

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB140

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 04, 2025
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Sanders
One Liner: Require school policies relating to use of electronic communication devices by students

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Lonowski, Meyer, Murman, Sanders, Hunt, Hughes, Conrad
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Juarez
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rita Sanders
Josephine Litwinowicz
Governor Jim Pillen
Attorney General Mike Hilgers
Dr. Brian Maher
Tim Royers
Michael Geist
Marley Helvey
Tyler Mosher
Elsa Plouzek
Dr. Sue Greenwald
Jeanne Greisen
Steve Davies

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Higher Power Church
-
-
Department of Education
Nebraska State Education Association
Self
Self
Self
Self
Nebraska Education Coalition
Nebraskans for Founders' Values
Self

Opponents:

Maimoon Qureshi
Colby Coash

Representing:

Self
Nebraska Association of School Boards

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 140 requires school districts to adopt a policy regulating student use of electronic communication devices (such as cell phones) on school property or at school functions by the 2025-26 school year. The policy must be created with



input from students, parents, and educators and may include rules on discipline and enforcement. However, it cannot prevent device use in certain situations, such as when required by a student's Individualized Education Program or 504 plan, when authorized by a teacher for educational purposes, during emergencies, for healthcare management, or when deemed appropriate by school authorities. The bill includes an emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 203 amends LB 140 as follows: on page 2, lines 10 and 16, it inserts the word "instructional" after the second word "school." In line 18, "cell phones" is replaced with "electronic communication devices." In line 23, it inserts "instructional" after "school." In line 29, "a teacher" is replaced with "the school district." Additionally, on page 3, line 6, the word "communicating" is replaced with "communication."

These changes ensure that the bill applies to all electronic devices, not just cell phones. Additionally, the restrictions are limited to instructional school functions, and the authority to authorize device use for educational purposes rests with the school district, not individual teachers.

Dave Murman, Chairperson

