

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 549**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*David F. DeCoste*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to regulate the use of mobile communication devices in educational institutions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Geoffrey Gordon</i>		<i>1/14/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 549**

By Representative DeCoste of Norwell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 549) of David F. DeCoste and Geoffrey Gordon for legislation to regulate the use of mobile communication devices in educational institutions. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act to regulate the use of mobile communication devices in educational institutions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 37 the following new section:-

3 Section 38.

4 (a) For the purposes of this section, “Mobile communication device” shall be defined as  
5 to any portable electronic device that enables voice communication, text messaging, internet  
6 access, and application usage, including but not limited to smartphones and tablets.

7 (b) The department shall establish standards for school districts to prohibit the usage of  
8 mobile communication devices during instructional hours within all public elementary,  
9 secondary, and vocational schools. These standards shall require students store mobile  
10 communication devices in designated areas or lockers during school hours to minimize  
11 distractions and enhance focus during educational activities. The standards shall not prohibit  
12 authorized personnel from using mobile communication devices for official school purposes or

13 students with documented medical needs or other exceptional circumstances from using mobile  
14 communication devices as approved by school administration. The standards shall require ensure  
15 schools establish clear communication to students and parents regarding the regulations and any  
16 consequences for violations of the school's cell phone policy.

17 (c) The standards may allow schools to adopt exceptions for cellular phones which do not  
18 provide internet access or application usage to its users, so that students may communicate with  
19 parents and guardians while minimizing noise and distractions to the learning environment.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect at the beginning of the next academic year  
21 following its passage.