

Union Calendar No. 625

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8449

[Report No. 118–740, Part I]

To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Energy and Commerce with amendments

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Homeland Security discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 17, 2024]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “AM Radio for Every*
5 *Vehicle Act of 2024”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—*The term “Adminis-*
9 *trator” means the Administrator of the Federal*
10 *Emergency Management Agency.*

11 (2) *AM BROADCAST BAND.*—*The term “AM*
12 *broadcast band” means the band of frequencies be-*
13 *tween 535 kilohertz and 1705 kilohertz, inclusive.*

14 (3) *AM BROADCAST STATION.*—*The term “AM*
15 *broadcast station” means a radio broadcast station—*

16 (A) *licensed by the Federal Communications*
17 *Commission for the dissemination of radio com-*
18 *munications intended to be received by the pub-*
19 *lic; and*

20 (B) *operated on a channel in the AM broad-*
21 *cast band.*

22 (4) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—
23 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
24 *means—*

1 (A) *the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
2 *and Transportation of the Senate;*

3 (B) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
4 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;*

5 (C) *the Committee on Transportation and*
6 *Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;*

7 (D) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
8 *of the House of Representatives; and*

9 (E) *the Committee on Energy and Com-*
10 *merce of the House of Representatives.*

11 (5) *COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term “Comp-*
12 *troller General” means the Comptroller General of the*
13 *United States.*

14 (6) *DEVICE.—The term “device” means a piece*
15 *of equipment or an apparatus that is designed—*

16 (A) *to receive signals transmitted by a*
17 *radio broadcast station; and*

18 (B) *to play back content or programming*
19 *derived from those signals.*

20 (7) *DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—*

21 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The term “digital audio*
22 *AM broadcast station” means an AM broadcast*
23 *station that uses an In Band On Channel DAB*
24 *System (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47,*

1 *Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regu-*
2 *lation)) for broadcasting purposes.*

3 (B) *EXCLUSION.*—*The term “digital audio*
4 *AM broadcast station” does not include an All-*
5 *digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402*
6 *of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a*
7 *successor regulation)).*

8 (8) *IPAWS.*—*The term “IPAWS” means the*
9 *public alert and warning system of the United States*
10 *described in section 526 of the Homeland Security*
11 *Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o).*

12 (9) *MANUFACTURER.*—*The term “manufacturer”*
13 *has the meaning given the term in section 30102(a)*
14 *of title 49, United States Code.*

15 (10) *PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.*—*The term*
16 *“passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning given the*
17 *term in section 32101 of title 49, United States Code.*

18 (11) *RADIO BROADCAST STATION.*—*The term*
19 *“radio broadcast station” has the meaning given the*
20 *term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934*
21 *(47 U.S.C. 153).*

22 (12) *RADIO STATION LICENSE.*—*The term “radio*
23 *station license” has the meaning given the term in*
24 *section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47*
25 *U.S.C. 153).*

1 (13) *RECEIVE*.—*The term “receive” means to re-*
2 *ceive a broadcast signal via over-the-air transmission.*

3 (14) *SECRETARY*.—*The term “Secretary” means*
4 *the Secretary of Transportation.*

5 (15) *SIGNAL*.—*The term “signal” means radio*
6 *frequency energy that a holder of a radio station li-*
7 *cence intentionally emits or causes to be emitted at a*
8 *specified frequency for the purpose of transmitting*
9 *content or programming to the public.*

10 (16) *STANDARD EQUIPMENT*.—*The term “stand-*
11 *ard equipment” means motor vehicle equipment (as*
12 *defined in section 30102(a) of title 49, United States*
13 *Code) that—*

14 (A) *is installed as a system, part, or compo-*
15 *nent of a passenger motor vehicle as originally*
16 *manufactured; and*

17 (B) *the manufacturer of the passenger*
18 *motor vehicle recommends or authorizes to be in-*
19 *cluded in the passenger motor vehicle for no ad-*
20 *ditional or separate monetary fee, payment, or*
21 *surcharge, beyond the base price of the passenger*
22 *motor vehicle.*

23 (17) *STATE*.—*The term “State” means each*
24 *State of the United States, the District of Columbia,*
25 *each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the*

1 *United States, and each federally recognized Indian*
2 *Tribe.*

3 **SEC. 3. AM BROADCAST STATIONS RULE.**

4 *(a) RULE REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the*
5 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation*
6 *with the Administrator and the Federal Communications*
7 *Commission, shall issue a rule—*

8 *(1) requiring devices that can receive signals and*
9 *play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations be*
10 *installed as standard equipment in passenger motor*
11 *vehicles—*

12 *(A) manufactured in the United States for*
13 *sale in the United States, imported into the*
14 *United States, or shipped in interstate com-*
15 *merce; and*

16 *(B) manufactured after the effective date of*
17 *the rule;*

18 *(2) requiring access to AM broadcast stations*
19 *through the devices required under paragraph (1) in*
20 *a manner that is easily accessible to drivers; and*

21 *(3) allowing a manufacturer to comply with that*
22 *rule by installing devices as described in paragraph*
23 *(1) that can receive signals and play content trans-*
24 *mitted by digital audio AM broadcast stations.*

25 *(b) COMPLIANCE.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
2 *graph (2), in issuing the rule required under sub-*
3 *section (a), the Secretary shall establish an effective*
4 *date for the rule that is not less than 2 years, but not*
5 *more than 3 years, after the date on which the rule*
6 *is issued.*

