R010-0506

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ELDERLY DRIVERS

WHEREAS: In the Legislative Year 1999-2000 the Honorable Delegate Seth D. Schraier proposed legislation number R032-9900 entitled "A Resolution Concerning Elderly Drivers"; and,

WHEREAS: Because this issue is still a matter of great importance the Maryland Student Legislature should re-consider the legislation; and,

WHEREAS: 7,078 people 65 years and older died in motor vehicle crashes in 1996, 1 percent more than in 1995 and 32 percent more than in 1975; and,

WHEREAS: Eighty percent of elderly deaths in 1996 motor vehicle crashes were passenger vehicle occupants, and 17 percent were pedestrians; and,

WHEREAS: People 65 years and older represented 13 percent of the population in 1996 and 17 percent of motor vehicle deaths. By 2030, elderly people are expected to represent 20 percent of the population; and,

WHEREAS: People age 70 and older have more motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 people than other groups except people younger than 25; and,

WHEREAS: Per mile driven, drivers 75 years and older have higher rates of fatal motor vehicle crashes than drivers in other age groups except teenagers; and,

WHEREAS: Per licensed driver, fatal crash rates rise sharply at age 70 and older; and,

WHEREAS: About half of fatal crashes involving drivers 80 years and older occur at intersections and involve more than one vehicle. This compares with 23 percent among drivers up to age 50; and,

WHEREAS: At age 80 and older, the pedestrian death rate per 100,000 among men is more than 3 times as high as at age 79 and younger; and,

WHEREAS: It has been shown that the elderly slowly lose their sight and hearing as they age.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature calls for stricter regulation of elderly drivers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That these regulations would call for mandatory eye and hearing exams every 5 years after the age 65, which if failed the elderly driver would lose their license.

MANDATES: Robert L. Ehrlich, Governor of Maryland
Mike E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate

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