

Calendar No. 622

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 979

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “AM Radio for Every
3 Vehicle Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

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

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

12 (3) **AM BROADCAST STATION.**—The term “AM
13 broadcast station” means a radio broadcast sta-
14 tion—

15 (A) licensed by the Federal Communica-
16 tions Commission for the dissemination of radio
17 communications intended to be received by the
18 public; and

19 (B) operated on a channel in the AM
20 broadcast band.

21 (4) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-**
22 **GRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
23 gress” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
25 and Transportation of the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
2 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

3 (C) the Committee on Transportation and
4 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

5 (D) the Committee on Homeland Security
6 of the House of Representatives; and

7 (E) the Committee on Energy and Com-
8 merce of the House of Representatives.

9 (5) AUTOMATED DRIVING SYSTEM.—The term
10 “automated driving system” means a system that
11 meets the definition of Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5
12 automation as those terms are defined in the April
13 2021 edition of the J3016 recommended practice of
14 SAE International, “Taxonomy and Definitions for
15 Terms Related to Driving Automation Systems for
16 On-Road Motor Vehicles”.

17 (6) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term
18 “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-
19 eral of the United States.

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

22 (A) to receive signals transmitted by a
23 radio broadcast station; and

24 (B) to play back content or programming
25 derived from those signals.

1 (8) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “digital
3 audio AM broadcast station” means an AM
4 broadcast station that uses an In Band On
5 Channel DAB System (as defined in section
6 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations
7 (or a successor regulation)) for broadcasting
8 purposes.

9 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “digital audio
10 AM broadcast station” does not include an All-
11 digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402
12 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
13 successor regulation)).

14 (9) IPAWS.—The term “IPAWS” means the
15 public alert and warning system of the United
16 States described in section 526 of the Homeland Se-
17 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o).

18 (10) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufac-
19 turer” has the meaning given the term in section
20 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

21 (11) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term
22 “passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning given
23 the term in section 32101 of title 49, United States
24 Code.

1 (12) RADIO BROADCAST STATION.—The term
2 “radio broadcast station” has the meaning given the
3 term in section 3 of the Communications Act of
4 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

5 (13) RADIO STATION LICENSE.—The term
6 “radio station license” has the meaning given the
7 term in section 3 of the Communications Act of
8 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

9 (14) RECEIVE.—The term “receive” means to
10 receive a broadcast signal via over-the-air trans-
11 mission.

12 (15) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
13 means the Secretary of Transportation.

14 (16) SIGNAL.—The term “signal” means radio
15 frequency energy that a holder of a radio station li-
16 cense intentionally emits or causes to be emitted at
17 a specified frequency for the purpose of transmitting
18 content or programming to the public.

19 (17) STANDARD EQUIPMENT.—The term
20 “standard equipment” means motor vehicle equip-
21 ment (as defined in section 30102(a) of title 49,
22 United States Code) that—

23 (A) is installed as a system, part, or com-
24 ponent of a passenger motor vehicle as origi-
25 nally manufactured; and

1 (B) the manufacturer of the passenger
2 motor vehicle recommends or authorizes to be
3 included in the passenger motor vehicle for no
4 additional or separate monetary fee, payment,
5 or surcharge, beyond the base price of the pas-
6 senger motor vehicle.

7 (18) STATE.—The term “State” means each
8 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
9 each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
10 United States, and each federally recognized Indian
11 Tribe.

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

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

17 (1) requiring devices that can receive signals
18 and play content transmitted by AM broadcast sta-
19 tions be installed as standard equipment in pas-
20 senger motor vehicles—

21 (A) manufactured in the United States for
22 sale in the United States, imported into the
23 United States, or shipped in interstate com-
24 merce; and

1 (B) manufactured after the effective date
2 of the rule;

3 (2) requiring access to AM broadcast stations
4 through the devices required under paragraph (1) in
5 a manner that is easily accessible to drivers; and

6 (3) allowing a manufacturer to comply with
7 that rule by installing devices as described in para-
8 graph (1) that can receive signals and play content
9 transmitted by digital audio AM broadcast stations.

10 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Before issuing the rule re-
11 quired under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to
12 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
14 Science and Transportation of the Senate and make pub-
15 licly available on the website of the Department of Trans-
16 portation, a report that evaluates the following:

17 (1) Any potential adverse impacts related to
18 automotive innovation and the motor vehicle safety
19 of passenger motor vehicles equipped with auto-
20 mated driving systems from the reception of AM
21 radio signals by such vehicles as required by sub-
22 section (a) of this Act.

23 (2) The range of solutions that manufacturers
24 could adopt or have adopted to mitigate any poten-
25 tial impacts identified in paragraph (1).

1 (c) COMPLIANCE.—

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

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

14 (d) INTERIM REQUIREMENT.—For passenger motor
15 vehicles manufactured after the date of enactment of this
16 Act and manufactured in the United States for sale in
17 the United States, imported into the United States, or
18 shipped in interstate commerce during the period begin-
19 ning on the day after the date of enactment of this Act
20 and ending on the day before the effective date of the rule
21 issued under subsection (a) that do not include devices
22 that can receive signals and play content transmitted by
23 AM broadcast stations, the manufacturer of the passenger
24 motor vehicles—

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

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

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

16 (f) ENFORCEMENT.—

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

23 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General may
24 bring a civil action under section 30163 of title 49,
25 United States Code, in an appropriate district court

1 of the United States to enjoin a violation of the rule
2 issued under subsection (a) of this section, as if that
3 rule were a regulation described in subsection (a)(1)
4 of that section 30163.

5 (g) GAO STUDY.—

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

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required
10 under paragraph (1) shall include—

11 (A) an assessment of—

12 (i) the role of passenger motor vehi-
13 cles in IPAWS communications, including
14 by providing access to AM broadcast sta-
15 tions;

16 (ii) the advantages, effectiveness, limi-
17 tations, resilience, and accessibility of ex-
18 isting IPAWS communication technologies,
19 including AM broadcast stations in pas-
20 senger motor vehicles;

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

1 (iv) whether other IPAWS commu-
2 nication technologies are capable of ensur-
3 ing the President (or a designee) can reach
4 at least 90 percent of the population of the
5 United States at a time of crisis, including
6 at night; and

7 (B) a description of any ongoing efforts to
8 integrate new and emerging technologies and
9 communication platforms into the IPAWS
10 framework.

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

14 (A) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

15 (B) the Federal Communications Commis-
16 sion;

17 (C) the National Telecommunications and
18 Information Administration;

19 (D) the Secretary;

20 (E) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and
21 local emergency management officials;

22 (F) first responders;

23 (G) technology experts in resilience and ac-
24 cessibility;

25 (H) radio broadcasters;

1 (I) manufacturers of passenger motor vehi-
2 cles; and

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

5 (4) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

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

14 (B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the date on which the Comptroller General
16 provides the briefing required under subpara-
17 graph (A), the Comptroller General shall sub-
18 mit to the appropriate committees of Congress
19 a report describing the results of the study re-
20 quired under paragraph (1), including rec-
21 ommendations for legislation and administrative
22 action as the Comptroller General determines
23 appropriate.

24 (h) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5
25 years after the date on which the Secretary issues the rule

(2) possible changes to IPAWS communication technologies that would enable resilient and accessible alerts to drivers and passengers of passenger motor vehicles.

(i) SUNSET.—This Act shall sunset and no longer be in effect on the date that is 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, including the authority of the Secretary to carry out or enforce that rule.

Passed the House of Representatives September 15,
2026.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

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