
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 186 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY B. MILLER, RYAN, HILL-EVANS, GREINER, MURT,
KINSEY, ZIMMERMAN, OBERLANDER, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, BIZZARRO,
SCHLOSSBERG, BURNS, STAATS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HICKERNELL,
READSHAW, FREEMAN, MENTZER, BROWN, NEILSON, DIGIROLAMO,
SAYLOR, MILLARD, McCLINTON, MARKOSEK, MULLINS, DUSH, STRUZZI,
YOUNGBLOOD, MOUL, FITZGERALD, FEE, KULIK, COOK, SCHEMEL,
PASHINSKI, PYLE, HEFFLEY AND TOOHIL, APRIL 2, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 2, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 27, 2019, as "Don't Text and Drive Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

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

6 WHEREAS, Texting while driving can lead to devastating
7 injuries, fatalities and property damage; and

8 WHEREAS, With behaviors encompassing manual, visual and
9 cognitive tasks, texting while driving is one of the most
10 dangerous driver distractions; and

11 WHEREAS, Evidence shows the prevalence of texting while
12 driving, its dangers on our roadways, its damage to property and
13 its destruction of lives and livelihoods through injury or
14 death; and

15 WHEREAS, Sending or receiving a text message diverts a

1 driver's attention for approximately 5 seconds, which at 55
2 miles per hour means blindly driving the length of a football
3 field; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
5 (NHTSA) has found that the percentage of drivers text messaging
6 or visibly manipulating handheld devices increased from 1.6% in
7 2013 to 2.0% in 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, NHTSA's most recent data shows that texting while
9 driving creates a crash risk 23 times greater than driving while
10 not distracted; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Safety Council estimates that cell
12 phone-related vehicle accidents account for 27% of all crashes
13 and texting-related vehicle accidents account for 6% of all
14 crashes; and

15 WHEREAS, A 2016 United States Department of Transportation
16 study notes that, at any given moment during daylight hours,
17 more than 481,000 vehicles were driven by someone using a
18 handheld cell phone; and

19 WHEREAS, Data collected by the University of Michigan
20 Transportation Research Institute shows that approximately 25%
21 of teenagers have responded to a text message while driving and
22 that 20% of teenagers and 10% of parents have had extended
23 multmessage texting conversations while driving; and

24 WHEREAS, The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts has
25 reported that 12,201 distracted driving violations were cited in
26 Pennsylvania between 2012 and 2017 and approximately 7,889 of
27 those violations were specific to texting; and

28 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's *PA*
29 *Crash Facts & Statistics* indicate that fatalities occurred in
30 371 of the 89,424 crashes involving distracted driving in this

1 Commonwealth between 2012 and 2017; and

2 WHEREAS, The mounting dangers of texting while driving have
3 validated actions of the General Assembly to reduce texting
4 while driving; and

5 WHEREAS, Act No. 98 of 2011 prohibits drivers from operating
6 a motor vehicle on a highway or trafficway in this Commonwealth
7 while using an interactive wireless communications device to
8 send, read or write text-based communication; and

9 WHEREAS, Act No. 85 of 2014 prohibits drivers from engaging
10 in texting while operating a commercial motor vehicle or motor
11 carrier vehicle; and

12 WHEREAS, Act No. 165 of 2016 increases penalties for the
13 offense of homicide by vehicle and for the offense of aggravated
14 assault by vehicle while using text-based communication;
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
17 27, 2019, as "Don't Text and Drive Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives appeal to
20 individuals, government agencies, business leaders, hospitals,
21 schools and other public and private institutions to promote
22 awareness of the dangers of texting while driving; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives seek support for
25 programs and policies that reduce the incidence of texting while
26 driving in this Commonwealth and nationwide; and be it further

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

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge law

- 1 enforcement across this Commonwealth to diligently enforce laws
- 2 preventing texting while driving.