

Submitter: Brian Vitulli
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1553

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important issue. As General Manager of the Tillamook County Transportation District, I would like to share a recent experience that significantly impacted two of my drivers and personally shook me. On Friday, July 21, 2023, one of my drivers was exposed to a substance in the restrooms at the District's Transit Center (TC) late that morning and had a reaction that resulted in him being transported to the ER. He called 911 himself when he realized he did not feel well, and I raced to meet him there at the TC just after EMS arrived. They recommended taking him to the ER, and I accompanied him into the ER where I stayed until his family arrived. He improved very quickly after arriving and was released an hour or two later. He had a second negative reaction later that day which required him to return to the ER before again being released.

This was the second incident in three weeks where a driver had been exposed to a substance in the TC restrooms. I instructed staff to keep the TC closed to the public and only opened and closed by drivers for personal use and that of our customers. As of now, the TC remains closed to the public until we complete a renovation project that will allow us to have the facility fully staffed during operating hours.

It is my hope that passage of SB 1553-1 will give us the tools to properly protect our employees and customers and ensure that transit feels safe and accessible for everyone. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Brian Vitulli, General Manager
Tillamook County Transportation District