

S.F. No. 1049 – Administrative Citations for Fare Evasion on Public Transit

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S.F. 1049 authorizes the Metropolitan Council to issue administrative citations for transit fare evasion, requires the Metropolitan Council to implement transit safety measures, imposes civil penalties, and requires a report.

Section 1 [Transit safety] addresses new transit safety measures.

Subdivision 1 requires the Metropolitan Council to adopt a rider code of conduct for transit passengers and post the code of conduct in a prominent location at each light rail and park-and-ride station.

Subdivision 2 requires the Metropolitan Council to establish and clearly designate paid fare zones at each light rail transit station.

Subdivision 3 requires the Metropolitan Council to implement public safety monitoring and response activities that include: (1) security cameras and sufficient lighting for live coverage of light rail transit stations and light rail transit vehicles; (2) installation of a public address system at each light rail transit station; and (3) real-time active monitoring of passenger activity and potential violations throughout the light rail transit system. Requires that monitoring activities include timely maintenance or replacement of malfunctioning cameras or public address systems.

Section 2 [Staffing complement] prohibits the Metropolitan Council from reducing the staff complement of Metro Transit police officers below the average staffing level for the most recent three calendar years.

Section 3 [Transit enforcement and administrative citation program] authorizes the Metropolitan Council to create an administrative citation program.

Subdivision 1 defines terms.

Subdivision 2 establishes the transit enforcement and administrative citation program. If the Metropolitan Council proceeds with creating the program, the Council must engage with interested stakeholders on the design of the program and implement policies and procedures to administer the creation of uniformed transit safety officials. Authorizes the Council to train uniformed transit safety officials.

Subdivision 3 establishes the duties of a uniformed transit safety official.

Subdivision 4 authorizes uniformed transit safety officials to issue administrative citations after the transit safety program is implemented. Governs the authority and requirements for issuing an administrative citation for fare evasion under Minnesota Statutes, section 609.855, subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subdivision 5 governs the disposition of administrative citations issued for fare evasion under Minnesota Statutes, section 609.855, subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subdivision 6 provides penalties for persons issued administrative citations under section 609.855, subdivision 1, clause (1) and authorizes the Council to set an escalating fine structure for repeated violations or failure to pay administrative fines. Prohibits a person who has been issued an administrative citation for a third or subsequent offense of Minnesota Statutes, section 609.855, subdivision 1, clause (1) from accessing transit services for 60 days from the date of issuance.

Subdivision 7 governs the use of funds collected by the administrative citation program.

Section 4 [Legislative report] requires the Metropolitan Council to submit a report on transit safety measures and the transit enforcement and administrative citation program annually by February 15.

Section 5 [Definitions] makes conforming changes.