

SENATE BILL 2809

By Lundberg

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to electronic devices.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Electronic device" means a handheld device that is capable of transmitting and receiving data, including, but not limited to, smartphones, tablets, and other similar devices; and

(2) "Instructional time" means any period of time during the school day that is designated for academic instruction, including classroom sessions, examinations, and other educational activities.

(b) Each LEA and public charter school shall prohibit students enrolled in the LEA or public charter school from displaying, using, or accessing an electronic device during instructional time unless the electronic device is authorized, or provided to the student, by the LEA or public charter school for instructional purposes.

(c) Each local board of education and public charter school governing body shall develop and adopt a policy to effectuate this section. A policy adopted pursuant to this subsection (c) may establish an exception to the prohibition in subsection (b) in emergency situations, and may categorically prohibit the use of certain electronic devices in designated areas, such as libraries, laboratories, and examination halls.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter.