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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 556 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY WATSON, CONKLIN, HENNESSEY, PICKETT, BOBACK,  
SAYLOR, WARD, BAKER, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVIS, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, DUSH,  
KAUFFMAN, W. KELLER, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO,  
MILLARD, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, PETRI, READSHAW, ROZZI, RYAN,  
SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, STAATS, WARREN, V. BROWN AND SCHWEYER,  
OCTOBER 10, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 10, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 15 through 21, 2017, 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 2014, there were 2,679 teen passenger vehicle  
7 drivers between 15 and 19 years of age involved in fatal crashes  
8 and approximately 123,000 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, which accounts for 22% of fatal teen crashes; 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, Approximately 54% 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 2015, in Pennsylvania, drivers under 21 years of  
14 age were involved in 23,964 traffic crashes; and

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

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

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

1       WHEREAS, Nationally in 2013, 641 crash fatalities involving a  
2 teen driver occurred in the fall months of September, October  
3 and November as teenagers in the first months of the school year  
4 were faced with many decisions involving driving, including  
5 whether to drive with peer passengers and other distractions;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as "National  
8 Teen Driver Safety Week" is expected to increase awareness of  
9 these important issues among teenagers and the adults who care  
10 about them in this Commonwealth; and

11       WHEREAS, Avoiding impaired driving helps teens avoid becoming  
12 a statistic; therefore be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
14 week of October 15 through 21, 2017, as "National Teen Driver  
15 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

16       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

17           (1) support the goals and ideals of "National Teen  
18 Driver Safety Week," specifically to promote the theme of "U  
19 Drive. U Text. U Pay"; and

20           (2) help teens take action as a passenger, as a friend  
21 and as a driver to avoid impaired driving, including alcohol  
22 and drug use, as well as distraction, fatigue and strong  
23 emotions.