

**No. R-234. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Youth Safety Council of Vermont on its tenth anniversary and designating June 2015 as Teen Highway Safety Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.180)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Baser of Bristol, Botzow of Pownal, Brennan of Colchester, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Dakin of Colchester, Donovan of Burlington, Morris of Bennington, Nuovo of Middlebury, Parent of St. Albans City, Potter of Clarendon, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Whereas, nationally, on average, more than 34,000 highway deaths occur annually, of which far too many are teens, and

Whereas, in Vermont, teen drivers account for over ten percent of car crashes and eight percent of the highway fatalities, and teens are more than three times as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than drivers 20 years of age or older, and

Whereas, speed, inexperience, and distractions are the leading causes of teen car crashes, with distraction being the primary cause of teen highway fatalities, and the likelihood of a teen fatality is much greater during the first year of driving, and

Whereas, June, the month of high school proms and graduations, is the deadliest month for teen drivers, and

Whereas, the Youth Safety Council of Vermont was established to educate teen drivers on the importance of safe driving, and

Whereas, the Turn Off Texting golf cart is a special project of the Council that for the past four years has demonstrated to thousands of teens the dangers of distracted driving, and

Whereas, the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance is a public-private partnership consisting of over 40 organizations working to support the educational and prevention efforts of the Agency of Transportation's Office of Highway Safety and the Governor's Highway Safety Program, and

Whereas, the Youth Safety Council of Vermont has served as an exemplary partner in the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance, bringing special attention to issues related to teen driving, and

Whereas, although the nationally organized Teen Driver Safety Week occurs in October, the importance of teen drivers merits the attention of an entire month, and June is especially timely for this observance, and

Whereas, the Youth Safety Council of Vermont celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2015, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Youth Safety Council of Vermont on its tenth anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly designates June 2015 as Teen Highway Safety Month, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Youth Safety Council of Vermont in Middlebury.