



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION Resolution 2017-3

Florida Sheriffs Association Resolution in Support of Enacting a New State Law that would Make Texting While Driving a Primary Offense

WHEREAS, texting while driving is a form of distracted driving that shifts the driver's attention away from driving; and

WHEREAS, texting while driving makes the likelihood of a crash 23 times greater than driving while not distracted according to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, an estimated total of 967,000 crashes in the United States involving distracted drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA"); and

WHEREAS, in 2014, 3,179 people were killed in crashes in the United States involving distracted drivers, according to the NHTSA; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, approximately 431,000 people were injured in crashes in the United States involving distracted drivers, according to the NHTSA; and

WHEREAS, the degree of cognitive distraction associated with mobile phone use is so high that drivers using mobile phones exhibit greater impairment than legally intoxicated drivers, according to a University of Utah study; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2011, the National Transportation Safety Board urged all states to prohibit the use of cellular telephones and text messaging while behind the wheel of a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, during the 2013 regular session, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law, which made texting while driving a noncriminal traffic infraction; and

WHEREAS, Florida is among the five states that do not enforce texting while driving as a primary offense, but instead as a secondary offense; and

WHEREAS, a secondary offense is an offense for which a law enforcement officer can issue a ticket only if a driver has been pulled over for committing another traffic violation; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Sheriffs Association urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that on this 20th day of October 2017, the Florida Sheriffs Association supports HB 121 and SB 90 creating a new law that would make texting while driving a primary offense.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION:

Sheriff Mike Adkinson
President

ATTEST:

Steve Casey
Executive Director

