

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE

RESOLUTION 41

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution raising awareness of the dangers of distracted driving; committing the Legislature to model safe driving; and encouraging Oklahomans to avoid distracted driving.

WHEREAS, in the last decade, distracted driving has been rampant on U.S. roadways, endangering not only the distracted drivers, but their passengers, pedestrians and others on the road; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving claimed 3,142 lives in the U.S. in 2020, and 8% of all fatal crashes nationwide involved distracted drivers; and

WHEREAS, texting is the worst distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that would be equivalent to driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, nearly 7,300 accidents were caused in Oklahoma by distracted driving, impacting around 17,000 people; and

WHEREAS, 43 Oklahomans were killed in those distracted driving accidents and nearly 3,800 others were injured; and

1 WHEREAS, Oklahomans between the ages of 20 and 49 are the most  
2 common to be distracted while driving; and

3 WHEREAS, 48 states including Oklahoma, along with Washington,  
4 D.C., have passed laws outlawing texting while driving; and

5 WHEREAS, following the passage of Oklahoma's Trooper Nicholas  
6 Dees and Trooper Keith Burch Act of 2015, the state saw 12% fewer  
7 total crashes, a 22% decrease in injury-causing crashes, 30% less  
8 traffic fatalities, and a 6% decrease in non-injury crashes; and

9 WHEREAS, Oklahoma law enforcement officers recently took a  
10 pledge to educate the public and model appropriate driving behavior  
11 to ensure that future Oklahoma generations are not lost to needless  
12 distractions.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
14 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commits to model safe driving  
16 behaviors for their fellow Oklahomans and to do all they can within  
17 the Constitution and the proper role of government to educate others  
18 on the dangers of distracted driving.

19 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages Oklahomans to take  
20 personal responsibility to make themselves aware of and educate  
21 their families and loved ones about the dangers of distracted  
22 driving and take the pledge to avoid distractions while driving.

23 58-2-3875 JS 5/6/2022 4:19:22 PM  
24  
25