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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 763 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY B. MILLER, BAKER, GREINER, FEE, DEAN, PICKETT, STEPHENS, BIZZARRO, SONNEY, DUSH, BURNS, HAGGERTY, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, KULIK, DRISCOLL, HENNESSEY, READSHAW, PASHINSKI, WATSON, RYAN, MARKOSEK, MENTZER, DIGIROLAMO, TOOHIL, NEILSON, HICKERNELL, MILLARD, MURT, MACKENZIE, SAYLOR, MARSICO, EVERETT, D. COSTA, ROEBUCK, ZIMMERMAN, SCHWEYER, WARNER, J. McNEILL, WARD, HILL-EVANS, BRADFORD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ROZZI, HELM, WARREN, P. COSTA, RADER, DONATUCCI, DAVIS, HEFFLEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, BOBACK, McCLINTON, CUTLER, M. QUINN, JAMES, DAY, KORTZ, KAUFFMAN AND MUSTIO, MARCH 15, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 15, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 27, 2018, as "Don't Text and Drive Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Texting while driving poses a significant risk to  
4 drivers, passengers and individuals sharing the road; and

5 WHEREAS, Studies show that texting while simultaneously  
6 driving involves manual, visual and mental distraction and is  
7 among the worst driver distractions, resulting in accidents,  
8 damage to persons and damage to property; and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has undertaken efforts to  
10 reduce texting while driving, including the enactment of Act 98  
11 of 2011, which prohibits drivers from operating a motor vehicle  
12 on a highway or trafficway in this Commonwealth while using an  
13 interactive wireless communications device to send, read or

1 write a text-based communication while driving a vehicle; and

2 WHEREAS, Act 85 of 2014 prohibits drivers from engaging in  
3 texting while operating a commercial motor vehicle or motor  
4 carrier vehicle; and

5 WHEREAS, Act 165 of 2016 increases the penalties for the  
6 offense of homicide by vehicle and for the offense of aggravated  
7 assault by vehicle while using text-based communication; and

8 WHEREAS, The evidence and research show that the mounting  
9 dangers of texting while driving continue to validate the  
10 actions of the General Assembly; and

11 WHEREAS, Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's  
12 attention away from the road for approximately 4.6 seconds,  
13 which while traveling at 55 miles per hour is the equivalent of  
14 driving the length of an entire football field sightless; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety  
16 Administration, text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times  
17 greater than driving while not distracted; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Safety Council estimates that cell  
19 phone-related vehicle accidents account for 26% of all crashes  
20 and 6% of all crashes are texting related; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2015 study conducted by the United States  
22 Department of Transportation notes that, at any given moment  
23 during daylight hours, more than 660,000 vehicles were being  
24 driven by someone using a handheld cell phone; and

25 WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety  
26 Administration, the percentage of drivers text messaging or  
27 visibly manipulating handheld devices increased from 1.7% in  
28 2013 to 2.2% in 2015; and

29 WHEREAS, According to a University of Michigan Transportation  
30 Research Institute study, approximately 25% of teenagers respond

1 to a text message at least once every time they drive, and an  
2 additional 20% of teenagers and 10% of parents admitted to  
3 having an extended multimessage texting conversation while  
4 driving; and

5 WHEREAS, Between 2012, 2013 and 2014, according to the  
6 Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, there were 5,692  
7 distracted driving violations cited in Pennsylvania, with  
8 approximately 3,940 of those violations specific to texting; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 2012 and 2016, according to the Department  
10 of Transportation's *PA Crash Facts & Statistics*, there were a  
11 total of 73,810 crashes in this Commonwealth involving  
12 distracted driving with 283 of those crashes resulting in  
13 fatalities; and

14 WHEREAS, The evidence makes clear that texting while driving  
15 is extremely prevalent and increases the potential danger on our  
16 roadways, causes great damage to property and destroys lives and  
17 livelihoods through injuries and death of crash victims;  
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April  
20 27, 2018, as "Don't Text and Drive Day" in Pennsylvania,  
21 appealing to all individuals, government agencies, business  
22 leaders, hospitals, schools and public and private institutions  
23 within this Commonwealth to promote awareness of the dangers of  
24 texting while driving and to support programs and policies that  
25 reduce the incidence of texting while driving in this  
26 Commonwealth and nationwide; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge residents of  
28 this Commonwealth to be considerate of the lives and property of  
29 others by refraining from texting while driving; and be it  
30 further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge law  
2 enforcement across this Commonwealth to continue the enforcement  
3 of texting while driving laws with diligence.