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ACR-124 National Passenger Safety Week. (2021-2022)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 124

CHAPTER 15

Relative to National Passenger Safety Week.

[Approved by Governor March 08, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State March 08, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 124, Fong. National Passenger Safety Week.

This measure would declare that passengers in motor vehicles should be educated and encouraged to advocate for their own safety and the safety of others during National Passenger Safety Week, the week of January 23 to 29, 2022, inclusive.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Everyone has an important role to play in increasing road safety; and

WHEREAS, Passenger deaths accounted for 25 percent of all traffic fatalities nationwide in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Traffic deaths increased 7 percent in 2020 and 18 percent in 2021 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) preliminary estimates; and

WHEREAS, Passenger vehicle occupant deaths rose 5 percent in 2020; and

WHEREAS, These historic increases in traffic deaths occurred as there was a 13 percent decrease in vehicle miles traveled; and

WHEREAS, NHTSA's data shows the main behaviors driving this increase were speeding, impaired driving, and failure to wear seat belts; and

WHEREAS, Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, speeding, driving too aggressively, or driving distracted, or the driver cannot stay awake at the wheel, bad driving choices put passengers at risk of serious injury or death; and

WHEREAS, Many of those lives might have been saved had a passenger in the car insisted that the driver slow down, stop texting, or not get behind the wheel in the first place; and

WHEREAS, Passengers, especially teens and young adults, need education and encouragement to empower them to save lives by calling out unsafe driving in the car as it happens; and

WHEREAS, Parents also need education and encouragement to teach their children about the importance of speaking up or not getting in the car with someone who is drunk, drugged, or distracted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That passengers in motor vehicles should be educated and encouraged to advocate for their own safety and the safety of others during National Passenger Safety Week, the week of January 23 to 29, 2022, inclusive, and throughout the year; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.