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Favorable; HB1144 - State Public Transit Service and Stations - Exclusion for Assault and Bodily Injury

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 600
RANDY MARTZ

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
BRITTANY GARRIS

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHN WALKER

Local 1949
JACOB STROMAN

To the Honorable Mark Korman, Chair; Regina Boyce, Vice Chair and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Hello, my name is Brian Perry, I am a Railroader with 35 years of service. I am a member of the Transportation Division of SMART and for the last 15 years, I have worked as a Conductor for both Amtrak and MARC. I am urging a favorable report on **HB-1144**.

While boarding passengers in the West Baltimore station stop, a man walked up to my fellow conductor and told him he did not have a ticket and that he was boarding the train. At which point he was told that he needed to have one in order to ride. The man became quarrelsome, grabbed my coworker by the shirt, knocked him into the stairs of the train and drug him into it.

I then grabbed him from behind, removing him from off of my coworker, and together we were able to restrain him, until he calmed down. A 3rd member of our crew got help from the MTA police. We both sustained injuries and missed months of work.

While he was arrested in this instance, charges were not pressed. This doesn't happen most of the time. Usually, the attackers are removed from one train, then allowed to board the very next one. Imagine someone walking into this building in the morning, attacks one of you, then be allowed to do it again that same afternoon, the next day, week and so on. Unimaginable, right? We face this scenario, EVERYDAY

This bill would ensure accountability. It'll make trains safer for both us and our passengers. It will be a deterrent to would be attackers, knowing there will be consequences for their acts.

I am certain that everyone wants a safe environment to work in. This bill would do this for us. Thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report!

Brian Perry
Conductor, MARC & Amtrak
Member, SMART-TD Local 1470