

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6439

C 195 L 98

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Authorizing design-build demonstration projects.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Wood, Haugen, Prince and Horn; by request of Department of Transportation).

Senate Committee on Transportation

House Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget

Background: The Department of Transportation construction contracting procedure requires the department to award the contract for the design phase prior to contracting for the construction phase. The department does not currently have authority to use the design-build method of contracting. Design-build authority would allow the department to enter into a single contract with the design-build contractor. The contractual responsibility to the state for full performance of all phases of the contract would be vested in the design-build contractor. Proponents of the design-build method maintain that this procedure facilitates construction of capital projects in a manner that is more timely and efficient than awarding the design and construction contracts separately.

Summary: The department must develop a process for awarding competitively bid highway construction contracts using a design-build procedure. The process must include the scope of services required under the design-build procedure, contractor prequalification requirements, criteria for evaluating technical information and project costs, contractor selection criteria, and an issue resolution process. The department must also comply with the public notice and comment requirements of the alternative public works statutes.

The department selects two demonstration projects. The projects must be normally valued over \$10 million. The project also must involve highly specialized construction activities, provide an opportunity for greater innovation, or provide an opportunity for significant savings in time. The department must present progress reports to the Legislative Transportation Committee and Public Works Oversight Committee, as well as a final report within one year of completion of the projects. The report must outline the advantages and disadvantages of the design-build process and make recommendations for possible changes in the law.

Sureties are not responsible for any damages resulting from the design phase of the project.

This act expires on April 1, 2001.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	32	17	
House	88	0	(House amended)
Senate	29	14	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 11, 1998