



September 25, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill (AB) 394 (Wilson) Public Transit Operator and Rider Safety – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

As Mayor of the City of Hemet, I write in support of Assembly Bill 394 (Wilson), which seeks to enhance the safety and security of California’s public transportation systems by strengthening protections for transit operators and employees.

The Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) is the primary public transit provider in western Riverside County and is responsible for coordinating services throughout its approximately 2,500-square-mile service area. RTA operates 32 local fixed routes, three CommuterLink express routes, GoMicro microtransit, and Dial-A-Ride services. It employs more than 750 individuals, including 525 coach operators who provide service nearly every day of the year.

Unfortunately, transit employees frequently face threats of violence, and these incidents have increased significantly over the past several years. This trend has directly affected transit operations and has contributed to both employee shortages and declining ridership.

AB 394 promotes safer transit environments for both riders and workers in two keyways. First, it expands existing law to protect all transit employees against battery. Second, it clarifies that public transit operators are employers for purposes of seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO) against violent offenders, and that “unlawful violence,” as defined in TRO law, includes battery committed against passengers and transit workers under Penal Code Section 243.3.

Public transit systems are essential to healthy communities and are vital to our efforts to fight climate change and reduce congestion. Both workers and passengers deserve to be safe and treated with respect.

For these reasons, the City of Hemet strongly supports AB 394 and respectfully requests that you sign this important bill into law. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at (951) 765-2303 or jpeterson@hemetca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jackie Peterson

Jackie Peterson
Mayor

Cc. The Honorable Lori Wilson
The Honorable Jeff Gonzalez
The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Jesse Ramirez, Riverside County Regional Public Affairs Manager, jramirez@cacities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org

