

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1069

By: Humphrey

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution raising awareness of the dangers of distracted driving; committing the Oklahoma House of Representatives to model safe driving; and encouraging Oklahomans to take the pledge to avoid distractions while 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 three thousand one hundred forty-two (3,142) lives in the United States in 2020, and eight percent (8%) of all fatal crashes nationwide involved distracted drivers; and

WHEREAS, texting is the worst distraction. Sending or reading a text message takes your eyes off the road for five (5) seconds. At 55 miles per hour, that would be equivalent to driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2020, nearly seven thousand three hundred (7,300)
2 accidents were caused in Oklahoma by distracted driving, impacting
3 around seventeen thousand (17,000) people; and

4 WHEREAS, forty-three (43) Oklahomans were killed in those
5 distracted driving accidents and nearly three thousand eight hundred
6 (3,800) others were injured; and

7 WHEREAS, Oklahomans between the ages of twenty (20) and forty-
8 nine (49) are the most common to be distracted while driving; and

9 WHEREAS, forty-eight (48) states, including Oklahoma, along with
10 Washington, D.C., have passed laws outlawing texting while driving;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, following the passage of Oklahoma's Trooper Nicholas
13 Dees and Trooper Keith Burch Act of 2015, the state saw twelve
14 percent (12%) fewer total crashes, a twenty-two percent (22%)
15 decrease in injury-causing crashes, thirty percent (30%) less
16 traffic fatalities, and a six percent (6%) decrease in noninjury
17 crashes; and

18 WHEREAS, Oklahoma law enforcement officers recently took a
19 pledge to educate the public and model appropriate driving behavior
20 to ensure that future Oklahoma generations are not lost to needless
21 distractions.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
23 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commits to modeling
2 safe driving behaviors for their fellow Oklahomans and to do all
3 they can within the Constitution and the proper role of government
4 to educate others on the dangers of distracted driving.

5 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages Oklahomans
6 to take personal responsibility to make themselves aware of and
7 educate their families and loved ones about the dangers of
8 distracted driving and take the pledge to avoid distractions while
9 driving.

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