

2013-K1323

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Youth Travel Safety Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months set aside to increase awareness of serious issues which affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Youth Travel Safety Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 2006, Global Youth Travel Safety Month has called attention to the fact that motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for young people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Youth Travel Safety Month in the State of New York works to ensure the young citizens of the Empire State do not fall victim to these unfortunate statistics; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous factors which put young drivers at risk for vehicular accidents; studies show that motorists in their first months of driving are nearly twice as likely to experience crashes as those with two or more years of experience; also, speeding and driving with multiple passengers greatly increase risks for teenagers behind the wheel; and

WHEREAS, One of the main causes of auto-related fatalities, distracted driving, has become a major issue in recent years, with approximately 20 percent of crashes caused by a distracted driver; texting while driving is a large part of this growing concern, with surveys showing that more than 50 percent of high school students text "at least sometimes" while driving; and

WHEREAS, Although drunk driving has decreased greatly amongst teens,

it is still one of the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes; one-third of all teenage drivers killed in car crashes had a blood alcohol content of .01 or higher; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to save young lives, Youth Travel Safety Month in the State of New York encourages high school age men and women to pay better attention while on the road, and to be more mindful of proper traffic safety; initiatives are underway to decrease cell phone use and texting while driving, while also increasing responsible driving habits; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, a national non-profit organization, has started the IKnowEverything Campaign which uses social media to highlight the issues of drunk driving and distracted driving; the program educates young people and their parents on critical topics and on best practices for road safety; and

WHEREAS, In addition, lawmakers are working hard to institute greater safety courses and penalties for reckless driving; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this important issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state and national levels to reduce the incidence of auto-related fatalities for young people, so that teenagers and their families can be spared such horrible tragedies; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2014 as Youth Travel Safety Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.