1	* * * Distracted Driving; Report * * *
2	Sec. XX. DISTRACTED DRIVING; REPORT
3	(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:
4	(1) Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving,
5	including talking or texting on a portable electronic device.
6	(2) Sending or reading a text could take an individual's eyes off the road
7	for five seconds or more. At 55 miles per hour, that is like an operator driving
8	the length of an entire football field with closed eyes.
9	(3) XX individuals were convicted under 23 V.S.A. § 1095a, 1095b, or
10	1099 (Vermont statutes that prohibit a non-commercial driver's license holder
11	from using a portable electronic device or texting while operating a motor
12	vehicle) in 2020.
13	(4) 3,142 individuals were killed by distracted driving in the United
14	<u>States in 2020.</u>
15	(b) Recommendations.
16	(1) The Vermont State Highway Safety Office, in consultation with the
17	Departments of Motor Vehicles and of Public Safety, the Vermont Sheriffs'
18	Association, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont
19	Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Vermont Association of
20	Court Diversion and Pretrial Services, and the Vermont Judiciary, shall file
21	written recommendations on how, if at all, the State should modify its

1	approach to the education, enforcement, and conviction of the non-commercial
2	driver's license distracted driving violations under 23 V.S.A. §§ 1095a, 1095b,
3	and 1099 with the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on
4	Transportation not later than January 15, 2023.
5	(2) As part of making any recommendations, the Vermont State Highway
6	Safety Office shall review what is and what is not working to minimize
7	distracted driving in Vermont and other states, especially amongst operators
8	under 18 years of age, and examine:
9	(A) the use of monetary penalties, points, suspensions, revocations,
10	and recalls, including escalations based on number of and location of distracted
11	driving violations;

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(B) the use of diversion programs and other mandated education; and

(C) how to balance education, enforcement, and conviction.

(Distracted Driving Recommendations Report – draft 1.1) 4/7/2022 - ADC - 09:30 PM

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