

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION ON TRANSIT OPERATOR SAFETY**

2 **AWARENESS**

3 2023 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Paul A. Cutler**

6 Senate Sponsor: Kathleen A. Riebe

7

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This resolution recognizes the importance of transit operators and highlights the need to
11 protect transit operators from assaults.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This resolution:

- 14 ▶ acknowledges the important role transit operators play as part of the state's
- 15 infrastructure;
- 16 ▶ expresses concern for the rise in assaults on transit operators; and
- 17 ▶ calls for perpetrators of assaults on transit workers to be prosecuted to the fullest
- 18 extent of the law.

19 **Special Clauses:**

20 None

21

22 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

23 WHEREAS, mass transit constitutes a community-connector lifeline and is an essential
24 part of Utah's critical infrastructure;

25 WHEREAS, transit operators and employees are front-line workers who are vital to
26 protecting the health, safety, and security of the State of Utah;

27 WHEREAS, assaults on transit operators pose a significant risk to public safety and



28 transportation;

29 WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration reported that assaults on transit
30 operators have increased by four times during the past decade;

31 WHEREAS, local reporting has indicated that reports of assault against transit
32 operators in Utah rose dramatically between 2020 and 2022; and

33 WHEREAS, assaults on transit operators constitute an unacceptable threat to the state's
34 orderly transit system:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature acknowledges the
36 valuable contributions made by transit operators who provide the citizens of Utah with greater
37 mobility options and cleaner transportation alternatives.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes that assaults on transit
39 operators pose a unique threat to the stability of our mass transit systems and perpetrators must
40 be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.