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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 505

Offered April 11, 2018

Commending the district finalists of the Department of Motor Vehicles' Take Action Against Distraction license plate design contest.

Patrons—Carrico, DeSteph and Mason

WHEREAS, in 2017, Virginia recorded 26,000 crashes and 208 deaths as a result of driver distraction behind the wheel; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Motor Vehicles has statutory authority to develop and issue a series of special license plates promoting highway safety, and the first license plate in the highway safety series will have an anti-distracted driving theme in honor of Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Motor Vehicles and AAA Mid-Atlantic conducted a license plate design contest for Virginia high school students to submit designs for the new anti-distracted driving themed license plate; more than 200 students throughout the Commonwealth submitted license plate designs for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the district judging panels were composed of a diverse array of professionals representing the arts, communications, media, highway safety, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, judges selected as district winners design concepts submitted by Mason Dodzik, Cape Henry Collegiate School in Virginia Beach; Destinee Glover, Nelson County High School in Lovingston; Matthew Houser, North Stafford High School in Stafford; Abigail Polansky, Jamestown High School in Williamsburg; Stephanie Schmidt, Briar Woods High School in Ashburn; Nick Short, L.C. Bird High School and Chesterfield Career and Technical Center in Chesterfield; Lydia Sluss, Virginia High School in Bristol; and Kaya Windpainter, Blacksburg High School in Blacksburg; and

WHEREAS, each district's winning entry featured original designs illustrating safe driving practices; and

WHEREAS, the district winners and their teachers can be credited for increasing awareness of the importance of distraction-free driving; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the district finalists of the Department of Motor Vehicles' Take Action Against Distraction license plate design contest be commended; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the eight district finalists of the Department of Motor Vehicles' Take Action Against Distraction license plate design contest, as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for their contributions to highway safety in the Commonwealth.