

# 1999 SESSION

ENGROSSED

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 267

Senate Amendments in [ ] — January 28, 1999

*Designating the week of February 7-13, 1999, as Always Buckle Children in the Back Seat Week in Virginia.*

Patron—Woods

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Capitol Virginia District of Optimist International has been a vital part of the leadership of Virginia's communities for 67 years; and

WHEREAS, the Optimist International Child Safety Program was initiated to reduce the number of deaths and injuries to small children that result from the failure of adults to properly buckle up their children in motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, airbags, which have saved thousands of lives, do not protect infants and small children, and many adults are not aware that special precautions must be taken to protect the lives of young people; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, [ the Virginia State Police, and Fairfax County Police, the Virginia State Police, and other ] local police and sheriff's departments, trained Optimist volunteers conduct child safety classes and inspect and install child safety seats; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicle injuries can be prevented by following three simple guidelines: (i) buckle up every child in a motor vehicle properly, (ii) whenever possible, put children in the back seat, and (iii) always secure rear-facing infant seats in the back seat; and

WHEREAS, the Optimist International Child Safety Program, "Always Buckle Children in the Back Seat," raises community awareness of the need to safely place children in motor vehicles; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate the week of February 7-13, 1999, as Always Buckle Children in the Back Seat Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly commend the Capitol Virginia District of Optimist International for its outstanding efforts on behalf of the young people of the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the General Assembly urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to learn how properly to protect young children by ensuring they are buckled up in the back seat.

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