



Vote Yes on HB 4097

Background:

Under ORS 276.320, Oregon's mass transit districts—TriMet, Salem-Keizer Transit (Cherriots), and the Lane Transit District—have authority under state law to charge individuals for transportation services provided by their districts. These transit districts also can commission police officers for enforcing district ordinances. Fare evasion under TriMet ordinance is a civil penalty, not a criminal offense.

What does this bill do?

It leaves fare enforcement up to fare enforcers and public safety up to the police. It protects the police's time and resources for public safety, instead of conducting or participating in activities that are intended to determine whether a person has paid fares imposed by a mass transit district. **Nothing** in this bill will prohibit police officers from addressing public safety issues that arise. Officers can still be present on vehicles or platforms, even during fare sweeps. Fare enforcers, who are not police, will still be able to ask riders for proof of fare payment, and issue citations.

What this bill does not do:

Nothing in this bill prohibits a police officer from being present and enforcing laws not related to fare enforcement.

Why is HB 4097 so important?

First and foremost, HB 4097 will help protect transit riders' civil rights and civil liberties. In addition, this bill will help prevent racial profiling and the over-criminalization and policing of low-income communities.

Having law enforcement be deployed to conduct fare inspection stops has raised constitutional concerns and draws away public resources to legitimate public safety needs.