

## HB 2251 -2, -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/26, 4/2

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies state law relating to the use of personal electronic devices in schools. It requires district school boards to adopt policies prohibiting the use of students' personal electronic devices while at school or participating in school activities, with exceptions for uses that comply with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan. The measure makes a non-compliant school district non-standard and subject to penalties or corrective action plans from the Oregon Department of Education.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current challenges with cell phone use in schools
- Impact on children's mental and behavioral health
- Learning environments
- Social media use
- Potential opposition among parents

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment deletes language relating to school grounds, school-sponsored activities, transportation, and bus stops and replaces it with a requirement that policies prohibit use of personal electronic devices from the start of regular instructional hours until the end of regular instructional hours. The amendment also adds an exception for uses ordered by a student's medical provider for the care and treatment of a medical condition.

-3 Replaces the measure. The amendment requires school districts to limit cell phone use during instructional time but excludes from the definition of instructional time lunch and passing periods, certain assemblies, and study hall-type periods.

-4 Replaces the measure. The amendment defines personal electronic device to exclude laptop computers. It requires school district boards to adopt policies for the use of personal electronic devices by students that prohibit the use of personal electronic devices by students during instructional time. It requires policies to provide for the use of devices if medically necessary or part of a student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan. It requires policies to provide consequences for student violations and requires school districts to make the policy available to school district personal, students, and parents or guardians. The amendment makes school districts' standard status contingent on compliance.

#### BACKGROUND:

According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#), nine states enacted measures banning cell phone use in schools by the start of the 2024-2025 school year, while 27 states had introduced legislation to do so. In at least 11 states, the executive branch has taken action to ban cell phone use via administrative rule or guidance while four Governors have issued executive orders on the topic.