

Secretary: Vote explanation on SB 1553 please. Sen Boquist

SB 1553 expands the number of crimes a person can be prosecuted for on public transportation regarding illegal consumption of a controlled substance. Chargeable offenses already exist for which District Attorneys will not prosecute. This crime will become part of the existing judicial catch and release scheme. Police already know which alleged crimes will never be adjudicated thus they stop enforcing. Adding this crime to the list solves nothing. Calling it an enhanced penalty does nothing. Enforce existing laws. Fix Measure 110. Make the public prosecutors do their job ... oh maybe toss them out if they fail to prosecute ten offenders. Make Judges do their job instead of letting off offenders ... oh automatically toss them out if they fail to jail ten offenders. We have an expanding intentionally implemented serious drug use problem in Oregon but SB 1553 is a political stunt nothing more. Saying having a second or third or fourth charge against a single drug abuser will make anyone safer on transit is ridiculous. This legislator finds it unfathomable we use children, women, and transit workers as pawns for political posturing instead of providing real solutions. The right thing is to fix it not kicking the can down the road until after the next election. As Measure 110 fixes fail, thanks to the Judiciary, and lack of consensus in the State Senate, we get a Uniparty non-solution. Protect transit riders and drivers by enforcing existing laws. Provide funding for drug treatment. No on SB 1553.