

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 854

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

---

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS.

2123H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

---

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 162, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to student electronic personal communications device usage.

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 162, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 162.207, to read as follows:

**162.207. 1. For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, each school district and charter school governing board shall adopt a written policy governing a student's possession or use of an electronic personal communications device. Such school district or governing board shall develop and design such policy to promote the educational interests of students and to provide a safe and effective working environment for school employees and volunteers.**

**2. Such policy shall, at a minimum:**

**(1) Prohibit a student from displaying or using an electronic personal communications device during regularly scheduled instructional activities;**

**(2) Describe the disciplinary procedures and measures that will be taken if a student violates the policy; and**

**(3) Provide exceptions to the prohibition that allow the display and use of an electronic personal communications device by a student:**

**(a) In the case of an emergency;**

**(b) When directed to use such device by a school employee or volunteer for an instructional purpose; and**

**(c) When authorized by the following federal acts or their successor acts:**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **a. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Section**  
19 **1400 et seq., as amended;**

20           **b. The Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq., as**  
21 **amended; or**

22           **c. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 701 et seq., as amended.**

23           **3. Each school district and charter school governing board shall publish the**  
24 **policy on such district's or charter school's website.**

25           **4. A school district or charter school employee or volunteer shall be held**  
26 **harmless and immune from any liability for actions taken under this section if such**  
27 **employee or volunteer acts in good faith and follows the proper disciplinary procedures**  
28 **and measures adopted under this section by the school board or charter school**  
29 **governing board.**

✓