to
31 not make noise, vibrate, or flash lights; and

1 (b) While in a classroom, a student shall not possess or use such
2 personal electronic device or accessory.

3 (4) A student may possess or use a personal electronic device and
4 accessory in a classroom:

5 (a) In the case of an emergency or when the student reasonably
6 perceives an imminent threat of an emergency or harm to any person;

7 (b) When a teacher grants permission for purposes of assisting in
8 educational classroom activities or assignments;

9 (c) When the student has a note from a health care provider stating
10 that possession or use is necessary for the student's health or well-
11 being; or

12 (d) With written permission from a principal, the principal's
13 designee, or a school counselor.

14 (5) Enforcement of this section shall be the prerogative of the
15 school district and school.