

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

LS 6411
BILL NUMBER: SB 78

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 12, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Wireless Communication Device Policy.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Raatz
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Teshka

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill amends definitions, requirements, restrictions, and exceptions regarding wireless communication device policies adopted and implemented by school corporations and charter schools. The bill also requires the Department of Education to publish model policy language and implementation guidance. It provides that, with exceptions, a school corporation, a school maintained by a school corporation, and a charter 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. The bill allows grants from the Indiana Secured School Fund to be used for certain storage pouches.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Department of Education:* 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.

(Revised) *Secured School Safety Grant:* Schools can apply for a grant from the Secured School Safety Grant Program to cover the costs of purchasing cellphone storage pouches. This may increase the rate at which the money in the Secured School Fund is expended, but the total amount of grants awarded from the fund is not expected to change. However, an increase in the number of requests for grants from the fund will increase the workload of the Department of Homeland Security, which should be able to process any increase in grant requests with existing resources. In FY 2027, \$27.1 M is appropriated to the Secured School Fund.

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: (Revised) The number of school corporations receiving a grant from the Secured School Fund could increase, subject to the availability of funds and local actions. The potential increase in the number of grants could result in a lower average grant.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; Department of Homeland Security; Secured School Safety Board.

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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