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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 727

Offered January 14, 2013

Designating April, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Distracted Driving Awareness Month in Virginia.

Patron—Kory

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, improvements in technology have created the ability for people to stay connected at virtually all times; and

WHEREAS, a popular way to stay connected, particularly among teenagers, is by texting while driving; and

WHEREAS, traffic crashes are the number one killer of all people under 34 and texting while driving is a dangerous practice that leaves drivers distracted; and

WHEREAS, drivers who text and drive are 23 times more likely to be in a crash, according to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council reported that more than 200,000 crashes occur each year as a result of a driver who was texting and driving, resulting in injuries and death; and

WHEREAS, the improved health and well-being of Virginia's citizens are a direct result of increased awareness about the dangers of distracted driving; and

WHEREAS, DRIVE SMART Virginia is committed to reducing the number of traffic deaths and injuries throughout the Commonwealth by educating motorists and bringing awareness to dangerous driving behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the campaign against distracted driving has also been immensely aided by corporate efforts in Virginia, notably that of AT & T in 2012; and

WHEREAS, a month dedicated to programs and activities about distracted driving will greatly raise awareness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate April, in 2013 and in each succeeding year, as Distracted Driving Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to Janet Brooking of DRIVE SMART Virginia so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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