

**Representative Trevor Lee** proposes the following substitute bill:

**SCHOOL CELLPHONE USAGE AMENDMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Trevor Lee**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the use of cellphones and smart watches in classrooms.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a student from possessing a cellphone or smart watch in a classroom; and
- ▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) to enforce the provisions of this bill, in the manner determined by the LEA.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53G-7-224**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53G-7-224** is enacted to read:



26 53G-7-224. Cellphones and smart watches in classrooms -- Prohibition --  
27 **Exceptions -- Enforcement.**

28 (1) (a) "Smart watch" means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a  
29 wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capacity to act as an extension of an  
30 individual's cellphone.

31 (b) "Smart watch" does not include a wearable device that can only:

32 (i) tell time;

33 (ii) monitor an individual's health informatics; or

34 (iii) track the individual's physical location.

35 (2) An LEA shall ensure that each classroom includes a location where a student may  
36 place a cellphone or smart watch in an individual receptacle when entering the classroom.

37 (3) Except as provided in Subsections (4) through (6), if a student's cellphone or smart  
38 watch use is determined by an educator or administrator to be disruptive or interring with  
39 classroom instruction:

40 (a) the student may not have a cellphone or smart watch in the student's possession in  
41 the classroom; and

42 (b) the student may not retrieve a cellphone or smart watch from the location described  
43 in Subsection (2) until the student leaves the classroom.

44 (4) A student may possess a cellphone or smart watch in a classroom:

45 (a) if possession is necessary to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of  
46 an individual;

47 (b) to the extent the possession is expressly permitted in the student's individualized  
48 education program or Section 504 accommodation plan; or

49 (c) to the extent needed to address a medical necessity, as explained in a note signed by  
50 the student's parent.

51 (5) A student in an elementary school may not retrieve the student's cellphone or smart  
52 watch during lunch or recess.

53 (6) A student in a secondary school may possess the student's cellphone or smart watch  
54 between classes and during lunch.

55 (7) An LEA shall:

56 (a) enforce the provisions of this section;

57            (b) describe in a written policy the method of enforcement, including the disciplinary  
58 actions for a violation; and

59            (c) require an educator or administrator to enforce the LEA's policy when a cellphone  
60 or smart watch is determined to be disruptive or interring with classroom instruction.