

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 8, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 140

Introduced by Assembly Member Obernolte

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, O'Donnell, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, and Wood)

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 California, it is unlawful to write, send, or read
4 a text message while driving, without using voice-operated and
5 hands-free technology; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Safety Council estimates that over
7 340,000, or 6 percent, of all car crashes in 2013 involved text
8 messaging; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, According to a University of Michigan
40 Transportation Research Institute study, about 25 percent of

1 teenagers respond to a text message once or more every time they
2 drive, and additionally, 20 percent of teenagers and 10 percent of
3 parents admitted to having an extended multimessage texting
4 conversation while driving. Furthermore, the study reported that
5 parents who more frequently engaged in distracted driving
6 behaviors had teenagers who engaged in distracted driving
7 behaviors more frequently than other young drivers; now, therefore,
8 be it

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

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