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TESTIMONY

BILL: SCR 15 ENCOURAGES THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO STUDY PROBLEM OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE BY TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS WHILE DRIVING MOTOR VEHICLES

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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Good morning, for the record I am Maria Canfield representing the Department of Human Resources (DHR), State Health Division, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

SCR 15 encourages DHR to study the problem of adolescents and young adults who drink and use drugs while driving. It encourages DHR to collaborate with the Departments of Transportation, Public Safety and Education to conduct a study that would include:

- Compilation of available statistics
- Determination of the causes of this behavior
- Assessment of the effectiveness of available public and private programs and existing policies
- Identification of gaps in services and public knowledge relating to the causes, prevalence, and incidence of this behavior
- Appraisal of the adequacy of current interagency collaboration, including data sharing, program development and cross training

Additionally it allows DHR to accept gifts, grants and donations. The resolution directs DHR, if the study is conducted, to report during the next legislative session on a plan of action for modifying existing policies and programs.

This study would require staff resources, equipment, development of data collection procedures, computer programming for data analysis, and extensive collaboration between agencies. DHR agrees with the intent of SCR 15 and its recognition that youth substance abuse is a serious problem. Having data to inform policy

development is always a good idea; however, this study is not in the Department's budget and without additional resources it will not be possible for DHR to undertake the study.