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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 480 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY WATSON, MARKOSEK, GEIST, HARPER, QUINN, BOYD, BROOKS, ADOLPH, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE, CIVERA, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, ELLIS, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FRANKEL, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GRUCELA, HARHART, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, M. KELLER, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSICO, McCALL, MELIO, MENSCH, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SWANGER, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WATERS AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 1, 2009

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 1, 2009

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 18 through 24, 2009, as  
2 "National Teen Driving Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death  
4 for adolescents and young adults in the United States, and many  
5 of these deaths are preventable; and

6 WHEREAS, Almost 5,900 drivers between 15 and 20 years of age  
7 were involved in fatal crashes in 2008 throughout the United  
8 States; and

9 WHEREAS, The fatality rate in the United States for drivers  
10 between 16 and 19 years of age, based on miles driven, is four  
11 times the fatality rate for drivers between 25 and 69 years of  
12 age; and

1       WHEREAS, The majority of teen driver crashes in the United  
2 States are due to driver error and speeding, and 15% of the  
3 crashes are due to drunk driving; and

4       WHEREAS, Roughly two-thirds of teenagers killed in motor  
5 vehicle accidents in the United States each year did not use  
6 seatbelts; and

7       WHEREAS, Approximately 63% of teen passenger deaths in the  
8 United States occur while other teenagers are driving; and

9       WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2008, teens 16 to 20 years of  
10 age were involved in 30,555 traffic crashes with 34.9% of those  
11 crashes involving a single vehicle running off the road and  
12 hitting a fixed object, such as a tree, guardrail, etc; and

13       WHEREAS, Young drivers are the least experienced, and  
14 therefore traffic crashes involving drivers 16 to 20 years of  
15 age are most often the result of driver error, such as speed,  
16 distraction and failure to observe driving regulations and  
17 conditions; and

18       WHEREAS, It is necessary to explore effective ways to reduce  
19 the crash risk for young drivers by focusing research and  
20 outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most  
21 promise for improving safety; and

22       WHEREAS, The National Teen Driver Survey, developed with  
23 input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital  
24 of Philadelphia, demonstrates a nationwide need to increase  
25 overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld  
26 devices, the risks of nighttime and fatigued driving, the  
27 importance of consistent seatbelt use and the practice of  
28 gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young  
29 driver gains more experience under supervised conditions; and

30       WHEREAS, In 2008, 1,233 crash fatalities involving a teen

1 driver occurred in the fall, when teenagers in the first months  
2 of the school year were faced with many decisions involving  
3 driving, including whether to drive with peer passengers and  
4 other distractions; and

5 WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as "National  
6 Teen Driving Safety Week" is expected to increase awareness of  
7 these important issues among teenagers and adults in this  
8 Commonwealth, as additional research is conducted to develop and  
9 test effective interventions to boost teen driver safety;  
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
12 week of October 18 through 24, 2009, as "National Teen Driving  
13 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

15 (1) support the goals and ideas of "National Teen  
16 Driving Safety Week"; and

17 (2) encourage the people of Pennsylvania to observe the  
18 week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of  
19 safe driving among licensed teen drivers in this  
20 Commonwealth.