

SB 1553 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. McLain

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 03/04/24

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4-2-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Fahey, Nosse, Scharf, Wallan

Nays: 2 - Kropf, Valderrama

Exc: 1 - Helfrich

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer

Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands the crime of interfering with public transportation to include when a person, while in or on a public transit vehicle, knowingly consumes a controlled substance that is not lawfully possessed by the person. It also provides that a conviction for interfering with public transportation established by this measure shall be classified as a designated drug-related misdemeanor.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of the A2 amendment
- Possession of controlled substances in public transit stations will be a crime after the passage of HB 4002

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes public transit station from the crime of interfering with public transportation as created by this measure.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, it is a Class C misdemeanor crime to interfere with public transportation by engaging in a variety of conduct, specified in ORS 166.116. The behavior constituting criminal interference includes entering or remaining unlawfully on public transit vehicles or at public transit stations; interfering with the movement of, or access to, public transit vehicles; engaging in disorderly conduct on public transit vehicles or at public transit stations; and subjecting public transport passengers or employees to offensive physical contact.

The Department of Corrections, under ORS 423.478, is responsible for community-based supervision, sanctions, and services for offenders convicted of certain crimes, including those designated as drug-related misdemeanors by statute. Currently, the crimes listed in statute as designated drug-related misdemeanors involve the unlawful possession of a controlled substance.