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Title: Distracted Driving; Unsecured Pets
Introduced by: Robert Levine, MD, for the Oakland County Delegation
Original Author: Robert Levine, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee B
House Action: **APPROVED**

Whereas, distracted driving has been shown to be a significant factor in car crashes, and

Whereas, driving with a dog or cat on a driver’s lap can be a significant distraction and could possibly hinder appropriate reaction in an emergency situation, and

Whereas, legislation had been purposed that would prohibit operating a motor vehicle on Michigan highways with a dog or cat in your lap; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS believes that operating a motor vehicle with an unsecured pet (e.g., driving with a cat or dog on one’s lap) could result in distracted driving; thereby, increasing the possibility of being involved in a motor vehicle crash; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS support legislation that would prohibit operating a motor vehicle with a pet, such as, a cat or dog, on one’s lap.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Auto Safety

MSMS encourages: 1) stricter enforcement of existing laws relative to driving while drunk and imposition of more serious penalties for violations thereof; 2) detection and prosecution of the reckless or careless driver; and 3) provision for a more careful and appropriate interval examination of all drivers. (Prior to 1990)
– Edited 1998

Sources:

- 1. <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2017-HB-5277>
- 2. http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/11/bill_would_ban_michigan_driver.html
- 3. <https://news.orvis.com/dogs/does-your-state-require-dogs-be-harnessed-in-the-car>