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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 590

02/14/2013 Authored by Hilstrom

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to crime; prescribing criminal penalties for assaulting a transit operator;
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 609.2231, by adding a subdivision.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 609.2231, is amended by adding a
1.6 subdivision to read:

1.7 Subd. 11. Transit operators. (a) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if
1.8 (1) the person assaults a transit operator, or intentionally throws or otherwise transfers
1.9 bodily fluids onto a transit operator; and (2) the transit operator is acting in the course
1.10 of the operator's duties and is operating a transit vehicle, aboard a transit vehicle, or
1.11 otherwise responsible for a transit vehicle. A person convicted under this paragraph
1.12 may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of
1.13 not more than \$3,000, or both.

1.14 (b) A person is guilty of a felony if the person commits an assault or engages in
1.15 the intentional conduct described in paragraph (a) and that assault or conduct inflicts
1.16 demonstrable bodily harm on a transit operator. A person convicted under this paragraph
1.17 may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than two years or to payment of a fine of
1.18 not more than \$4,000, or both.

1.19 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "transit operator" means a driver or operator
1.20 of a transit vehicle that is used to provide any of the following services:

1.21 (1) public transit, as defined in section 174.22, subdivision 7, within the metropolitan
1.22 area, whether provided by the Metropolitan Council or by other providers of regional
1.23 public transit;

1.24 (2) light rail transit service within the metropolitan area;

2.1 (3) special transportation service under section 473.386, whether provided by the
2.2 council or by other providers under contract with the council; or

2.3 (4) commuter rail service.

2.4 (d) For the purposes of this subdivision, "metropolitan area" means the area defined
2.5 in section 473.121, subdivision 2.

2.6 Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.7 Section 1 is effective August 1, 2013, and applies to crimes committed on or after
2.8 that date.