7 (2) *CERTAIN MANUFACTURERS.*—*In issuing the*
8 *rule required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall*
9 *establish an effective date for the rule that is at least*
10 *4 years after the date on which the rule is issued with*
11 *respect to manufacturers that manufactured not more*
12 *than 40,000 passenger motor vehicles for sale in the*
13 *United States in 2022.*

14 (c) *INTERIM REQUIREMENT.*—*For passenger motor ve-*
15 *hicles manufactured after the date of enactment of this Act*
16 *and manufactured in the United States for sale in the*
17 *United States, imported into the United States, or shipped*
18 *in interstate commerce during the period beginning on the*
19 *day after the date of enactment of this Act and ending on*
20 *the day before the effective date of the rule issued under sub-*
21 *section (a) that do not include devices that can receive sig-*
22 *nals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast sta-*
23 *tions, the manufacturer of the passenger motor vehicles—*

24 (1) *shall provide clear and conspicuous labeling*
25 *to inform purchasers of those passenger motor vehicles*

1 *that the passenger motor vehicles do not include de-*
2 *VICES that can receive signals and play content trans-*
3 *mitted by AM broadcast stations; and*

4 (2) *may not charge an additional or separate*
5 *monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the base*
6 *price of the passenger motor vehicles, for access to AM*
7 *broadcast stations for the period described in this sub-*
8 *section.*

9 (d) *RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.*—*After the date*
10 *of enactment of this Act, a State or a political subdivision*
11 *of a State may not prescribe or continue in effect a law,*
12 *regulation, or other requirement applicable to access to AM*
13 *broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles.*

14 (e) *ENFORCEMENT.*—

15 (1) *CIVIL PENALTY.*—*Any person who violates*
16 *the rule issued under subsection (a) shall be liable to*
17 *the United States Government for a civil penalty*
18 *under section 30165(a)(1) of title 49, United States*
19 *Code, as if that rule were a regulation described in*
20 *that section.*

21 (2) *CIVIL ACTION.*—*The Attorney General may*
22 *bring a civil action under section 30163 of title 49,*
23 *United States Code, in an appropriate district court*
24 *of the United States to enjoin a violation of the rule*
25 *issued under subsection (a) of this section, as if that*

1 *rule were a regulation described in subsection (a)(1)*
2 *of that section 30163.*

3 *(f) GAO STUDY.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall*
5 *conduct a comprehensive study on disseminating*
6 *emergency alerts and warnings to the public.*

7 *(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required under*
8 *paragraph (1) shall include—*

9 *(A) an assessment of—*

10 *(i) the role of passenger motor vehicles*
11 *in IPAWS communications, including by*
12 *providing access to AM broadcast stations;*

13 *(ii) the advantages, effectiveness, limi-*
14 *tations, resilience, and accessibility of exist-*
15 *ing IPAWS communication technologies, in-*
16 *cluding AM broadcast stations in passenger*
17 *motor vehicles;*

18 *(iii) the advantages, effectiveness, limi-*
19 *tations, resilience, and accessibility of AM*
20 *broadcast stations relative to other IPAWS*
21 *communication technologies in passenger*
22 *motor vehicles; and*

23 *(iv) whether other IPAWS communica-*
24 *tion technologies are capable of ensuring the*
25 *President (or a designee) can reach at least*

1 90 percent of the population of the United
2 States at a time of crisis, including at
3 night; and

4 (B) a description of any ongoing efforts to
5 integrate new and emerging technologies and
6 communication platforms into the IPAWS
7 framework.

8 (3) *CONSULTATION REQUIRED.*—In conducting
9 the study required under paragraph (1), the Com-
10 ptroller General shall consult with—

11 (A) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

12 (B) the Federal Communications Commis-
13 sion;

14 (C) the National Telecommunications and
15 Information Administration;

16 (D) the Secretary;

17 (E) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and
18 local emergency management officials;

19 (F) first responders;

20 (G) technology experts in resilience and ac-
21 cessibility;

22 (H) radio broadcasters;

23 (I) manufacturers of passenger motor vehi-
24 cles; and

1 *(J) other relevant stakeholders, as deter-*
2 *mined by the Comptroller General.*

3 *(4) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—*

4 *(A) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after*
5 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller*
6 *General shall brief the appropriate committees of*
7 *Congress on the results of the study required by*
8 *paragraph (1), including recommendations for*
9 *legislation and administrative action as the*
10 *Comptroller General determines appropriate.*

11 *(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days*
12 *after the date on which the Comptroller General*
13 *provides the briefing required under subpara-*
14 *graph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit*
15 *to the appropriate committees of Congress a re-*
16 *port describing the results of the study required*
17 *under paragraph (1), including recommenda-*
18 *tions for legislation and administrative action as*
19 *the Comptroller General determines appropriate.*

20 *(g) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5*
21 *years after the date on which the Secretary issues the rule*
22 *required by subsection (a), the Secretary, in coordination*
23 *with the Administrator and the Federal Communications*
24 *Commission, shall submit to the appropriate committees of*
25 *Congress a report that shall include an assessment of—*

- 1 (1) *the impacts of the rule issued under that sub-*
2 *section, including the impacts on public safety; and*
- 3 (2) *possible changes to IPAWS communication*
4 *technologies that would enable resilient and accessible*
5 *alerts to drivers and passengers of passenger motor*
6 *vehicles.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.”.

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