

**SB 1124 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Prozanski

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 03/17/25

**Action:** Do pass.

**Vote:** 6-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 6 - Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, McLane, Prozanski, Thatcher

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Kris Kolta, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/11, 3/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure clarifies that the assault of a public transit vehicle driver qualifies as an assault in the third degree if committed while the driver is acting within the course of their official duties. It also makes it a crime of aggravated harassment to knowingly propel bodily fluids or other dangerous substances at a public transit driver while they are acting in the course of their official duties. The measure applies to conduct occurring on or after the effective date.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Prevalence of violence faced by transit workers
- PTSD amongst transit workers
- Gap in existing law when transit workers are not actively driving

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

ORS 163.165(1) defines third degree assault to include knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly causing physical injury to the operator of a public transit vehicle while the operator is in control of or operating the vehicle. ORS 166.070 defines aggravated harassment as intentionally propelling bodily fluids or dangerous substances at a staff member or public safety officer while they are in the course of their official duties. Both third degree assault and aggravated harassment are generally classified as Class C felonies.