

1 SJR71
2 175675-4
3 By Senator Holley
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 22-MAR-16

1 SJR71

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4 ENROLLED, SJR71,

5 DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 19 EACH YEAR AS DROWSY DRIVER
6 AWARENESS DAY.

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8 WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety
9 Administration has estimated that 100,000 police-reported
10 vehicle crashes per year, resulting in approximately 1,550
11 deaths and 71,000 injuries, are the direct result of driver
12 fatigue; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a recent poll by the National
14 Sleep Foundation, 60 percent of all adults surveyed,
15 approximately 168 million people, have admitted to driving a
16 motor vehicle while drowsy during the previous year and 37
17 percent of those adults reported falling asleep at the wheel
18 while driving; and

19 WHEREAS, there is no roadside test for a person to
20 complete or for law enforcement to administer to determine
21 whether a driver is too tired to drive, and many crashes
22 attributed to alcohol or other causes may actually be the
23 result of a sleepy driver; and

24 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2006, in Alabama, Wendall
25 G. Williams, 28, was killed in a horrific one vehicle accident

1 when, as a passenger in a car driven by a sober man who had
2 apparently gone without sleep for between 22 and 30 hours, the
3 driver fell asleep at the wheel; the driver did not receive a
4 single citation; and

5 WHEREAS, while states have instituted public
6 education campaigns and passed laws imposing fines and
7 imprisonment on guilty fatigued defendants, Alabama has no law
8 requiring public education or punishing drowsy driving that
9 results in accidents; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in memory of the life of
12 Wendall G. Williams, as a continuing memorial to the many
13 other loved ones who have suffered the same fate, and as an
14 annual reminder of the tragic consequences of fatigued
15 driving, November 19 is hereby designated as Drowsy Driver
16 Awareness Day in Alabama.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Victims of Crime
18 and Leniency (VOCAL) and the Traffic Safety Resource
19 Prosecutor Program coordinate their efforts to increase the
20 public's awareness of the dangers of drowsy driving.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in observance of the
22 day, the public shall be educated on the danger of driving
23 drowsy and the many ways of preventing vehicular crashes
24 related to drowsy driving in the future shall be emphasized.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR71

Senate 22-MAR-16

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 05-APR-16

By: Senator Holley