

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 223 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, DUSH, ROTHMAN, COSTA, KANE, CAPPELLETTI,  
BREWSTER, CULVER, DILLON, SCHWANK AND J. WARD,  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to  
2 make a rule requiring automakers to maintain free, broadcast  
3 AM radio in all vehicles.

4 WHEREAS, There are approximately 164 AM radio stations across  
5 Pennsylvania, with signals that reach farther than any other;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, More than 80 million Americans tune into free, local  
8 AM radio stations each month for news, sports or entertainment;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, AM radio serves as the backbone of the Emergency  
11 Alert System which warns the public of pending danger and is  
12 therefore a critical source of information in times of  
13 emergency; and

14 WHEREAS, AM radio stations play a crucial role serving as the  
15 vast majority of primary entry points across the country,  
16 designated radio stations whose signals cover 90% of the  
17 American population and have a direct connection to the Federal  
18 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Pennsylvania Emergency

1 Management Agency (PEMA) and the National Weather Service; and  
2 WHEREAS, FEMA relies on AM radio stations to ensure that the  
3 President can communicate to Americans when major public safety  
4 or national security events occur and has invested tens of  
5 millions of dollars to "harden" these radio stations to  
6 withstand "All Hazards," including chemical, biological,  
7 radiological, high-altitude electro-magnetic pulse and nuclear  
8 attacks; and

9 WHEREAS, According to FEMA, these hardened stations provide  
10 the nation's "last resort mass communications capabilities under  
11 all conditions"; and

12 WHEREAS, FEMA further states, "In the aftermath of a  
13 national, catastrophic event ... broadcast radio may be the most  
14 effective method [of transmitting crucial information to the  
15 public] since it is possible that terrestrial Internet Protocol  
16 networks and other pathways could be inoperable, especially at  
17 'last mile' delivery to the public"; and

18 WHEREAS, When power goes out and the Internet goes down,  
19 radio remains the most resilient form of communication,  
20 especially in vehicles during power outages; and

21 WHEREAS, AM radio uniquely can reach listeners in a wide  
22 geographic area and is available in urban and rural areas,  
23 regardless of Internet access and without paid subscriptions;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, AM radio plays a vital role in serving minority,  
26 non-English-speaking and other underrepresented communities with  
27 free, in-language and religious programming; and

28 WHEREAS, AM radio is highly important to rural and farming  
29 communities, providing weather updates, crop reports and other  
30 information to farmers and ranchers; and

1       WHEREAS, Removing AM radio from vehicles ignores the critical  
2 safety benefits of AM radio and would deprive many listeners of  
3 this lifesaving emergency information and put public safety at  
4 risk; and

5       WHEREAS, Including AM radio in electric vehicles is neither  
6 especially costly nor technically complex to achieve, as  
7 evidenced by the large number of electric vehicle manufacturers  
8 that include AM radio in their vehicles; therefore be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the National  
10 Highway Traffic Safety Administration to make a rule requiring  
11 automakers to maintain free, broadcast AM radio in all vehicles.