

House Bill 2599

Sponsored by Representative GORSEK (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Preventing Assaults Committed Against Public Transit Employees to address ways to reduce and prevent assaults committed against public transit employees.

Requires task force to submit report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to transportation by September 15, 2020.

Sunset task force on December 31, 2020.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to task force on preventing assaults committed against public transit employees; and de-
3 claring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Preventing Assaults Committed Against Public**
6 **Transit Employees is established to address ways to reduce and prevent assaults committed**
7 **against public transit employees while employees are acting within the scope of employment.**

8 **(2) The task force consists of nine members as follows:**

9 **(a) The Director of Transportation or the director's designee.**

10 **(b) Eight members appointed by the Governor as follows:**

11 **(A) In consultation with labor organizations that represent public transit employees, two**
12 **members who are public transit employees.**

13 **(B) Two members who represent employers of a mass transit district or transportation**
14 **district.**

15 **(C) One member who represents peer support specialists.**

16 **(D) One member who is qualified to provide training to employees on assault prevention**
17 **and protection.**

18 **(E) One member who is a law enforcement officer.**

19 **(F) One member who is an advocate for victims of assault.**

20 **(3) The task force shall:**

21 **(a) Establish alternatives to the imposition of increased penalties as a means of pre-**
22 **venting assaults committed against public transit employees;**

23 **(b) Provide recommendations for assault prevention and protection training that may**
24 **include, but need not be limited to:**

25 **(A) Techniques for de-escalating assaultive behaviors;**

26 **(B) Strategies for avoiding physical harm when an employee is confronted with assaultive**
27 **behaviors; and**

28 **(C) General safety and personal safety procedures;**

29 **(c) Identify barriers to preventing assaults committed against public transit employees;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (d) Assess the existing procedures, if any, that mass transit districts, transportation
2 districts and any other entities that provide public transportation use to address reports of
3 assaults reported by public transit employees;

4 (e) Identify the resources available to public transit employees for coping with assaults;
5 and

6 (f) Assess the frequency of reports of assaults reported by public transit employees.

7 (4) The task force may adopt rules as necessary for the operation of the task force.

8 (5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
9 of business.

10 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members
11 of the task force.

12 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

13 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
14 ment to become immediately effective.

15 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
16 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

17 (10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may
18 include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative As-
19 sembly related to transportation no later than September 15, 2020.

20 (11) The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support to the task force.

21 (12) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for
22 expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

23 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
24 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
25 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
26 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

27 (14) As used in this section:

28 (a) "Mass transit district" means a district established under ORS 267.010 to 267.390.

29 (b) "Public transit employee" means an employee of an entity that provides public
30 transportation as defined in ORS 166.116.

31 (c) "Transportation district" means a district established under ORS 267.510 to 267.650.

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on December 31, 2020.

33 **SECTION 3.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
34 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect
35 on its passage.

36