

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 539 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HELM, BIZZARRO, PICKETT, KIRKLAND, DONATUCCI, KORTZ, DIGIROLAMO, MURT, HENNESSEY, BURNS, HILL-EVANS, SONNEY, FREEMAN, MILLARD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KAUFFMAN, STAATS, MACKENZIE, WILLIAMS, MALAGARI, B. MILLER, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, HEFFLEY, HARKINS, SCHMITT, SNYDER, OWLETT, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, SAYLOR, KIM, READSHAW, HOWARD AND JOHNSON-HARRELL, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 20 through 26, 2019, 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, In 2015, there were 1,886 young drivers between 15
 7 and 20 years of age involved in fatal crashes and approximately
 8 195,000 teens were injured; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The majority of teen driver crashes in the United
 13 States are due to a critical driver error, with four common
 14 errors accounting for nearly half of all serious crashes:
 15 driving too fast for road conditions; being distracted; not

1 paying careful attention to road hazards; and drunk or drugged
2 driving; and

3 WHEREAS, More than half of teenagers killed in motor vehicle
4 accidents in the United States each year did not use seat belts;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, More than 50% of teen passenger deaths in the United
7 States occur while other teenagers are driving; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Young drivers are the least experienced, and traffic
14 crashes involving drivers 16 to 19 years of age are most often
15 the result of a critical driver error, such as speed,
16 distraction or failure to detect a hazard; and

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as "National
30 Teen Driver Safety Week" is expected to increase awareness of

1 these important issues among teenagers and the adults who care
2 about them in this Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, Avoiding impaired driving helps teens avoid becoming
4 a statistic; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 week of October 20 through 26, 2019, as "National Teen Driver
7 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.