

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 140

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 64

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

[Filed with Secretary of State June 8, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 140, 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.

WHEREAS, Texting while driving poses a significant risk to drivers and those around them; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, According to a University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute study, about 25 percent of teenagers respond to a text message once or more every time they drive, and additionally, 20 percent of teenagers and 10 percent of parents admitted to having an extended multmessage texting conversation while driving. Furthermore, the study reported that parents who more frequently engaged in distracted driving behaviors had teenagers who engaged in distracted driving behaviors more frequently than other young drivers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims April 27, 2016, as Don't Text and Drive Day, and calls upon individuals, government agencies, business leaders, hospitals, schools, and public and private institutions within the state 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; and be it further

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