

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8449

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

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## 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

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## 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:

1           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
2       trator” means the Administrator of the Federal  
3       Emergency Management Agency.

4           (2) AM BROADCAST BAND.—The term “AM  
5       broadcast band” means the band of frequencies be-  
6       tween 535 kilohertz and 1705 kilohertz, inclusive.

7           (3) AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term “AM  
8       broadcast station” means a broadcast station li-  
9       censed for the dissemination of radio communica-  
10      tions—

11                (A) intended to be received by the public;  
12              and

13                (B) operated on a channel in the AM  
14      broadcast band.

15           (4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
16      GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
17      gress” means—

18                (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
19              and Transportation of the Senate;

20                (B) the Committee on Homeland Security  
21              and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

22                (C) the Committee on Transportation and  
23              Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

24                (D) the Committee on Homeland Security  
25              of the House of Representatives; and

1 (E) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
2 merce of the House of Representatives.

3 (5) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term  
4 “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-  
5 eral of the United States.

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

8 (A) to receive signals transmitted by a  
9 radio broadcast station (as defined in section 3  
10 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
11 153)); and

12 (B) to play back content or programming  
13 derived from those signals.

14 (7) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “digital  
16 audio AM broadcast station” means an AM  
17 broadcast station that—

18 (i) is licensed by the Federal Commu-  
19 nications Commission; and

20 (ii) uses an In-band On-channel sys-  
21 tem (as defined in section 73.402 of title  
22 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-  
23 cessor regulation)) for broadcasting pur-  
24 poses.

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

6 (8) INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING  
7 SYSTEM; IPAWS.—The terms “Integrated Public  
8 Alert and Warning System” and “IPAWS” mean  
9 the public alert and warning system of the United  
10 States described in section 526 of the Homeland Se-  
11 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o).

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

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

19 (11) RECEIVE.—The term “receive” means to  
20 receive a broadcast signal via over-the-air trans-  
21 mission.

22 (12) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
23 means the Secretary of Transportation.

24 (13) SIGNAL.—The term “signal” means radio  
25 frequency energy that a holder of a radio station li-

1       cense granted or authorized by the Federal Commu-  
2       nications Commission pursuant to sections 301 and  
3       307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
4       301, 307) intentionally emits or causes to be emitted  
5       at a specified frequency for the purpose of transmit-  
6       ting content or programming to the public.

7           (14)   STANDARD   EQUIPMENT.—The   term  
8       “standard equipment” means motor vehicle equip-  
9       ment (as defined in section 30102(a) of title 49,  
10      United States Code) that—

11           (A) is installed as a system, part, or com-  
12      ponent of a motor vehicle as originally manu-  
13      factured; and

14           (B) the manufacturer of the motor vehicle  
15      recommends or authorizes to be included in the  
16      motor vehicle for no additional or separate  
17      monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond  
18      the base price of a motor vehicle.

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

20       (a) RULE REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after  
21   the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-  
22   sultation with the Administrator and the Federal Commu-  
23   nications Commission, shall issue a rule—

24           (1) requiring devices that can receive signals  
25      and play content transmitted by AM broadcast sta-

1        tions be installed as standard equipment in pas-  
2        senger motor vehicles—

3                (A) manufactured in the United States,  
4                imported into the United States, or shipped in  
5                interstate commerce; and

6                (B) manufactured after the effective date  
7                of the rule;

8                (2) requiring access to AM broadcast stations  
9                in a manner that is easily accessible to a driver after  
10               the effective date of the rule; and

11               (3) allowing a manufacturer to comply with  
12               that rule by installing devices that can receive sig-  
13               nals and play content transmitted by digital audio  
14               AM broadcast stations as standard equipment in  
15               passenger motor vehicles manufactured in the  
16               United States, imported into the United States, or  
17               shipped in interstate commerce after the effective  
18               date of the rule.

19        (b) COMPLIANCE.—

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

1           (2) CERTAIN MANUFACTURERS.—In issuing the  
2           rule required under subsection (a), the Secretary  
3           shall establish an effective date for the rule that is  
4           at least 4 years after the date on which the rule is  
5           issued with respect to manufacturers that manufac-  
6           tured not more than 40,000 passenger motor vehi-  
7           cles for sale in the United States in 2022.

