

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 893 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, GEIST, ADOLPH, RAPP, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, BEAR, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, CONKLIN, CUTLER, DALEY, DAVIS, EVERETT, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, HAHN, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PARKER, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SANTARSIERO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SCHMOTZER, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, VEREB, WATERS, YOUNGBLOOD, KULA, DEASY, CLYMER AND D. COSTA, OCTOBER 3, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 3, 2012

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 14 through 20, 2012, as  
2 "National Teen Driver 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 4,585 drivers between 15 and 20 years of age  
7 were involved in fatal crashes in 2010 throughout the United  
8 States; and

9 WHEREAS, The crash rate in the United States for drivers  
10 between 16 and 19 years of age, based on miles driven, is nearly  
11 three times the crash rate for drivers 20 and over; and

12 WHEREAS, The majority of teen driver crashes in the United

1 States are due to driver error, making mistakes due to  
2 inexperience and distractions, and 22% of the fatal teen crashes  
3 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 seat belts; and

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

9 WHEREAS, The presence of teen passengers increases the crash  
10 risk of unsupervised teen drivers, and this risk increases with  
11 the number of teen passengers; and

12 WHEREAS, The crash risk is particularly high during the first  
13 year that teenagers are eligible to drive; and

14 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2010, there were 98 teen driver  
15 fatalities and in 2011, there were 29 deaths among 16 year-old  
16 drivers, ten more than in 2010. In 2011 in Pennsylvania, drivers  
17 under 21 years of age were involved in 31,489 traffic crashes  
18 with 39.9% of those crashes involving a single vehicle running  
19 off the road and hitting a fixed object, such as a tree or  
20 guardrail; and

21 WHEREAS, Young drivers are the least experienced, and  
22 therefore traffic crashes involving drivers 16 to 20 years of  
23 age are most often the result of driver error, such as speed,  
24 distraction and failure to observe driving regulations and  
25 conditions; and

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

30 WHEREAS, The National Teen Driver Survey, developed with

1 input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital  
2 of Philadelphia, demonstrates a nationwide need to increase  
3 overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld  
4 devices, the risks of nighttime and fatigued driving, the  
5 importance of consistent seatbelt use and the practice of  
6 gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young  
7 driver gains more experience under supervised conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, Nationally in 2009, 858 crash fatalities involving a  
9 teen driver occurred in the fall, when teenagers in the first  
10 months of the school year were faced with many decisions  
11 involving driving, including whether to drive with peer  
12 passengers and other distractions; and

13 WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as "National  
14 Teen Driver Safety Week" is expected to increase awareness of  
15 these important issues among teenagers and adults in this  
16 Commonwealth, as additional research is conducted to develop and  
17 test effective interventions to boost teen driver safety;  
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
20 week of October 14 through 20, 2012, as "National Teen Driver  
21 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

23 (1) support the goals and ideals of "National Teen  
24 Driver Safety Week," specifically to promote the theme of  
25 "Share, Not Scare"; and

26 (2) encourage the people of Pennsylvania to observe the  
27 week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of  
28 safe driving among licensed teen drivers in this  
29 Commonwealth.