

Calendar No. 601

109TH CONGRESS }
2nd Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 109-333

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT STATES SHOULD REQUIRE CAN-
DIDATES FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES TO
DEMONSTRATE AN ABILITY TO EXERCISE
GREATLY INCREASED CAUTION WHEN
DRIVING IN THE PROXIMITY OF A POTEN-
TIALY VISUALLY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUAL

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ON

S. Con. Res. 71



SEPTEMBER 11, 2006.—Ordered to be printed

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT STATES SHOULD REQUIRE CANDIDATES FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES TO DEMONSTRATE AN ABILITY TO EXERCISE GREATLY INCREASED CAUTION WHEN DRIVING IN THE PROXIMITY OF A POTENTIALLY VISUALLY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUAL

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Con. Res. 71]

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to which was referred the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 71) expressing the sense of Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The purpose of S. Con. Res. 71 is to express the sense of the Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

S. Con. Res. 71 was introduced by Senator Akaka on December 15, 2005. The cosponsors are Senators DeWine, Inouye, Johnson, Landrieu, Salazar, Schumer, Stevens, and Thune. Each year, careless drivers cause personal injury and death to visually impaired individuals and their guide dogs. To reduce these accidents, the resolution urges states to adopt the requirement that candidates for driver's licenses demonstrate an ability to drive with increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

S. Con. Res. 71 finds that many visually impaired people travel about their communities without personal assistance and that many visually impaired people and guide dogs suffer injury and death each year as a result of being struck by a motor vehicle. Therefore, the resolution expresses the sense of Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual. The resolution encourages states to teach candidates for driver's licenses to associate guide dogs and white canes with visually impaired pedestrians.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On July 19, 2006, the resolution was ordered to be reported favorably without amendment from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation by voice vote.

ESTIMATED COSTS

With respect to the requirements of paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, S. Con. Res. 71 is a sense of the Congress resolution and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, there is no cost associated with this legislation for fiscal year 2007, nor for any fiscal year thereafter.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Because S. Con. Res. 71 does not create any new programs, the legislation will have no additional regulatory impact, and will result in no additional reporting requirements. The legislation will have no further effect on the number or types of individuals and businesses regulated, the economic impact of such regulation, the personal privacy of affected individuals, or the paperwork required from such individuals and businesses.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that the resolution as reported would make no change to existing law.