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

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:
(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) AM BROADCAST BAND.—The term “AM broadcast band” means the band of frequencies between 535 kilohertz and 1705 kilohertz, inclusive.

(3) AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term “AM broadcast station” means a broadcast station licensed for the dissemination of radio communications—

(A) intended to be received by the public;

and

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

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

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

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

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

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and
(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(5) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller General of the United States.

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

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

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

(7) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—

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

(i) is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(ii) uses an In-band On-channel system (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) for broadcasting purposes.
(B) Exclusion.—The term “digital audio
AM broadcast station” does not include an all-
digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402
of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
successor regulation)).

(8) Integrated Public Alert and Warning
System; IPAWS.—The terms “Integrated Public
Alert and Warning System” and “IPAWS” mean
the public alert and warning system of the United
States described in section 526 of the Homeland Se-

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

(10) Passenger Motor Vehicle.—The term
“passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning given
the term in section 32101 of title 49, United States
Code.

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

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

(13) Signal.—The term “signal” means radio
frequency energy that a holder of a radio station li-
cense granted or authorized by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to sections 301 and 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301, 307) intentionally emits or causes to be emitted at a specified frequency for the purpose of transmitting content or programming to the public.

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

(A) is installed as a system, part, or component of a motor vehicle as originally manufactured; and

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

SEC. 3. AM BROADCAST STATIONS RULE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
graph (2), in issuing the rule required under sub-
section (a), the Secretary shall establish an effective
date for the rule that is not less than 2 years, but
not more than 3 years, after the date on which the
rule is issued.
(2) CERTAIN MANUFACTURERS.—In issuing the rule required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall establish an effective date for the rule that is at least 4 years after the date on which the rule is issued with respect to manufacturers that manufactured not more than 40,000 passenger motor vehicles for sale in the United States in 2022.

(c) INTERIM REQUIREMENT.—For passenger motor vehicles manufactured after the date of enactment of this Act and manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce between the period of time beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the effective date of the rule issued under subsection (a) that do not include devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations, the manufacturer of the passenger motor vehicles—

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

(2) may not charge an additional or separate monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the base price of the passenger motor vehicles, for access
to AM broadcast stations for the period of time de-
scribed in this subsection.

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

(e) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

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

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

(f) **GAO STUDY.**—

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

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The study required
under paragraph (1) shall include—
(A) an assessment of—

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

(ii) the advantages, effectiveness, limitations, resilience, and accessibility of existing IPAWS communication technologies, including AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles;

(iii) the advantages, effectiveness, limitations, resilience, and accessibility of AM broadcast stations relative to other IPAWS communication technologies in passenger motor vehicles;

(iv) whether other IPAWS communication technologies are capable of ensuring the President (or a designee) can reach at least 90 percent of the population of the United States at a time of crisis, including at night; and

(B) a description of any ongoing efforts to integrate new and emerging technologies and communication platforms into the IPAWS framework.
(3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In conducting the study required under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall consult with—

(A) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(B) the Federal Communications Commission;

(C) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

(D) the Secretary;

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

(F) first responders;

(G) technology experts in resilience and accessibility;

(H) radio broadcasters;

(I) manufacturers of passenger motor vehicles; and

(J) other relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Comptroller General.

(g) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the results of the study required by subsection (f)(1), including recommendations for legisla-
tion and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General provides the briefing required under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of the study required under subsection (f)(1), including recommendations for legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

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

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

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