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HOUSE BILL NO. 882

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 9, 2024

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.4, relating to Department of Education; model policy on student cell phone use during instructional time; local adoption.*

Patrons—Earley, Cherry, Green, Kent, Lovejoy and Walker; Senator: Sturtevant

Referred to Committee on K-12 Subcommittee

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.4 as follows:

§ 22.1-23.4. Model policy on student cell phone use during instructional time; local adoption.

A. The Department shall develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model policy whereby public elementary and secondary school students are prohibited from possessing or using personal cell phones or other personal handheld communication devices during instructional time at school. In developing and adopting such model policy, the Department shall seek to balance the interests of students' academic achievement, cognitive development, safety, and general well-being and may include appropriate exceptions in extraordinary circumstances such as emergency situations or situations involving the need to contact the student's parents.

B. Each school board shall develop and adopt a policy that is consistent with the model policy adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection A.

INTRODUCED

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