**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

PROCLAIM JUNE 21 TO 27, 2021, AS AMATEUR RADIO WEEK AND JUNE 26 AND 27, 2021, AS AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE AMATEUR RADIO FIELD DAY THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO RECOGNIZE THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS, INCLUDING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE WORK, FOR THE CONTINUED SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, licensed amateur radio operators throughout South Carolina and the nation consistently demonstrate their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications during natural disasters and other non‑weather‑related catastrophes, as well as by serving as weather spotters in the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service; and

Whereas**,** as an integral part of emergency preparedness and public safety, South Carolina’s licensed amateur radio operators generously donate countless hours of their time and equipment, operating privately owned communications resources for the welfare and common good of our residents; and

Whereas**,** these amateur radio services are provided wholly uncompensated and further demonstrate their value in public assistance by providing free radio communications for local parades, bike‑a‑thons, walk‑a‑thons, fairs, and other charitable public events; and

Whereas**,** by establishing badges of friendship and sharing of ideas, amateur radio continues to provide a bridge between peoples, societies, and countries; and

Whereas**,** amateur radio operators are celebrating over a century of the miracle of the broadcasting of the human voice over the airwaves; and

Whereas**,** this year’s annual Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 26 and 27, 2021, provides an opportunity for radio amateurs to practice setting up and operating field radio stations and demonstrate their skills and readiness to provide self‑supporting communication, without the need for further infrastructure, throughout the United States and the world, in preparation for handling actual emergencies; and

Whereas**,** during the 2021 observance of Amateur Radio Week, enthusiasts will take part in activities to raise awareness of the importance of amateur radio operators in public assistance during critical times. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, proclaim June 21 to 27, 2021, as Amateur Radio Week and June 26 to 27, 2021, as American Radio Relay League amateur radio field day throughout the State and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions of amateur radio operators, including emergency communications and other public service work, for the continued safety of residents in the Palmetto State.

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