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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 296 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, SABATINA, MCGARRIGLE, BARTOLOTTA,  
GREENLEAF, FARNESE, DINNIMAN, BREWSTER, MARTIN, ARGALL,  
RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK, BOSCOLA, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON, COSTA,  
BROWNE, SCAVELLO, VOGEL, KILLION, VULAKOVICH AND MENSCH,  
MARCH 26, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 26, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2018 as "Distracted Driving  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Distracted driving is any activity that could divert  
4 a driver's attention away from the primary task of driving; and

5 WHEREAS, Texting is the most alarming distraction from  
6 driving because it involves manual, visual and cognitive  
7 distraction simultaneously; and

8 WHEREAS, Distraction latency lasts an average of 27 seconds,  
9 resulting in a driver not being fully engaged in the primary  
10 task of driving even after having put down an interactive  
11 wireless communication device; and

12 WHEREAS, A recent nationwide survey suggests that nearly 75%  
13 of drivers reported using their interactive wireless  
14 communication device while driving and an estimated 60% of  
15 interactive wireless communication device use takes place behind  
16 the wheel; and

1       WHEREAS, Distracted driving is not confined to a single  
2 cause, age group, level of education or driver demographic; and

3       WHEREAS, In 2016, there were 16,050 crashes involving a  
4 distracted driver in this Commonwealth; and

5       WHEREAS, From 2012 through 2016, there were 311 fatalities in  
6 crashes involving a distracted driver, or an average of 62  
7 fatalities per year, in this Commonwealth; and

8       WHEREAS, Even though this Commonwealth has a primary offense  
9 anti-texting law, which prohibits drivers from sending, reading  
10 or writing a text-based communication via an interactive  
11 wireless communication device while the vehicle is in motion,  
12 additional legislative action and enforcement can help mitigate  
13 and reduce crashes and fatal crashes involving distracted  
14 driving; and

15       WHEREAS, The best way to end distracted driving is for  
16 drivers to put down their interactive wireless communication  
17 device and educate all residents of this Commonwealth about the  
18 danger distracted driving poses; therefore be it

19       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2018  
20 as "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be  
21 it further

22       RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all drivers in this  
23 Commonwealth to consider the lives of others on the road and  
24 avoid distracted driving.