
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 548 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BRADFORD,
R. BROWN, V. BROWN, COHEN, CORBIN, D. COSTA, DAVIS, DRISCOLL,
DUSH, FARINA, GROVE, HARHART, HENNESSEY, KAUFFMAN, KILLION,
KIM, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MILLARD, NEILSON, O'BRIEN,
O'NEILL, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, ROSS, ROZZI, SAYLOR,
SCHLOSSBERG, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS, THOMAS,
VEREB, WARD, WHEELAND AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 19, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 19, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 18 through 24, 2015, 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, 3,966 drivers between
7 15 and 20 years of age were involved in fatal crashes in 2013;
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:
15 driving too fast for road conditions, being distracted, not

1 paying careful attention to road hazards and drunk driving,
2 which accounts for 22% of fatal teen crashes; and

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

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, In 2014, in Pennsylvania, drivers under 21 years of
14 age were involved in 26,575 traffic crashes with 32% of those
15 crashes involving a single vehicle running off the road and
16 hitting a fixed object, such as a tree or guardrail; and

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, The National Teen Driver Survey, developed with
28 input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital
29 of Philadelphia, demonstrates a nationwide need to increase
30 overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld

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

5 WHEREAS, Nationally in 2013, 641 crash fatalities involving a
6 teen driver occurred in the fall months of September, October
7 and November as teenagers in the first months of the school year
8 were faced with many decisions involving driving, including
9 whether to drive with peer passengers and other distractions;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as "National
12 Teen Driver Safety Week" is expected to increase awareness of
13 these important issues among teenagers and adults in this
14 Commonwealth; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
16 week of October 18 through 24, 2015, as "National Teen Driver
17 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives:

19 (1) support the goals and ideals of "National Teen
20 Driver Safety Week," specifically to promote the theme of
21 "Avoid the Regret; Avoid Impaired Driving"; and

22 (2) help teens take action as a passenger, as a friend
23 and as a driver to avoid impaired driving, including not only
24 alcohol and drug use, but also distraction, fatigue and
25 strong emotions. Avoiding impaired driving will help teens
26 avoid the regret.