

Assembly Resolution No. 1402

BY: M. of A. Rules (Woerner)

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim December 2026, as Impaired Driving Prevention Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim December 2026, as Impaired Driving Prevention Month in the State of New York in conjunction with National Impaired Driving Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, Impaired driving, whether by alcohol, drugs, or a combination thereof, remains one of the leading causes of preventable deaths and injuries on New York's roadways; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, someone is killed or injured in a drunk-driving crash every 42 minutes; in New York State, drunk drivers cause more than 17,000 deaths annually, which equates to 1 death every 30 minutes; and

WHEREAS, The average drunk driver has driven drunk 80 times before their first arrest, and studies have shown that the use of ignition interlocks reduces recidivism by up to 70 percent in first-time, repeat, and high-risk offenders; and

WHEREAS, Recent New York State drunk and drugged driving statistics show increasing alcohol-related fatalities with a 28% rise from 2019-2023; and

WHEREAS, Cannabis and narcotic analgesics are the most common drugs found in impaired drivers, with rising trends in stimulants; and

WHEREAS, Despite a decline in youth drinking, evidence suggests that underage impaired driving is increasing; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), thousands of lives are lost nationwide each December in alcohol-related crashes, a significant spike during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Traffic fatalities are growing in New York State with slightly more than 30% of the fatal crashes being alcohol-related; and

WHEREAS, New York State has a zero-tolerance policy for impaired and reckless driving, an effort continuously supported by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) and local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, Public awareness campaigns such as "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and the STOP-DWI program are crucial in educating the public about the dangers and consequences of impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, Promoting safe alternatives, such as designating a sober driver, using public transportation, or utilizing rideshare services can effectively prevent these tragedies; and

WHEREAS, This designation reaffirms New York State's commitment to public safety and honors the victims and families affected by impaired driving incidents; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body urges all New York residents to observe this month by committing to responsible decision-making, planning for a safe ride home during holiday celebrations, and raising awareness about the preventable dangers of impaired driving to ensure the safety of all who share the road; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim December 2026, as Impaired Driving Prevention Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.