

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 8, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 140

Introduced by Assembly Member Obernolte

February 18, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 140—Relative to Don't Text and Drive Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 140, as amended, Obernolte. Don't Text and Drive Day.

This measure would proclaim April 27, 2016, as Don't Text and Drive Day, and would call upon individuals, government agencies, and schools, among others, to promote awareness of the problem of texting and driving and to support programs and policies that reduce the incidence of texting while driving in California and nationwide.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Texting while driving poses a significant risk to
2 drivers and those around them; and
3 ~~WHEREAS, In 2008, the Legislature passed Senate Bill No.~~
4 ~~28, which prohibits drivers from operating a motor vehicle while~~
5 ~~using a wireless device to send text messages; and~~
6 *WHEREAS, In California, it is unlawful to write, send, or read*
7 *a text message while driving, without using voice-operated and*
8 *hands-free technology; and*
9 WHEREAS, The National Safety Council estimates that over
10 340,000, or 6 percent, of all car crashes in 2013 involved text
11 messaging; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Virginia Tech Transportation
2 Institute, texting while driving is six times more likely to result in
3 an accident than driving while intoxicated; and

4 WHEREAS, In a 2011 study by the federal Centers for Disease
5 Control and Prevention, 31.2 percent of United States drivers 18
6 to 64, inclusive, years of age reported that they had read or sent
7 text or email messages while driving at least once in the past 30
8 days; and

9 WHEREAS, Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes
10 from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent, at 55
11 miles per hour, of driving the length of an entire football field,
12 blind; and

13 WHEREAS, In response to a 2013 California Office of Traffic
14 Safety survey, more than 36 percent of Californians surveyed
15 thought texting or talking on a cell phone while driving posed the
16 biggest safety problem on California roadways; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 70 percent of California drivers surveyed
18 said they had been hit or nearly hit by a driver who was talking or
19 texting on a cell phone; and

20 ~~WHEREAS, Nearly 48 percent of Californians surveyed said~~
21 ~~that texting while driving is the most serious distraction for drivers;~~
22 ~~and~~

23 WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety
24 Administration, text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse
25 than driving while not distracted; and

26 WHEREAS, As of December 2013, 153.3 billion text messages
27 were sent in the United States every month, according to CTIA -
28 The Wireless Association; and

29 WHEREAS, As reported in a 2012 National Highway Traffic
30 Safety Administration survey, at any given daylight moment across
31 America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or
32 manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has
33 held steady since 2010; and

34 WHEREAS, According to a University of Michigan
35 Transportation Research Institute study, about 25 percent of
36 teenagers respond to a text message once or more every time they
37 drive, and additionally, 20 percent of teenagers and 10 percent of
38 parents admitted to having an extended multimessage texting
39 conversation while driving. Furthermore, the study reported that
40 parents who more frequently engaged in distracted driving

1 behaviors had teenagers who engaged in distracted driving
2 behaviors more frequently than other young drivers; now, therefore,
3 be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims April 27, 2016,
6 as Don't Text and Drive Day, and calls upon individuals,
7 government agencies, business leaders, hospitals, schools, and
8 public and private institutions within the state to promote awareness
9 of the problem of texting and driving and to support programs and
10 policies that reduce the incidence of texting while driving in
11 California and nationwide; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
13 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.