

COIN Legislative Session Worksheet for 2024

Bill Number: **SB1555**

Brief Description of Bill (maximum 100 words): **This measure would return us to addressing drug use primarily through the criminal justice system rather than the health care system, a criminal justice system that rarely includes addiction treatment in its jails and does not have enough public defenders or court personnel to prosecute the crimes currently before it. SB 1555 does the following:**

- **Returns possessing small amounts of controlled substances to a Class A Misdemeanor (as it was before Measure 110), punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$6250 fine.**
- **Makes public use of a controlled substance a Class A Misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$6250 fine.**
- **Mandates harsher penalties for certain drug related crimes.**
- **Changes the law to make it easier to prove intent to transfer drugs.**
- **Mandates addiction assessments and treatment for its diversion programs, probation, or conditional release. This free assessment and treatment, set up under Measure 110, is already available to anyone. However, not enough treatment beds are available and nothing in this measure would change that.**
- **Changes the supervision of Measure 110 money (from marijuana taxes) from the Oregon Health Authority to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission.**

Name of Point Person who completed this form: **Tammy Babad**

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Last Updated: **2/14/2024**

1. Research topic – choose which category best fits your bill:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Climate, Energy Environment | ☐ Housing/Houselessness |
| ☐ Campaign Finance Reform | ☐ Immigration/Social Justice |
| ☒ Healthcare/Gun Safety | ☐ Education |
| ☐ Transportation | ☐ Economics |
| ☒ Criminal Justice | ☐ Other describe: |

2. The bill's Legislative champions –

Chief Sponsors: **Republican Senators Knopp and Smith**

Regular Sponsors:

3. The bill's legislative opponents: **Democratic Senator Lieber, Representative Kropf who have their own proposal, SB 4002.**

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4. What advocacy groups are supporting this bill and why are they supporting it? Provide contact information if available. (maximum 200 words) **Coalition to Fix and Improve Measure 110, which is backed by money from Oregon businesses such as Nike founder Phil Knight and Tim Boyle of Columbia Sportswear, supports SB 1555. It is led by Max Williams, former director of the Oregon Department of Corrections. The Eugene and Salem Chambers of Commerce are supporters for two main reasons: Their businesses have been victims of more theft and break-ins, and customers are being scared away by open air drug use and drug markets.**

5. What groups are opposing this bill and why are they opposing it? (maximum 200 words) **The ACLU, the Partnership for Safety and Justice, and BIPOC organizations such as the Urban League and the Latino Network oppose it, saying it will continue the over-representation of BIPOC in the criminal justice system. The Measure 110 original supporters oppose, saying Measure 110 changes have not had enough time and are just getting going. Many addiction treatment providers have spoken out against it. A couple of Behavioral Health Resource Networks (successful treatment access created by Measure 110) have spoken against it. The public defense community opposes this and is strongly against changing the law (Boyd/Hubble) to make it easier to prove intent to transfer drugs**

6. Reasons COIN should take a position on this bill. Choose all that apply:

- ☒ **Progressive groups across the state care strongly about this.**
- ☐ **This Bill protects or expands the rights of marginalized populations.**
- ☐ **This bill helps change the structures of the democratic system to make it work better.**
- ☐ **This issue is controlled by the state or states have a great deal of power in it.**
- ☐ **Other**

7. What is the likelihood this bill will pass? **It has been getting a lot of press. If it does not make it out of committee, it is likely that a similar initiative petition will be on the ballot in November.**

8. List the relevant dates concerning the bill(s)-(scheduled committee hearings, votes, lobby days, other scheduled advocacy, phone banks, post card parties, etc). **It had a public hearing on 2-7-24.**

9. Please list any specific advocacy action you would like COIN to help with, any media contacts that may be helpful or any other important information?