

1997 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 385

Offered January 8, 1997

Prefiled November 14, 1996

Designating May 1 through May 7 as 55 Alive Week in Virginia.

Patron—Cranwell

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), founded in 1958, is one of the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations, with over 34 million members; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to help older drivers improve their skills and prevent traffic accidents, the AARP sponsors 55 Alive/Mature Driving, a driver's training program designed especially for drivers aged 50 or older; and

WHEREAS, 55 Alive/Mature Driving, an eight-hour refresher course, concentrates on driver education for older Americans, specifically addressing the physiological concerns and driving problems unique to older drivers; and

WHEREAS, research shows that normal age-related physical changes begin to accelerate at age 55, and accidents per mile begin to increase at this same age; and

WHEREAS, studies of the 55 Alive/Mature Driving course have documented its effectiveness in reducing accidents, insurance claims, and traffic violations among older drivers; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicle insurance premium discounts are available to individuals who complete the 55 Alive/Mature Driving course; and

WHEREAS, AARP's involvement in driver improvement programs dates back to 1969, and the organization has been honored repeatedly by the National Safety Council for the effectiveness of its programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate the week of May 1 through May 7, in 1997 and in each succeeding year, as 55 Alive Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge Virginia's citizens 50 years of age and older to participate in this worthwhile program and encourage all Virginians to support the efforts of the AARP in promoting greater safety on the Commonwealth's highways.

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