

By: Senator(s) Gollott

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

1 A RESOLUTION DECLARING EACH WEEK BEFORE CERTAIN HOLIDAYS TO
2 BE KNOWN AS "SAFE DRIVER AWARENESS WEEK."

3 WHEREAS, driver fatigue contributes significantly to the
4 traffic accidents that result in death and serious injury to
5 Mississippi motorists and pedestrians; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Highway Transportation Safety
7 Administration reports that driver fatigue is responsible for over
8 100,000 crashes per year which kill 1,500 people, injure 71,000
9 people and is the cause of a number of motor vehicle fatalities
10 annually in Mississippi; and

11 WHEREAS, drivers must perform a series of coordinated tasks
12 using their hands, feet, eyes, ears and body movements to drive
13 safely and defensively, and effective performance of such tasks
14 may be affected by fatigue; and

15 WHEREAS, driver fatigue and impairment is often caused by
16 excessive driving and the foregoing of necessary sleep in order to
17 make deadlines and schedules; and

18 WHEREAS, while the use of alcoholic beverages is frequently
19 blamed for automobile accidents, driver fatigue and impairment may
20 often be caused or worsened by the use of substances other than
21 alcohol which may include herbal remedies, "designer drugs," and
22 sedating medications - both prescription and over-the-counter; and

23 WHEREAS, Citizens Against Drug Impaired Drivers reports that
24 of the approximately 43,000 annual motor fatalities in the United
25 States, 10,000 to 15,000 fatalities involve substances other than
26 alcohol; and

27 WHEREAS, the law enforcement community of Mississippi is
28 united in its opposition to drivers' use of any substance to the
29 extent that it might impair driving performance; and

30 WHEREAS, Mississippi has enacted a law that imposes penalties
31 on drivers who have been identified as driving impaired as a
32 result of the improper use of sedating substances; and

33 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Public
34 Safety Planning has been vigilant in its efforts to keep the
35 motoring public informed of the dangers of driving impaired as a
36 result of excessive fatigue or the use of sedating substances
37 other than alcohol, and should be commended for its efforts; and

38 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper in the interest of public
39 safety, to periodically call special attention to the drivers of
40 Mississippi to the dangers of driving while fatigued, sedated or
41 otherwise impaired and the potential that various substances other
42 than alcohol, when consumed before driving a motor vehicle, may
43 impair a driver's ability to safely maneuver a motor vehicle:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
45 SENATE, That each week immediately preceding the driving holidays
46 of Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day is
47 hereby declared "Safe Driver Awareness Week" in the State of
48 Mississippi.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge all necessary actions be
50 taken by the appropriate state agencies to publicize these special
51 weeks and, within the limitations of their existing resources, to
52 inform and educate the public throughout the year on the dangers
53 of driving while fatigued or under the influence of any substance,
54 whether alcoholic or nonalcoholic.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
56 furnished to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.