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Bergerud
3/12/25

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 57(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to wireless telecommunications devices in public schools; and
2 providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Article 5. Wireless Telecommunications Devices.**

6 **Sec. 14.33.300. Wireless telecommunications device policy.** (a) The
7 department shall develop and adopt a model policy that prohibits the use of nonschool-
8 issued wireless telecommunications devices in public schools during regular school
9 hours, including lunch and passing periods. The policy must allow exceptions for
10 students to use a wireless telecommunications device for medical purposes, in the
11 event of an emergency, or when a teacher or administrator of the school grants
12 permission to a student to use a wireless telecommunications device for educational
13 purposes.

14 (b) Each school district shall adopt a policy that prohibits students from

possessing or using a nonschool-issued wireless telecommunications device during regular school hours, including lunch and passing periods. Each school district shall share this policy with parents or guardians, students, volunteers, and school employees. The policy must allow exceptions for students to use a wireless telecommunications device for medical purposes, in the event of an emergency, or when a teacher or administrator of the school grants permission to a student to use a wireless telecommunications device for educational purposes. A school district may either develop and adopt its own policy or adopt the model policy developed under (a) of this section.

(c) This section does not authorize a person to monitor, collect, or access information related to a student's use of a wireless telecommunications device.

(d) In this section, "wireless telecommunications device" means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties.

*** Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

REPORTS. (a) Not later than June 30, 2026, a school district shall report to Department of Education and Early Development describing the policy the school district adopted under AS 14.33.300(b) and the effect of the policy on student academic achievement and behavior in the school district.

(b) Not later than July 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Development shall prepare a report that describes, for each school district, the implementation process of policies adopted under AS 14.33.300(b) and the outcomes of prohibiting the use of nonschool-issued wireless telecommunications devices, including the effect on student academic achievement and behavior. The Department of Education and Early Development shall make the report available to the public, submit the report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives, and notify the legislature that the report is available.

*** Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.