

Submitter: Zachary Stockton
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2640

Hello,

If this bill is passed it will have serious direct impacts almost immediately on public safety. To list a few, decriminalizing Criminal Trespass II, Theft III, Failure to carry/present license, Hit and Run - Property, Failure to register as a S/O, Criminal Mischief III, and Failure to appear is insane. Not even mentioning attempting to make spitting on a police officer no longer a felony.

Criminal Trespass II, Failure to carry/present, Theft III, and Criminal Mischief III, are already "C" misdemeanor which means they are ALREADY the lowest level misdemeanor possible under ORS.

If you take a second to think about it you should be able to realize how ridiculous is it.

I will give you some examples if this is passed making Criminal Trespass II a violation instead of a misdemeanor means law enforcement will no longer be able to remove someone from a business or property who is refusing to leave. For example someone inside a restaurant, movie theatre, grocery store, who is refusing to leave and therefore the police get called to make them leave. Law enforcement will be unable to arrest the person and make them leave since the crime would be reduced to a violation. So I guess the trespasser can be handed their violation citation and allowed to remain unlawfully? It just makes no sense.

Next one for example is failure to carry/present license. Reducing this to a violation makes absolutely no sense. Almost the entire point behind the statute is regarding someone who has been pulled over and is refusing to provide their license. Reducing this to a violation would mean you just write them a violation citation for failure to present the license? But law enforcement would not be able to write a ticket for that because the person will not give their license and they do not know who they are? The statute as it is written (pre HB2640) allows law enforcement to take the person who refuses to provide their license to get fingerprinted so you know who they are and can cite them.

Next is Criminal Mischief III. Reducing this to a violation means someone can damage your property (car, house, business, etc) up to \$500 and all they would get is a violation citation. How does that make any sense?

Reducing hit and run property to a violation? So you can hit and run another car and

as long as it doesn't injure anyone you simple get a traffic ticket? But if you don't provide your license there is no crime so if this bill passes you could hit and run a car, refuse to provide you license, and would not receive a citation because there would be no misdemeanor requiring you to.

Theft III. Oregon's retail theft issue is out of control. We have businesses leaving city's and the state. Under HB2640 the sponsors of this bill seem to think the solution to this is making theft of up to 100\$ a violation. This again makes absolutely no sense.

Reducing failure to appear and failure to register as a sex offender I hope would not need explanation of why it is insane. Failure to appear is so important especially now when almost everyone gets released from jail prior to arraignment due to SB48 there needs to be a requirement to appear in court.

Reducing aggravated harassment to only if they create a risk of spreading a communicable disease is horrible. What a huge slap in the face to law enforcement who already get assaulted, spit on, and attacked daily.

Almost every agency in Oregon is struggling to fill the open positions they have for police officers at a time when crime is through the roof and this bill is supposed to help Oregon?

We have seen how decriminalizing drugs went. We do not need to decriminalize even more laws when stolen vehicles, theft, assaults, and other crimes are through the roof. It just makes no sense.

I struggle to find almost any logic behind HB2640. I hope you guys will see how flawed and insane this bill is and will not pass it. If this bill is passed it will negatively affect Oregonians everywhere throughout the state