
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2012

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Orcutt, Clibborn, Hargrove, Hayes, Pike, Zeiger, Muri, and Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of transportation
2 implementation of practical design; adding a new section to chapter
3 47.01 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that "right-sizing"
6 or "practical design" is a lean, performance-based approach to
7 determining project investments. This concept allows an agency
8 additional flexibility to design projects in a manner that meets a
9 community's needs within a lean budget that is more performance based
10 than what may be prescribed by standards manuals without impacting
11 safety or operations. The legislature applauds the current efforts of
12 the department of transportation and intends to provide legal
13 authority to move forward using practical design.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The department must approach project development by applying
17 principles of practical design in appropriate situations so that
18 projects are based on cost efficiencies, community needs, and
19 performance without impacting safety or operations. The department
20 may deviate from standard design manuals in circumstances where

1 applying such standards would result in unnecessary additional costs
2 or inefficient use of materials and resources that would provide an
3 outcome that is in excess of the actual needs of the project.

4 (2) By November 15, 2016, and November 15, 2017, then biennially
5 until November 15, 2025, the department must provide a report on its
6 use of practical design to the transportation committees of the
7 senate and house of representatives and the transportation
8 commission. The report must identify: All projects in which practical
9 design was used and how it was implemented, including ferry
10 terminals, rest areas, and parking lots; the estimated cost savings
11 for each project; and what other performance objectives or goals were
12 achieved, if any. The department should also report on projects in
13 which practical design techniques could have been used but were
14 precluded by federal requirements, and identify the federal law,
15 rule, or requirement and circumstances.

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