

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

February 5, 2009

Senate Resolution No. 14—Relative to Teen Driving Safety Week.

1 WHEREAS, Although driver’s education is required in
2 California’s public education curriculum, there are no in-car driver
3 training courses in California’s high schools and only about
4 one-third of high schools offer driver’s education due to budget
5 and staff limitations; and

6 WHEREAS, A 16-year-old soccer player may have
7 approximately 1,500 hours of coached soccer practice, but only
8 50 hours of driving practice, before obtaining his or her driver’s
9 license; and

10 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and other first responders and
11 teachers, parents, and friends of teenage drivers are all deeply
12 impacted by the loss of teenage drivers in fatal motor vehicle
13 accidents on California’s roadways; and

14 WHEREAS, Drivers in California who are between 15 years of
15 age and 19 years of age are at least three times more likely than
16 drivers 30 years of age or older to be involved in a fatal motor
17 vehicle collision; and

18 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of 16-year-old drivers killed
19 in motor vehicle accidents in California were at fault; and

20 WHEREAS, Although California has the highest rate of seatbelt
21 usage in the nation, 37 percent of 16-year-old passengers who died
22 in motor vehicle collisions in California were not wearing seatbelts;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of
25 death of teenagers, accounting for 40 percent of all teenage deaths;
26 and

1 WHEREAS, The majority of teenage driver motor vehicle
2 collisions in the United States are due to driver distractions and
3 speeding, and 15 percent are due to drunk driving; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of teenage passenger
5 deaths, involving persons 13 years of age to 19 years of age, occur
6 when other teenagers are driving; and

7 WHEREAS, One in three teenage drivers is involved in a motor
8 vehicle accident during the first year of driving; and

9 WHEREAS, It is necessary to raise awareness, and to reach
10 teenagers, parents, and teachers to influence change in risky driving
11 behavior in order to reduce the number of teenagers killed on
12 California's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
14 hereby proclaims the week of March 9, 2009, as "Teen Driving
15 Safety Week" and urges Californians, with the help of law
16 enforcement organizations, teachers, parents, students, and the
17 IMPACT Teen Driver's Campaign, to observe Teen Driving Safety
18 Week with appropriate activities that promote safe driving practices
19 among teenage drivers; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.