HLS 20RS-403 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

CHILDREN: Memorializes the U.S. Congress to adopt requirements that motor vehicles or child restraint safety systems come equipped with sensor technology to alert the driver about the presence of child

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to adopt
3	requirements that passenger motor vehicles or child restraint safety systems come
4	equipped with sensor technoloy to alert the driver of the presence of a child in the
5	rear seat when the engine has been shut off.
6	WHEREAS, over nine hundred children have died since 1990 from heatstroke as a
7	result of being left or forgotten in a hot car; and
8	WHEREAS, while the education on "hot cars" has increased, last year more than fifty
9	children died in hot cars; and
10	WHEREAS, the death of roughly thirty percent of children that were left in hot cars
11	was due to children that climbed into a vehicle, undetected, and became trapped.
12	WHEREAS, in an effort to eliminate the death of young children in hot cars, major
13	automakers have agreed to equip vehicles with systems to alert drivers of the presence of a
14	child in the rear seat by 2025; and
15	WHEREAS, these systems will either alert the driver of the presence of a child based
16	on a rear door opening at the beginning of the trip or by ultrasonic sensors that detect
17	movement of children and pets; and
18	WHEREAS, however, many safety advocates have cautioned that this is not enough
19	to detect the actual presence of a child in the back seat; and

1	WHEREAS, Congressional Senate Bill 1601, Helping Overcome Trauma for
2	Children Alone in Rear Seats Act of 2019, was introduced May 22, 2019, which requires the
3	Department of Transportation to issue a final rule requiring new passenger vehicles be
4	equipped with visual and audio alert systems for rear passengers; and
5	WHEREAS, further, the Act would require states to use a portion of highway safety
6	program funds to educate the public on the risks of leaving a child in a vehicle; and
7	WHEREAS, it would also require the Department of Transportation to undertake a
8	third-party study on retrofitting existing passenger motor vehicles; and
9	WHEREAS, Congressional House Resolution 3593, the "Hot Cars Act" of 2019, was
10	introduced on June 28, 2019, which requires the Department of Transportation issue a final
11	rule requiring that all new passenger motor vehicles weighing ten thousand pounds or less
12	be equipped with an alert system that detects the presence of a child or domestic animal in
13	a rear seat after the vehicle has been turned off; and
14	WHEREAS, the resolution further requires the Department of Transportation to
15	consider requiring systems to detect the presence of an occupant unable to independently
16	exit the vehicle and the presence of child who has entered the vehicle independently; and
17	WHEREAS, the resolution also requires the alert to include an auditory and visual
18	alert to notify individuals inside and outside the vehicle of the presence of an occupant,
19	which must include an interior haptic warning, or vibrations, and be activated when the
20	engine is turned off and the presence of an occupant is detected; and
21	WHEREAS, additionally, the bill requires the Department of Transportation to enter
22	into an agreement with a third party to independently perform a study on retrofitting existing
23	passenger motor vehicles with technology to address problems of occupants left unattended
24	in motor vehicles.
25	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
26	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such
27	actions as are necessary to adopt requirements that motor vehicles or child restraint safety
28	systems come equipped with sensor technology to alert the driver of the presence of a child
29	in the rear seat when the engine has been shut off.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 2 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
- 3 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 36 Original

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Hilferty

Memorialize the U.S. Congress to take such actions as are necessary to adopt requirements that motor vehicles or child restraint safety systems come equipped with sensor technoloy to alert the driver about the presence of a child in the rear seat when the engine has been shut off.