
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1083 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, V. BROWN,
BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GINGRICH,
GOODMAN, GRELL, HARHART, J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, KAUFFMAN,
KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, MACKENZIE, MAJOR, MARSICO,
McCARTER, McNEILL, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MIRANDA, MURT, O'BRIEN,
O'NEILL, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG,
SWANGER, TURZAI, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD, MILNE AND GROVE,
OCTOBER 14, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 14, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 19 through 25, 2014, as
2 "National Teen Driver Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death
4 for adolescents and young adults in the United States, and many
5 of these deaths are preventable; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, 4,283 drivers between
7 15 and 20 years of age were involved in fatal crashes in 2012;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The crash rate in the United States for teen
10 drivers, based on miles driven, is nearly three times the crash
11 rate for drivers 20 years of age and over; and

12 WHEREAS, The majority of teen driver crashes in the United
13 States are due to a critical driver error, with four common
14 errors accounting for nearly half of all serious crashes:

1 driving too fast for road conditions, being distracted, not
2 paying careful attention to road hazards and drunk driving,
3 which accounts for 22% of fatal teen crashes; and

4 WHEREAS, More than half of teenagers killed in motor vehicle
5 accidents in the United States each year did not use seat belts;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 54% of teen passenger deaths in the
8 United States occur while other teenagers are driving; and

9 WHEREAS, The presence of teen passengers increases the crash
10 risk of unsupervised teen drivers, and this risk increases with
11 the number of teen passengers; and

12 WHEREAS, The crash risk is particularly high during the first
13 year that teenagers are eligible to drive; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2012, in Pennsylvania, drivers under 21 years of
15 age were involved in 24,203 traffic crashes with 31.6% of those
16 crashes involving a single vehicle running off the road and
17 hitting a fixed object, such as a tree or guardrail; and

18 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2012, there were 105 teen driver
19 fatalities, with seven deaths among 16-year-old drivers; and

20 WHEREAS, Young drivers are the least experienced and traffic
21 crashes involving drivers 16 to 19 years of age are most often
22 the result of a critical driver error, such as speed,
23 distraction or failure to detect a hazard; and

24 WHEREAS, It is necessary to explore effective ways to reduce
25 the crash risk for young drivers by focusing research and
26 outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most
27 promise for improving safety; and

28 WHEREAS, The National Teen Driver Survey, developed with
29 input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital
30 of Philadelphia, demonstrates a nationwide need to increase

1 overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld
2 devices, the risks of nighttime and fatigued driving, the
3 importance of consistent seat belt use and the practice of
4 gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young
5 driver gains more experience under supervised conditions; and

6 WHEREAS, Nationally in 2012, 716 crash fatalities involving a
7 teen driver occurred in the fall months of September, October
8 and November as teenagers in the first months of the school year
9 were faced with many decisions involving driving, including
10 whether to drive with peer passengers and other distractions;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as National
13 Teen Driver Safety Week is expected to increase awareness of
14 these important issues among teenagers and adults in this
15 Commonwealth, as additional research is conducted to develop and
16 test effective interventions to boost teen driver safety;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
19 week of October 19 through 25, 2014, as National Teen Driver
20 Safety Week in Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

22 (1) support the goals and ideals of "National Teen
23 Driver Safety Week," specifically to promote the theme of
24 "Support Older Novice Drivers: Build Awareness of the Trend
25 in Delayed Licensure"; and

26 (2) encourage individuals 18 years of age and over to
27 prepare as if they are getting a learner's permit with
28 behind-the-wheel training with a professional or an
29 experienced licensed adult driver, driving in many different
30 environments, including poor weather conditions and nighttime

1 driving, and working toward getting between 50 and 120 hours
2 of adult supervised practice.