

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 52

Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hadley, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

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. 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 reported that more than
3 36 percent of Californians surveyed thought texting or talking on
4 a cell phone while driving posed the biggest safety problem on
5 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.

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, In 2013, nearly 48 percent of the drivers surveyed
24 said that texting while driving is the most serious distraction for
25 drivers; and

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

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

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

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

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

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety
4 Administration, only about 1 out of 5 young drivers think that
5 texting makes no difference to their driving performance.
6 Sixty-eight percent of young drivers 18 to 20 years of age are
7 willing to answer incoming phone calls on some, most, or all
8 driving trips; and

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

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

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

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