


Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**Glen Lee**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Glen Lee  
Chief Financial Officer 

**DATE:** May 12, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Disconnect Amendment Act of 2025

**REFERENCE:** Bill 26-73, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on April 28, 2025

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**Conclusion**

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) requires \$57,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$175,000 over the financial plan to implement the bill. Local education agencies (LEAs) do not require additional resources to adopt and implement policies that ban the use of personal wireless communication devices during the school day.

**Background**

The bill requires LEAs to adopt and implement a personal wireless communication device policy that prohibits a student from using a cellular phone, tablet computer, laptop computer, or gaming device that is not owned or provided by the school during the school day. The policy must be implemented no later than fifteen days prior to the start of the 2026-2027 school year. The policy can include exemptions for students needing special educational support and for students with health care needs. LEAs must establish consequences if a student violates a policy, establish a process to evaluate if the policy is working, and publish the policy on its website. Each policy must identify how a parent or guardian of an enrolled student should communicate in an urgent manner during the school day, identify how the school will communicate with families in the case of an emergency, and provide for appropriate storage of a student's personal wireless communication devices during the full school day.

The bill requires OSSE to develop a model policy that can be used by LEAs to monitor LEA compliance with the bill's requirements, and to share research concerning the effect of personal wireless communication devices. OSSE may issue waivers to LEAs that can demonstrate appropriate storage

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FIS: "Disconnect Amendment Act of 2026", Bill 26-73, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on April 28, 2025.

constraints or an existing personal wireless communication device policy that effectively limits distractions caused by personal wireless communication devices throughout the full school day.

### Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Developing and sharing with LEAs a model device policy, monitoring LEA compliance, sharing research on device use, and providing waivers, when appropriate, to LEAs will require half a full-time equivalent (FTE) position. OSSE requires \$57,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$175,000 over the financial plan for the salary and fringe costs for this FTE.

Disconnect Amendment Act of 2025					
Total Cost					
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	Total
Salary <sup>(a)</sup>	\$0	\$46,535	\$47,512	\$48,462	\$142,508
Fringe <sup>(b)</sup>	\$0	\$10,424	\$10,898	\$11,377	\$32,699
Total	\$0	\$56,958	\$58,410	\$59,839	\$175,207

Table Notes:

(a) Assumes full-time equivalent of half a Grade 13, Step 1 Program Analyst and salary growth of 2.1 percent in fiscal year 2027 and 2.0 percent in fiscal year 2028.

(b) Assumes fringe rate of 22.9 percent in fiscal year 2026 and a growth rate of 2.4 percent in fiscal year 2027 and 2.35 percent in fiscal year 2028.

LEAs do not require additional resources to adopt and implement policies that ban the use of personal wireless communication devices during the school day. The bill can be implemented by LEAs without additional resources.