

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 5026**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Brief\***

HCR 5026 would make various findings regarding the tradition and importance of AM radio. The resolution would also state the Legislature:

- Supports the federal AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act (Act) and recognizes the importance of maintaining access to AM radio in vehicles nationwide;
- Emphasizes the critical role of AM radio in serving the informational needs of rural communities, supporting the agriculture industry, and enhancing emergency preparedness; and
- Urges the federal government to ensure continued accessibility to AM radio in vehicles through the passage of the Act and policies that maintain its crucial role.

The resolution would require the Secretary of State to send enrolled copies of the resolution to the President of the United States, Vice President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senate President, and each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.

[*Note:* The Act (S.1669) was introduced by U.S. Senator Edward Markey of Massachusetts and would require the U.S.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Department of Transportation to issue a rule that requires all new motor vehicles to have devices that can access AM broadcast stations installed as standard equipment. AM broadcast stations are often used to deliver emergency alerts, news, and entertainment programming; some newer vehicles do not include AM equipment. On July 27, 2023, the bill was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.]

## **Background**

The resolution was introduced by Representative Rahjes and 30 other representatives.

## ***House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources***

In the House Committee hearing on March 19, 2024, Representative Rahjes and the President of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents stated the importance of AM radio, especially as it is the backbone of the National Emergency Alert System, which delivers critical alerts and warnings during severe weather events, natural disasters, and other emergencies. In rural areas where other forms of communication may be limited, AM radio remains a lifeline for many Kansans.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Farm Bureau, which stated the American Farm Bureau Federation joined other agriculture organizations in support of the Act.

No other testimony was provided.

AM Radio; federal AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act