

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6411**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 78**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 13, 2026  
**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 13, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Wireless Communication Device Policy.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Raatz  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill amends the definition of "wireless communication device". The bill requires each school corporation and charter school to adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that:

- (1) Prohibits a student from using a wireless communication device during the school day;
- (2) Requires teacher directed use of a wireless communication device for educational purposes during the school day to occur only on school supplied wireless communication devices; and
- (3) Mandates the use of a no device policy or a secure storage policy.

The bill also creates certain exceptions to a wireless communication device policy. It requires the Department of Education to publish model policy language and implementation guidance. The bill provides that a school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, and a charter school (school), including school personnel, are immune from civil liability for any actions taken in good faith to comply with the school's wireless communication device policy, with exceptions.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2026.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Department of Education will experience a minor workload increase to provide the necessary information to public schools. The bill's requirements are within the agency's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Public schools that do not currently meet the bill's provisions will experience a minor workload increase to update their wireless communication device policy. Public schools that elect to incorporate a secure storage policy may experience an expenditure increase if they provide the storage device. Any impact to expenditures is dependent on local action. [Devices available to schools to store student cellphones are estimated to cost between \$15 to \$30 per storage device.]

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Public schools.

**Information Sources:**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/schools-spend-millions-yondr-pouches-store-cellphones-rcna230454>

<https://nugerm.com/shop/>

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