

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 52

Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier

March 26, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 52—Relative to distracted driving.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 52, as amended, Frazier. Distracted Driving Awareness ~~Month~~ *Month*.

This measure would proclaim April 2015 as Distracted Driving Awareness Month and call for awareness of the distracted driving problem and support for programs and policies to reduce the incidence of distracted driving.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, A 2013 statewide traffic safety survey conducted
2 by the California Office of Traffic ~~Safety~~, *Safety* reported that
3 more than 36 percent of Californians surveyed thought texting or
4 talking on a cell phone while driving posed the biggest safety
5 problem on California roadways; and
6 *WHEREAS, Distracted driving is defined as any activity that*
7 *could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of*
8 *driving; and*
9 *WHEREAS, Distracted driving takes three primary forms:*
10 *(a) Visual distraction: tasks that require the driver to look away*
11 *from the roadway to visually obtain information.*

1 (b) *Manual distraction: tasks that require the driver to take a*
2 *hand off the steering wheel and manipulate a device.*

3 (c) *Cognitive distraction: tasks that are defined as the mental*
4 *workload associated with a task that involves thinking about*
5 *something other than the task of driving; and*

6
7 WHEREAS, In 2013, nearly 70 percent of the California drivers
8 surveyed said they had been hit or nearly hit by a driver who was
9 talking or texting on a cell phone; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2013, 45 percent of the drivers surveyed said
11 they have made a driving mistake while talking on a cell phone;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In 2013, nearly 48 percent of the drivers surveyed
14 said that texting while driving is the most serious distraction for
15 drivers; and

16 ~~WHEREAS, A 2012 statewide observational survey of cell~~
17 ~~phone use by California drivers, showed that 7.4 percent of drivers~~
18 ~~were using cell phones at any given time during daylight hours;~~
19 ~~and~~

20 *WHEREAS, A 2012 nationwide survey conducted by the National*
21 *Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed that, in any given*
22 *daylight moment across the United States, of the 212 million*
23 *licensed drivers, about 600,000 are using cell phones or*
24 *manipulating electronic devices while driving; and*

25 WHEREAS, In 2012, 3,328 people were killed and 421,000
26 were injured in distraction-affected crashes; and

27 WHEREAS, To read or type the average text takes 4.6 seconds.
28 Just three seconds of texting while driving at 65 mph is equal to
29 driving 100 yards, equal to the length of a football field,
30 blindfolded; and

31 WHEREAS, Engaging in visual-manual subtasks, such as
32 reaching for a phone, dialing, and texting, associated with the use
33 of handheld phones and other portable devices increased the risk
34 of getting into a crash by three times; and

35 WHEREAS, Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse
36 than driving while not distracted; and

37 WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety
38 Administration, only about 1 out of 5 young drivers think that
39 texting makes no difference to their driving performance.
40 Sixty-eight percent of young drivers 18 to 20 years of age are

1 willing to answer incoming phone calls on some, most, or all
2 driving trips; and

3 WHEREAS, Parents who engage in distracting behaviors while
4 driving more frequently have teens who do the same. According
5 to a 2012 teen driver distraction study conducted jointly by the
6 University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and
7 Toyota, teens send or read text messages once a trip 26 times more
8 often than their parents think they do; now, ~~therefore~~ *therefore*,
9 be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims April 2015 as
12 Distracted Driving Awareness Month and calls upon residents,
13 government agencies, business leaders, hospitals, schools, and
14 public and private institutions within the state to promote awareness
15 of the distracted driving problem and to support programs and
16 policies to reduce the incidence of distracted driving in California
17 and nationwide; and be ~~if further~~ *it further*

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.