

HB 415 Transit Worker Safety Amendments (Handy)

1. Changes assault on a transit worker from a Class B misdemeanor to Class A.

Class B:

- up to \$1,000 fine
- 6 months jail time
- Our legal counsel noted people are usually fined and given probation. Jail time is rare.

Class A:

- up to \$2,500 fine
- 1 year jail time

2. We have had a drastic increase in assaults.

Salt Lake Business Unit reported assaults (not necessarily involving police):

2013 – 8	2016 – 4	2019 - 15
2014 – 4	2017 – 5	2020 - 15
2015 – 8	2018 – 6	2021 - 78

UTA assaults resulting in involvement of transit police:

2019 – 28
2020 – 21
2021 – 47

3. In response to argument of creating protected classes.

- This is a matter of public safety.
- Everyone in the vehicle could be at risk.
- An operator has a heightened duty of care for passengers. There could be 50 passengers on a bus.
- Protecting the operator is protecting everyone on the vehicle.

4. Other frontline workers are already protected:

- School employee in scope of employment
- Police Officer
- Military Servicemember in Uniform
- Healthcare provider
- Emergency Medical Service worker

We are requesting to add our employees where they already should have been.