

# SB0178S01 compared with SB0178

{Omitted text} shows text that was in SB0178 but was omitted in SB0178S01

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0178 but was inserted into SB0178S01

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## Devices in Public Schools

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore**

House Sponsor:

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### LONG TITLE

#### General Description:

This bill addresses the use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging technologies during {~~the school-day~~} classroom hours.

#### Highlighted Provisions:

- This bill:
- defines terms;
  - prohibits a student from using a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology during {~~the school-day~~} classroom hours;
  - allows a local education agency to create exemptions to the prohibition; and
  - permits the State Board of Education to create model policies.

#### Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None  
This bill provides a special effective date.

#### ENACTS:

**53G-7-226** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

SB0178

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- 22 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*
- 23 Section 1. Section 1 is enacted to read:
- 24 **53G-7-226. Cellular device prohibition.**
- 25 (1) As used in this section:
- 26 (a) "Cellphone" means a handheld, portable electronic device that is designed to be operated using one  
or both hands and is capable of transmitting and receiving voice, data, or text communication by  
means of:
- 29 (i) a cellular network;
- 30 (ii) a satellite network; or
- 31 (iii) any other wireless technology.
- 32 (b) "Cellphone" includes:
- 33 (i) a smartphone;
- 34 (ii) a feature phone;
- 35 (iii) a mobile phone;
- 36 (iv) a satellite phone; or
- 37 (v) a personal digital assistant that incorporates capabilities similar to a smartphone, feature phone,  
mobile phone, or satellite phone.
- 39 (c) "Classroom hours" means:
- 40 (i) time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction that occurs:
- 42 (A) in a physical or virtual classroom setting;
- 43 (B) during regular school operating hours; and
- 44 (C) as part of an approved educational curriculum.
- 45 (ii) "Classroom hours" does not include:
- 46 (A) lunch periods;
- 47 (B) recess;
- 48 (C) transit time between classes;
- 49 (D) study halls unless directly supervised by a qualified instructor;
- 50 (E) after-school activities unless part of an approved extended learning program; or
- 51 (F) independent study time occurring outside scheduled instruction.
- 52 (d)

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- . (i) "Emerging technology" means any other device that has or will be able to act in place of or as an extension of an individual's cellphone.
- 54 (ii) "Emerging technology" does not include school provided or required devices.
- 55 ~~{(e) {"School day" means the same as the term is defined in Section 53G-6-201.}}~~
- 56 ~~{(f)}~~ (e) "Smart watch" means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capacity to act in place of or as an extension of an individual's cellphone.
- 59 ~~{(e)}~~ (f) "Smart watch" does not include a wearable device that can only:
- 60 (i) tell time;
- 61 (ii) monitor an individual's health informatics;
- 62 (iii) receive and display notifications or information without the capability to respond; or
- 64 (iv) track the individual's physical location.
- 65 (2)
- . (a) An LEA:
- 66 (i) shall establish a policy that allows a student to use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology:
- 68 (A) to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;
- 69 (B) to respond to a school-wide emergency;
- 70 (C) to use the SafeUT Crisis Line described in Title 53B, Chapter 17, Part 12, SafeUT Crisis Line;
- 72 (D) for a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan; or
- 73 (E) to address a medical necessity; and
- 74 (ii) may establish a policy that provides for other circumstances {during the school day} when a student may use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology.
- 75 (b) An LEA may establish policies that:
- 76 (i) extend restrictions on student use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging technologies to non-classroom hours during the school day, including:
- 78 (A) lunch periods;
- 79 (B) transition times between classes; and
- 80 (C) other school-supervised activities; and
- 76 ~~{(b)}~~ (ii) {An LEA may establish policies that} impose additional limitations on the use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging technologies beyond those required by this section.

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- 79 ~~{(c) {An LEA shall provide a designated space for the use of a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging~~  
~~technology during a portion of the school day that is not classroom hours.}}~~
- 81 (3) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging  
technology at a school during {the school day} classroom hours.
- 83 (4) The state board may create one or more model policies regarding when a student may use a student's  
cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology in a school during {the school day} classroom  
hours consistent with this section.

88 Section 1. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

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