

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 976 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, CLYMER, DIGIROLAMO, FARRY, O'NEILL, PETRI, QUINN, ADOLPH, BEYER, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, BROWN, DALEY, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HAHN, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, MATZIE, MCILVAINE SMITH, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, OBERLANDER, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PICKETT, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SONNEY, SWANGER, TOEPEL, TRUE, GROVE AND KNOWLES, OCTOBER 5, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 5, 2010

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 17 through 23, 2010, 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 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

13 WHEREAS, The majority of teen driver crashes in the United  
14 States are due to driver error, making mistakes due to

1 inexperience and distractions, and 15% of the crashes are due to  
2 drunk driving; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 63% of teen passenger deaths in the  
7 United 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 year that teenagers are eligible to drive; and

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, The National Teen Driver Survey, developed with  
27 input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital  
28 of Philadelphia, demonstrates a nationwide need to increase  
29 overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld  
30 devices, the risks of nighttime and fatigued driving, the

1 importance of consistent seatbelt use and the practice of  
2 gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young  
3 driver gains more experience under supervised conditions; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2008, 1,233 crash fatalities involving a teen  
5 driver occurred in the fall, when teenagers in the first months  
6 of the school year were faced with many decisions involving  
7 driving, including whether to drive with peer passengers and  
8 other distractions; and

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

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
16 week of October 17 through 23, 2010, as "National Teen Driver  
17 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

19 (1) support the goals and ideas of "National Teen Driver  
20 Safety Week"; and

21 (2) encourage the people of Pennsylvania to observe the  
22 week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of  
23 safe driving among licensed teen drivers in this  
24 Commonwealth.