



Lane Transit District

March 6, 2017

LTD Supports HB 2717

Chair Barker and members of the committee,

Employee safety is a top priority of Lane Transit District (LTD). Operators face numerous challenges and are the first line of response to conflict on our buses, stations, and facilities. It is vital to LTD's culture of safety that the district has as many tools as possible to prevent assaults on employees.

Under current law, an assault on an operator of a public transit vehicle while the operator is driving or in control of the vehicle constitutes the crime of assault in the third degree. Assaulting a transit operator outside of the bus or other public transit employee conducting their job is a lesser crime. HB 2717 expands the crime of third degree assault to include employees of mass transportation districts who are "acting within the scope of employment."

Transit employee assault is a significant problem in the Portland-metro area, and a lesser problem in our region. That said, in 2016 there were 11 assaults on LTD employees and 19 attempted assaults. This legislation would ensure that transit employees are equally protected whether they are driving a bus, checking fares at platforms, or maintaining LTD facilities.

For these reasons, please join us in supporting HB 2717.

For more information, please contact LTD's lobbyist, Sam Barber at 541-337-1246 or Sam@LobbyOregon.com