

ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1042

By: Lindley of the House

and

Morgan of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution encouraging state agencies to work together to study teenage alcohol and drug usage; stating statistics; requesting Department of Health to submit report; and providing for distribution.

WHEREAS, the sense of the Oklahoma State Legislature is that one of the least understood and riskiest, most lethal and crime-inducing settings for teenage alcohol and drug use, and possibly related youth violence, is the motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, teenagers with their ready access to the motor vehicle have become increasingly mobile, adding a fluid dynamic to the manner in which teenagers use alcohol and illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse by teenagers has not significantly declined in the past several years and remains unacceptably high, possibly, for certain groups, increasing in incidence and shifting to riskier settings; and

WHEREAS, two thousand two hundred thirty-eight (2,238) persons between fifteen and twenty years of age were killed in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 1999 across America; and

WHEREAS, the Aluminum Anonymous Project surveyed one thousand twenty-five (1,025) miles of Oklahoma roadside from Poteau to Muskogee to Tulsa to Bartlesville to Oklahoma City to Chickasha to the Texas state line and from Hugo to Henryetta to Okmulgee to Tulsa to Seminole to Ada and to Ardmore in April 1998 and October 2000 for the discard rate of alcoholic beverage containers, finding an

average of one thousand two hundred beer cans or beer bottles per mile of road annually, and followed up with forty "Who's Doing the Tossing?" interviews of Oklahoma grass-roots professionals working with teens and adults in alcohol and drug settings who collectively estimated that fifty percent (50%) of the discarded alcohol containers were coming from teenagers; and

WHEREAS, three state legislatures - New Mexico, Montana and Rhode Island - have passed similar resolutions in 2001 and, in several other states, legislators have either introduced - Illinois - or plan to introduce such resolutions for the 2002 session; and

WHEREAS, the January 2001 report of the National Center of Substance Abuse and Addiction (CASA), New York, New York, "Shoveling Up: Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets", states that only six percent (6%) of the Seven Hundred Five Million Dollars (\$705,000,000.00) that Oklahoma spends annually on substance abuse problems goes for prevention and treatment, while the remaining ninety-four percent goes for cleaning up the wreckage caused by substance abuse and addiction; and

WHEREAS, the January 2001 "Report of the United States Surgeon General on Youth Violence" notes that although youth violence may have peaked, it will remain a major problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Department of Health in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Education and the Office of the Attorney General study the problem of teenage in-vehicle drinking and related drug use by:

1. Assembling and determining what is known and not known about this behavior, its causes, prevalence and incidence; and
2. Assessing the effectiveness of present policies, programs and evaluation techniques and gauging the adequacy of interagency

collaboration, including data sharing, program development and cross-training, in meeting the challenges of this problem.

THAT the Department of Health report to the Oklahoma Legislature a recommended plan of action, encompassing policy and program, that would more comprehensively incorporate teenage in-vehicle drinking and related drug use into the scope of the substance abuse and youth violence prevention strategies in Oklahoma. The report should concentrate on ways of modifying and reforming present policies and programs rather than creating new programs.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Department of Health, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Education and the Office of the Attorney General.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 21st day of February, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate