

By Representative Turnbull

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House Resolution

A resolution emphasizing safe driving awareness and designating weeks before certain holidays as "Safe Driver Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, driver fatigue contributes significantly to traffic accidents that result in death and serious injury to Florida motorists and pedestrians, and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that driver fatigue is responsible for over 100,000 crashes per year which kill 1,500 people nationwide, injure 71,000, and cause a great number of motor vehicle fatalities in Florida, and

WHEREAS, drivers must perform a series of coordinated tasks using their hands, feet, eyes, ears, and body movement to drive safely and defensively, and effective performance of such tasks may be affected by fatigue, and

WHEREAS, driver fatigue and impairment are often caused by excessive driving and the forgoing of necessary sleep in order to make unreasonable deadlines and schedules and often may be caused or worsened by the use of substances other than alcohol, which may include herbal remedies, "designer drugs," and sedating medications, both prescription and those sold over the counter, and

WHEREAS, Citizens Against Drug Impaired Drivers reports that of the approximately 43,000 annual motor fatalities in the United States, 10,000 to 15,000 involve substances other than alcohol, and

WHEREAS, the law enforcement community of Florida is united in its opposition to drivers' use of any substance to the extent that it might impair driving performance, and

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
2 Vehicles has been vigilant in its efforts to keep the motoring  
3 public informed of the dangers of driving impaired as a result  
4 of excessive fatigue or central nervous system impairing  
5 substances other than alcohol, and should be commended for its  
6 efforts, and

7           WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper, in the interest of  
8 public safety, to periodically call special attention to the  
9 drivers of Florida to the dangers of driving while fatigued,  
10 sedated, or otherwise impaired and the potential of various  
11 substances other than alcohol, when consumed prior to driving  
12 a motor vehicle, to impair the driver's ability to safely  
13 maneuver a motor vehicle, NOW, THEREFORE,

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15 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
16 Florida:

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18           That the week immediately preceding the holidays of  
19 Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving and the New Year's  
20 holiday is hereby declared "Safe Driver Awareness Week" in the  
21 State of Florida, and the House of Representatives urges that  
22 all necessary actions be taken by the appropriate state  
23 agencies to publicize these special weeks and, within the  
24 limitations of their existing resources, inform and educate  
25 the public throughout the year as to the dangers of driving  
26 while fatigued or under the influence of any substance,  
27 whether alcoholic or nonalcoholic.

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