

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

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8 DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 19 EACH YEAR AS DROWSY DRIVER
9 AWARENESS DAY.

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2006, in Alabama, Wendall
2 G. Williams, 28, was killed in a horrific one vehicle accident
3 when, as a passenger in a car driven by a sober man who had
4 apparently gone without sleep for between 22 and 30 hours, the
5 driver fell asleep at the wheel; the driver did not receive a
6 single citation; and

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

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

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

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