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SENATE MEMORIAL 23

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO GATHER DATA ON,
STUDY AND IDENTIFY THE CONSEQUENCES OF TEXTING WHILE DRIVING
AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY.

WHEREAS, distracted driving is driving that occurs while a
person is engaged in any non-driving activity that has the
potential to distract the person from the primary task of
driving; and

WHEREAS, there are three basic types of distractions:
visual, or taking one's eyes off the road; manual, or taking
one's hands off the wheel; and cognitive, or taking one's mind
off what one is doing; and

WHEREAS, texting while driving is a particularly dangerous
form of distracted driving as it involves all three types of
distractions at the same time; and

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1 WHEREAS, according to the national highway traffic safety
2 administration, in 2008, driver distraction was the cause of
3 five thousand eight hundred fatal crashes and five hundred
4 fifteen thousand crashes resulting in injury; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the American automobile association,
6 nearly fifty percent of teenagers admit to texting while
7 driving; and

8 WHEREAS, the university of north Texas health science
9 center has analyzed traffic data from the fatality accident
10 reporting system and texting data from the federal
11 communications commission and from CTIA, the wireless
12 association, and has concluded that texting while driving
13 claimed the lives of sixteen thousand one hundred forty-one
14 people during the period from 2001 to 2007; and

15 WHEREAS, although there is no federal ban on texting while
16 driving, thirty states, the District of Columbia and Guam ban
17 texting while driving for all drivers, with eleven of those
18 states having enacted legislation in 2010; and

19 WHEREAS, an additional eight states prohibit texting while
20 driving for novice drivers, and two states restrict school bus
21 drivers from texting while driving; and

22 WHEREAS, texting while driving presents a potentially
23 serious and deadly danger to society;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
25 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of transportation be

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1 requested to gather data on, study and identify the
2 consequences of texting while driving; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of
4 transportation present recommendations based on the findings of
5 the study to the appropriate interim committee by October 2011;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of transportation.

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