8           (c) INTERIM REQUIREMENT.—For passenger motor  
9           vehicles manufactured after the date of enactment of this  
10          Act and manufactured in the United States, imported into  
11          the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce be-  
12          tween the period of time beginning on the date of enact-  
13          ment of this Act and ending on the effective date of the  
14          rule issued under subsection (a) that do not include de-  
15          vices that can receive signals and play content transmitted  
16          by AM broadcast stations, the manufacturer of the pas-  
17          senger motor vehicles—

18                (1) shall provide clear and conspicuous labeling  
19                to inform purchasers of those passenger motor vehi-  
20                cles that the passenger motor vehicles do not include  
21                devices that can receive signals and play content  
22                transmitted by AM broadcast stations; and

23                (2) may not charge an additional or separate  
24                monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the  
25                base price of the passenger motor vehicles, for access

1 to AM broadcast stations for the period of time de-  
2 scribed in this subsection.

3 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—When the rule  
4 issued under subsection (a) is in effect, a State or a polit-  
5 ical subdivision of a State may not prescribe or continue  
6 in effect a law, regulation, or other requirement applicable  
7 to access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor ve-  
8 hicles.

9 (e) ENFORCEMENT.—

10 (1) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person failing to  
11 comply with the rule issued under subsection (a)  
12 shall be liable to the United States Government for  
13 a civil penalty in accordance with section  
14 30165(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

15 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General may  
16 bring a civil action in an appropriate district court  
17 of the United States to enjoin a violation of the rule  
18 issued under subsection (a) in accordance with sec-  
19 tion 30163 of title 49, United States Code.

20 (f) GAO STUDY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General  
22 shall conduct a comprehensive study on dissemi-  
23 nating emergency alerts and warnings to the public.

24 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required  
25 under paragraph (1) shall include—



1 (A) an assessment of—

2 (i) the role of passenger motor vehi-  
3 cles in IPAWS communications, including  
4 by providing access to AM broadcast sta-  
5 tions;

6 (ii) the advantages, effectiveness, limi-  
7 tations, resilience, and accessibility of ex-  
8 isting IPAWS communication technologies,  
9 including AM broadcast stations in pas-  
10 senger motor vehicles;

11 (iii) the advantages, effectiveness, limi-  
12 tations, resilience, and accessibility of AM  
13 broadcast stations relative to other IPAWS  
14 communication technologies in passenger  
15 motor vehicles;

16 (iv) whether other IPAWS commu-  
17 nication technologies are capable of ensur-  
18 ing the President (or a designee) can reach  
19 at least 90 percent of the population of the  
20 United States at a time of crisis, including  
21 at night; and

22 (B) a description of any ongoing efforts to  
23 integrate new and emerging technologies and  
24 communication platforms into the IPAWS  
25 framework.

1           (3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In conducting  
2       the study required under paragraph (1), the Comp-  
3       troller General shall consult with—

4                   (A) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

5                   (B) the Federal Communications Commis-  
6       sion;

7                   (C) the National Telecommunications and  
8       Information Administration;

9                   (D) the Secretary;

10                  (E) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and  
11       local emergency management officials;

12                  (F) first responders;

13                  (G) technology experts in resilience and ac-  
14       cessibility;

15                  (H) radio broadcasters;

16                  (I) manufacturers of passenger motor vehi-  
17       cles; and

18                  (J) other relevant stakeholders, as deter-  
19       mined by the Comptroller General.

20       (g) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

21           (1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the  
22       date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-  
23       eral shall brief the appropriate committees of Con-  
24       gress on the results of the study required by sub-  
25       section (f)(1), including recommendations for legisla-

1       tion and administrative action as the Comptroller  
2       General determines appropriate.

3           (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4       the date on which the Comptroller General provides  
5       the briefing required under paragraph (1), the  
6       Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate  
7       committees of Congress a report describing the re-  
8       sults of the study required under subsection (f)(1),  
9       including recommendations for legislation and ad-  
10      ministrative action as the Comptroller General deter-  
11      mines appropriate.

12      (h) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5  
13     years after the date on which the Secretary issued the rule  
14     required by subsection (a), the Secretary, in coordination  
15     with the Administrator and the Federal Communications  
16     Commission, shall submit to the appropriate committees  
17     of Congress a report that shall include an assessment of—

18           (1) the impacts of the rule issued under that  
19       subsection, including the impacts on public safety;  
20       and

21           (2) changes to IPAWS communication tech-  
22       nologies that enable resilient and accessible alerts to  
23       drivers and passengers of passenger motor vehicles.

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