

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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.

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 2025”.

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.

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

4 (3) AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term “AM
5 broadcast station” means a radio broadcast sta-
6 tion—

7 (A) licensed by the Federal Communica-
8 tions Commission for the dissemination of radio
9 communications intended to be received by the
10 public; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 (D) the Committee on Homeland Security
23 of the House of Representatives; and

24 (E) the Committee on Energy and Com-
25 merce of the House of Representatives.

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

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

6 (A) to receive signals transmitted by a
7 radio broadcast station; and

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

10 (7) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “digital
12 audio AM broadcast station” means an AM
13 broadcast station that uses an In Band On
14 Channel DAB System (as defined in section
15 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations
16 (or a successor regulation)) for broadcasting
17 purposes.

18 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “digital audio
19 AM broadcast station” does not include an All-
20 digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402
21 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
22 successor regulation)).

23 (8) IPAWS.—The term “IPAWS” means the
24 public alert and warning system of the United

1 States described in section 526 of the Homeland Se-
2 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o).

3 (9) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufac-
4 turer” has the meaning given the term in section
5 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

6 (10) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term
7 “passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning given
8 the term in section 32101 of title 49, United States
9 Code.

10 (11) RADIO BROADCAST STATION.—The term
11 “radio broadcast station” has the meaning given the
12 term in section 3 of the Communications Act of
13 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

14 (12) RADIO STATION LICENSE.—The term
15 “radio station license” has the meaning given the
16 term in section 3 of the Communications Act of
17 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

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

21 (14) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
22 means the Secretary of Transportation.

23 (15) SIGNAL.—The term “signal” means radio
24 frequency energy that a holder of a radio station li-
25 cense intentionally emits or causes to be emitted at

1 a specified frequency for the purpose of transmitting
2 content or programming to the public.

3 (16) STANDARD EQUIPMENT.—The term
4 “standard equipment” means motor vehicle equip-
5 ment (as defined in section 30102(a) of title 49,
6 United States Code) that—

7 (A) is installed as a system, part, or com-
8 ponent of a passenger motor vehicle as origi-
9 nally manufactured; and

10 (B) the manufacturer of the passenger
11 motor vehicle recommends or authorizes to be
12 included in the passenger motor vehicle for no
13 additional or separate monetary fee, payment,
14 or surcharge, beyond the base price of the pas-
15 senger motor vehicle.

16 (17) STATE.—The term “State” means each
17 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
18 each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
19 United States, and each federally recognized Indian
20 Tribe.

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

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

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

5 (A) manufactured in the United States for
6 sale in the United States, imported into the
7 United States, or shipped in interstate com-
8 merce; and

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

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

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

18 (b) COMPLIANCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
20 graph (2), in issuing the rule required under sub-
21 section (a), the Secretary shall establish an effective
22 date for the rule that is not less than 2 years, but
23 not more than 3 years, after the date on which the
24 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 for sale in
11 the United States, imported into the United States, or
12 shipped in interstate commerce during the period begin-
13 ning on the day after the date of enactment of this Act
14 and ending on the day before the effective date of the rule
15 issued under subsection (a) that do not include devices
16 that can receive signals and play content transmitted by
17 AM broadcast stations, the manufacturer of the passenger
18 motor vehicles—

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

24 (2) may not charge an additional or separate
25 monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the

1 base price of the passenger motor vehicles, for access
2 to AM broadcast stations for the period described in
3 this subsection.

4 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—After the date
5 of enactment of this Act, a State or a political subdivision
6 of a State may not prescribe or continue in effect a law,
7 regulation, or other requirement applicable to access to
8 AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles.

9 (e) ENFORCEMENT.—

10 (1) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person who violates
11 the rule issued under subsection (a) shall be liable
12 to the United States Government for a civil penalty
13 under section 30165(a)(1) of title 49, United States
14 Code, as if that rule were a regulation described in
15 that section.

16 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General may
17 bring a civil action under section 30163 of title 49,
18 United States Code, in an appropriate district court
19 of the United States to enjoin a violation of the rule
20 issued under subsection (a) of this section, as if that
21 rule were a regulation described in subsection (a)(1)
22 of that section 30163.

23 (f) GAO STUDY.—

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

4 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required
5 under paragraph (1) shall include—

6 (A) an assessment of—

7 (i) the role of passenger motor vehi-
8 cles in IPAWS communications, including
9 by providing access to AM broadcast sta-
10 tions;

11 (ii) the advantages, effectiveness, limi-
12 tations, resilience, and accessibility of ex-
13 isting IPAWS communication technologies,
14 including AM broadcast stations in pas-
15 senger motor vehicles;

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

21 (iv) whether other IPAWS commu-
22 nication technologies are capable of ensur-
23 ing the President (or a designee) can reach
24 at least 90 percent of the population of the

1 United States at a time of crisis, including
2 at night; and

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

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

10 (A) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

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

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

15 (D) the Secretary;

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

18 (F) first responders;

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

21 (H) radio broadcasters;

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

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

1 (4) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

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

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

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

4 (2) possible changes to IPAWS communication
5 technologies that would enable resilient and acces-
6 sible alerts to drivers and passengers of passenger
7 motor vehicles.

8 (h) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to issue
9 the rule required by subsection (a) shall expire on the date
10 that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.