

SB 1553 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to study Oregon's addiction crisis and to submit findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health by September 15, 2025. Sunsets January 2, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- TriMet has doubled its budget for safety and security
- Safety response teams are trained in de-escalation techniques
- Definition of "transit stations"
- Safety of public transit for youth riders
- Incidents of fentanyl use and drug overdoses on public transit buses and trains
- Decrease in use of public transit due to safety concerns

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure.

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

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

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.