
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 797 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY B. MILLER, MALAGARI, HENNESSEY, DONATUCCI,
SCHLOSSBERG, HICKERNELL, BOBACK, KORTZ, FREEMAN, BURNS,
MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, ECKER, KINSEY, BROWN, RYAN, FEE,
YOUNGBLOOD, SONNEY, OWLETT, GAINNEY, SCHMITT, GALLOWAY,
STAATS, ROEBUCK, O'MARA, CIRESI, MENTZER, SCHWEYER,
PASHINSKI, CONKLIN, ZIMMERMAN AND WARREN, MARCH 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 4, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 27, 2020, 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, Studies show that texting while driving involves
7 manual, visual and cognitive tasks and can lead to devastating
8 injuries, fatalities and property damage; and

9 WHEREAS, The mounting dangers of texting while driving have
10 validated actions of the General Assembly to reduce texting
11 while driving; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Act No. 85 of 2014 prohibits drivers from engaging

1 in texting while operating a commercial motor vehicle or motor
2 carrier vehicle; and

3 WHEREAS, Act No. 165 of 2016 increases penalties for the
4 offense of homicide by vehicle and for the offense of aggravated
5 assault by vehicle while using text-based communication; and

6 WHEREAS, Sending or receiving a text message diverts a
7 driver's attention for approximately 4.6 seconds, which at 55
8 miles per hour means blindly driving the length of a football
9 field; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's
11 (NHTSA) most recent data shows that texting while driving
12 creates a crash risk 23 times greater than driving while not
13 distracted; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Safety Council estimates that cell
15 phone-related vehicle accidents account for 26% of all crashes
16 and texting-related vehicle accidents account for 6% of all
17 crashes; and

18 WHEREAS, A 2018 United States Department of Transportation
19 study notes that, at any given moment during daylight hours,
20 more than 472,000 vehicles were driven by someone using a
21 handheld cell phone; and

22 WHEREAS, NHTSA has found that the percentage of drivers text
23 messaging or visibly manipulating handheld devices increased
24 from 1.6% in 2013 to 2.0% in 2016; and

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

30 WHEREAS, The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts has

1 reported that 15,542 distracted driving violations were cited in
2 Pennsylvania between 2012 and 2018 and approximately 9,995 of
3 those violations were specific to texting; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's *PA*
5 *Crash Facts & Statistics* indicate that fatalities occurred in
6 404 of the 103,716 crashes involving distracted driving in this
7 Commonwealth between 2012 and 2018; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
9 27, 2020, as "Don't Text and Drive Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives appeal to
12 individuals, government agencies, business leaders, hospitals,
13 schools and other public and private institutions to promote
14 awareness of the dangers of texting while driving; and be it
15 further

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge law
23 enforcement across this Commonwealth to diligently enforce laws
24 preventing texting while driving.