

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 114

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Distracted driving, which encompasses risky actions
2 such as talking on a cell phone, texting, eating, or putting on
3 makeup while behind the wheel, killed nearly 5,500 people in the
4 United States in 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, According to figures collected by the National
6 Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 16 percent of fatal crashes
7 in 2009 were attributed to distracted driving, and an even higher
8 percentage of crashes resulting in injuries were reported to
9 involve distracted drivers; astonishingly, data on driver
10 electronic device use suggested that at any given daylight moment,
11 nine percent of all drivers on U.S. roads were using some type of
12 phone; and

13 WHEREAS, A poll conducted for an insurance comparison website
14 in 2010 found that 93 percent of American drivers engage in various
15 forms of distracted driving, 70 percent of those between the ages of
16 18 and 24 admitted to texting and driving, and 4 in 10 American
17 adults acknowledged that being distracted while driving caused them
18 to swerve, slam on the brakes, get a ticket, nearly get into an
19 accident, or experience a minor or major wreck; the poll further
20 established that drivers with more income and education were more
21 likely to drive while distracted; and

22 WHEREAS, Whether due to visual, manual, or cognitive
23 distractions, distracted driving takes a heavy toll on Americans,
24 and it is also expensive, resulting in claims payments that

1 increase insurance premiums for everyone; the serious costs of
2 distracted driving were recently noted in a series of *New York Times*
3 articles by Matt Richtel, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2010, and
4 *Webster's New World College Dictionary* selected "distracted
5 driving" as their word of the year for 2009; in addition, the United
6 States Congress recognized April 2010 as National Distracted
7 Driving Awareness Month; and

8 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State needs Texas drivers to better
9 understand the dangers of distracted driving and continue to
10 address this growing problem that threatens all who use our streets
11 and highways; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby designate April 2011 as Distracted Driving Awareness Month
14 and urge all members of the motoring public to support this
15 worthwhile event.