

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 288 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY FRITZ, GREINER, STAMBAUGH, ADAMS, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, PICKETT AND CABELL, JANUARY 31, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITIES, JANUARY 31, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to uphold and support
2 the critical free access of information provided by A.M.
3 radios in vehicles.

4 WHEREAS, There are approximately 164 A.M. radio stations
5 across this Commonwealth, with signals that reach farther than
6 any other; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 80 million Americans tune in to free,
8 local A.M. radio stations each month for news, sports and
9 entertainment; and

10 WHEREAS, A.M. 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, A.M. radio stations play a crucial role serving as
15 the vast majority of Primary Entry Point stations across the
16 country, which are designated radio stations whose signals cover
17 90% of the American population and which have a direct
18 connection to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),

1 the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the National
2 Weather Service; and

3 WHEREAS, FEMA relies on A.M. radio stations to ensure that
4 the President of the United States can communicate to Americans
5 when major public safety or national security events occur; and

6 WHEREAS, FEMA has invested tens of millions of dollars to
7 "harden" A.M. radio stations to withstand "all hazards,"
8 including chemical, biological, radiological, high-altitude
9 electromagnetic pulse and nuclear attacks; and

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

13 WHEREAS, FEMA further states that in the aftermath of a
14 national, catastrophic event, broadcast radio may be the most
15 effective method of transmitting crucial information to the
16 public since it is possible that terrestrial Internet Protocol
17 (IP) networks and other pathways could be inoperable, especially
18 at last-mile delivery to the public; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, A.M. radio plays a vital role in serving minority,
27 non-English-speaking and other underrepresented communities with
28 free, non-English and religious programming; and

29 WHEREAS, A.M. radio is highly important to rural and farming
30 communities, by providing weather updates, crop reports and

1 other information to farmers and ranchers; and

2 WHEREAS, Removing A.M. radio from vehicles would ignore the
3 critical safety benefits of A.M. radio, deprive many listeners
4 of this lifesaving emergency information and put public safety
5 at risk; and

6 WHEREAS, Including A.M. radio in electric vehicles is not
7 especially costly and not technically complex to achieve, as
8 evidenced by the large number of electric vehicle manufacturers
9 that continue to include A.M. radio in their vehicles; therefore
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
13 States to uphold and support the critical free access of
14 information provided by A.M. radios in vehicles; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
18 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.