

House File 273 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 273

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AMOS JR.

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to student access to personal electronic devices
2 in schools.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *0t.* Be subject to and comply with the
4 requirements of section 280.36 relating to a policy governing
5 student use of personal electronic devices in the same manner as
6 a school district.

7 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
8 by adding the following new paragraph:

9 NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* Be subject to and comply with the
10 requirements of section 280.36 relating to a policy governing
11 student use of personal electronic devices in the same manner as
12 a school district.

13 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **280.36 Limitation on the use of**
14 **personal electronic devices — policy.**

15 1. On or before December 31, 2025, the board of directors
16 of a school district and the authorities in charge of each
17 accredited nonpublic school shall adopt a policy that prohibits
18 student use of personal electronic devices during classroom
19 instructional time. At a minimum, the policy must meet all of
20 the following requirements:

21 *a.* Apply to all attendance centers within the school district
22 or accredited nonpublic school; provided, however, that the
23 policy may establish different expectations and disciplinary
24 actions for different grade levels.

25 *b.* Describe with specificity the expectations related to
26 student use of personal electronic devices during the school
27 day and disciplinary actions the school district or accredited
28 nonpublic school shall take if a student violates the policy.

29 *c.* Authorize a teacher to allow a student to use a
30 personal electronic device during classroom instructional time
31 for educational purposes.

32 *d.* Allow a student to use a personal electronic device in the
33 event of an emergency.

34 *e.* Allow a student to use a personal electronic device to
35 manage the student's health care.

1 f. Allow a student who has an individualized education
2 program, or a plan under section 504 of the federal
3 Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, to use the student's personal
4 electronic device during classroom instructional time if the
5 student's individualized education program, or a plan under
6 section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794,
7 requires such use.

8 2. The board of directors of a school district and the
9 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall
10 do all of the following:

11 a. Make the policy adopted pursuant to subsection 1 available
12 to the public, including by publishing the policy on the school
13 district's or accredited nonpublic school's internet site and on
14 the internet site of each attendance center within the school
15 district or accredited nonpublic school.

16 b. Provide the department of education with a copy of the
17 policy.

18 c. Include the policy in the school district's or accredited
19 nonpublic school's student handbook.

20 d. Provide the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in
21 the school district or accredited nonpublic school with notice of
22 the policy by doing any one of the following:

23 (1) Providing the parent or guardian with a copy of the
24 policy via electronic mail.

25 (2) Providing the parent or guardian with a copy of the
26 policy by sending a copy of the policy home with the student.

27 (3) Sending a note home with the student indicating where the
28 parent or guardian may view the policy.

29 3. For purposes of this section, "personal electronic device"
30 means any of the following:

31 a. A cellular phone.

32 b. An electronic device that combines a cellular phone with a
33 hand-held computer and that offers internet access, and text or
34 electronic mail capabilities.

35 EXPLANATION

1 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
2 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3 This bill relates to student access to personal electronic
4 devices in schools.

5 On or before December 31, 2025, the bill requires school
6 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and
7 innovation zone schools to adopt a policy that prohibits student
8 use of personal electronic devices during classroom instructional
9 time. The bill defines "personal electronic device" as a
10 cellular phone or any electronic device that combines a cellular
11 phone with a hand-held computer and that offers internet access,
12 and text or electronic mail capabilities. The bill establishes
13 what the policy is to include. The bill requires school
14 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and
15 innovation zone schools to make the policy available to the
16 public, provide the department of education with copies of the
17 policy, include the policy in the school district's or accredited
18 nonpublic school's student handbook, and provide the parent or
19 guardian of each student with notice of the policy or a copy of
20 the policy.