

Memorializing Resolution Supporting Assembly Bill A-03373 And Senate Bill S-3120 Amending The Vehicle And Traffic Law And The Penal Law In Relation To Driving While Drowsy

Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Busick, Cummings, DePew, Every, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Maloney, McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, Roberti, Stock, Tipp, Bartels, Berardi, Dart, Donaldson, Feldmann, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stoeckeler and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, in the United States, more than 100,000 drivers crash each year because they cannot keep themselves awake. As a result of driving drowsy, some 40,000 people are injured and more than 1,550 people are killed, and

WHEREAS, in New York State alone, police reports from 1996-2000 indicate that driver fatigue was a contributing factor in at least 17,800 traffic crashes. Drivers aged 16-18 account for almost 10 percent of those reported crashes, and indications are that these incidents are grossly under reported, and

WHEREAS, driver fatigue affects all age groups, especially young adults aged 16-24, faced with the multiple demands of employment, education, and extra-curricular activity; long-distance truck drivers who often drive at night without stopping for breaks; and shift workers required to sleep in noisy daytime environments, and

WHEREAS, drowsy driving ranges from falling asleep at the wheel to simply not paying attention to driving because of fatigue or lack of sleep. Officials said warning signs include difficulty in keeping your eyes open, repeated yawning, having wandering or disconnected thoughts, drifting from your driving lane, or failure to remember the last few miles driven.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls upon Governor Pataki and the New York State Legislature to enact a stronger driver fatigue law as contained in legislation introduced by Senator John J. Bonacic, Senate Bill S-3120, and Assembly Member Jonathan L. Bing, Assembly Bill A-03373, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

Resolution No. 120 March 10, 2005

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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 33 NOES: 0

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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