

By: Price

H.R. No. 1685

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Every April, the National Safety Council promotes
2 Distracted Driving Awareness Month to highlight a major cause of
3 automobile accidents; and

4 WHEREAS, Last year, nearly one in five crashes in Texas were
5 caused by a distracted driver; in these crashes, 364 people lost
6 their lives and 2,200 were seriously injured, according to the
7 Texas Department of Transportation; in 2019, more than 97,000
8 distracted driving crashes were recorded across the state;
9 nationally, distracted driving causes about eight fatalities every
10 day; and

11 WHEREAS, Anything that diverts the driver's attention can
12 lead to an accident, from eating and drinking to interacting with
13 passengers, adjusting the navigation, and talking on a cell phone;
14 looking away from the road for just two seconds doubles the risk of
15 a crash, and reading a text for five seconds while traveling at 55
16 mph is comparable to driving the length of a football field
17 blindfolded; since September 1, 2017, it has been illegal to read,
18 write, or send a text while driving in Texas because of its
19 consequential effects; and

20 WHEREAS, While most people recognize when they are visually
21 or manually distracted and try to limit those activities, they
22 often do not realize when they are cognitively distracted;
23 hands-free devices and voice command systems engage drivers
24 mentally with interactive tasks, and although hands-free options

1 may be marginally safer than handheld devices, eliminating the use
2 of cell phones and in-vehicle infotainment systems improves safety;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Distracted driving crashes are 100 percent
5 preventable; a small activity can lead to devastating consequences
6 when it takes attention away from the road, and the monthlong
7 observance in April reminds motorists to make driving their primary
8 focus and leave other cognitively demanding tasks until they are
9 safely parked; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize April 2022 as Distracted Driving
12 Awareness Month in Texas and encourage residents of the Lone Star
13 State to affirm their commitment to helping make our roadways safer
14 for all.